

# That's The Spirit!

Rev. Greg Hartman,  
Pastor

New Spirit Lutheran Church  
*Our faith is in Jesus.*  
*Our hope is in grace.*  
*Our strength is in love.*

June 2023

New Spirit Lutheran Church, we are now in the 6<sup>th</sup> month of the year! It is hard to believe that we have already reached the halfway point of 2023. That also means, we have been in ministry together for 9 months. What have we gotten done in these last few months? We have welcomed new members. We have celebrated a baptism. We have reestablished adult faith formation in numerous ways. We have made progress on various building projects. We have come together to mourn the completion of a baptismal journey. We have updated our congregational constitution. We have continued to care for our homeless and food insecure neighbors. We have worshiped in new ways like dinner church on Maundy Thursday. Average Sunday attendance has increased this year compared to last year. The list could go on. And we are only half away through the year!

There are a few places where we have fallen a little behind, like giving. When we submitted our annual pledge cards it was not just a commitment to the church but a commitment to God. I will be honest that there are times I must remind myself more than once to submit my offering, and I am sure I am not the only one. As the summer moves into full swing, please remember to continue to send your offerings to the church. There are numerous ways to send in your offerings, even when you are not present in worship.

What does the rest of 2023 hold for us? That is an excellent question and one that fills me with excitement. I am excited about where The Spirit is leading us and calling us. In June we will take the time to remember the tragic events of June 17, 2015, at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. The pastors lost during that event were both graduates of an ELCA seminary. We will also be having additional opportunities for education around LGBTQIA+ issues. We have applied to have space at several community related events. Our bridge events will begin to occur. Groups such as Dinner Club will begin to meet on a regular basis. This is just to name a few of the things we look forward to for the rest of the year.

## June's prayer of the month

Creating and renewing God, we know that you are always with us. Your spirit often engages us in new and unexpected ways. We pray that you continue to guide New Spirit Lutheran Church. Give us a spirit to hear where you are calling us and a willingness to follow. We pray that you continue to bless the work that is being done to expand the number of people that hear about your love and grace. Amen

Pastor Hartman





The Church Council is continuing to focus on the established goals set forth for New Spirit and strategic plans to achieve them!

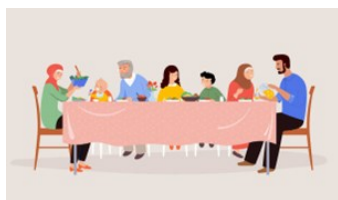
As we proceed, please look for ways to join discussion groups, working and planning groups, prayer groups and more! It takes ALL OF US to grow and share the love of Jesus!

Council Meetings for June – September 2023 will be held on ZOOM to accommodate members who may also be traveling and/or gone for the summer months.

Please continue to pray for our New Spirit and council leadership.

### Noisy Offering

We have held 2 noisy offerings thus far this year. The first noisy offering provided funds of worship enhancement items that have since become part of the pray ground. The second noisy offering was collected for ELCA Good Gifts for the purchase of bees. Honeybees provide several benefits for low-income individuals and communities as well as serving a key part of God’s creation. Fifteen “sets of bees” were purchased through the noisy offering that last took place! Our next noisy offering will be July 30<sup>th</sup>. For that noisy offering the children will be given an opportunity to decide where they would like the collection to go. Youth are invited to submit recommendations for what nonprofit they would like to nominate to receive the collection. Nominations should be emailed to Pastor Hartman by July 9<sup>th</sup> including name of organization, why the organization is nominated, and a website. If no nominations are received Pastor will present 2 organizations for the youth to pick from.



New Spirit monthly potluck dinners start June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm! We still need teams to coordinate dinner meal themes (Mexican food, BBQ, etc.). We are looking for teams of 3-4 to establish a nice rotation so it’s not the same folks planning. Please let us know if you are interested!

## June Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

06/04 Jessica West	06/17 Robin Hughes	06/26 Jeanette Sather
06/09 Martin Mosthaff	06/22 Ron Cermak Marilyn Linderkamp Eugene & Marilyn Linderkamp (Anniversary)	06/27 Archie & Gloria Burke (Anniversary)
06/16 Betty Cooley	06/24 Joy Wolfe	06/30 Barbara Kotlaba



## Sunday School/Youth Updates

We have come to the end of another year of Sunday School. The kids under sixth grade have been slowly making their way through the Bible, book by book. We are still in the Old Testament. We are finishing up the books of history and continuing in the fall. The youth have studied Job and John 3:16. In the fall they will begin a study on the book of John.

This year we also did a Christmas program, sponsored a fundraiser for Good Gifts, handed out bookmarks for Easter, had an egg hunt, and gave out Bible verses for Mother's Day and have more for Father's Day. We have handed out all of these in conjunction with Women of Ministry as we work to bridge the generation. They also helped us make some banners to put up in the Sunday School area. We will be doing a few craft/game days in the summer. Anyone interested in joining is welcome during Sunday school hour. The First will be June 4<sup>th</sup>. More information on upcoming dates will be in the bulletin or the newsletter. This time we're doing craft projects.



Many thanks to everyone who donated craft supplies. We used some of these to help make the bees that were decorations for the last Noisy Offering. The kids painted the cans. They also did a variety of projects to enter in the County Fair. All of these were on display in Fellowship hall recently. All the kids received ribbons of 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> place.



We are looking forward to the fall and being involved in more community-based projects. We are hoping to kick off with a Rally Day picnic co-sponsored with Women of Ministry. Look for more details to come! We hope everyone has a fun and safe Summer!



## Lets Review

## SNAPSHOT!! QUICK TAKES!! GROWTH!!

During the first three months of 2023, here at New Spirit we have -----

- ⇒ Increased membership with 2 new members and welcomed back returning members
- ⇒ Increased contributions by 6% over 2022
- ⇒ Increased community events
  - ◇ Now preparing 325 food packages for children at 4 public schools near us
  - ◇ Serving over 100 homeless each month with monthly meal, hygiene items
  - ◇ Partner with ICS (Interfaith Community Services) to distribute food weekly
  - ◇ Distributed sunglasses at the Crohn's & Colitis Walk, attended by over 100 people
- ⇒ Increased activities within New Spirit to GROW and broaden our faith, share our time and spirit with others
  - ◇ Monthly Book Studies
  - ◇ Weekly Bible studies
  - ◇ Return of Coffee Hour after worship
  - ◇ Expanded prayer opportunities

Let's keep this momentum going!! Don't let the simmering summer months slow us down!!  
Reminder that our continued financial support provides funds to support and expand these and other planned growth activities going forward.

The Stewardship Team

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY GROUP MAY 2023

Women's Ministry Group (WELCA Bible Study Group) met at 1:30 on May 10, 2023, at the church.

Our Bible Study was Reviving the Soul, reviewing Commandments seven, eight, nine and ten. In our study of the commandments, we have used one of the simplest methods of biblical interpretation allow Scripture to interpret Scripture. Placing various texts of the Bible side by side, we've seen that Scripture itself teaches us humility. There is no single correct way and, other than Jesus, no single perfect keeper of the commandments. In this life, each of us has at best, partial knowledge as we look at the commandments; how they are written, how they are kept, skirted or completely broken in the biblical stories. How in the Gospels, Jesus gives us a way of living out the commandments. We can strive to honestly share the understandings and experiences written upon our individual hearts, while we pray for the Holy Spirit to build our Christian community and lead us into a deeper love of the one God and all our neighbors.

The Sunday School, along with our women's group passed out inspiration cards to women at service on Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Mother's Day. At the service on Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, inspiration cards will be given to the men in honor of Father's Day.

On June 14<sup>th</sup> we are planning to get together and do some straightening up of the church library shelves and then go out for lunch.

With the approval of the church council, we would like to plan a church picnic possibly at Udall Park sometime in August or September.

Date to Remember: The week of September 18, 2023 – Triennial in Phoenix.  
Our next meeting will be held on September 13, 2023, at 1:30, at the church. Sandra Colwell will lead devotions.

Linda Lamb – Secretary



### All Plastics Recycling

As I mentioned at our forum, Tucson is engaging in another form of recycling that is All Plastics. These plastics will be formed into blocks, tough as cinder etc. to be used in construction. At this time Wards 6 and 4 are participating and there is a third site at the Fire department on Mission and 22nd.

Ward 4 is convenient for us Eastside people. There are no brochures available currently as to what they'll take. I have a photo of what they'll take and I'd be happy to share that with you.

The image you see here in your newsletter isn't super clear so I'll list them as much as possible: bread bags, candy wrappers, snack packing, can holders, utensils, straws, plastic plates and cups, plastic and reusable bags, pouches, coffee bean bags, trash bags, bubble wrap, films, air pouches, plastic mailers, bubble mailers, coffee lids, plastic bottle caps, specialty drink cups.



As you can see it's a lot!, we can do our part in protecting our environment. It's not too late! And it's not that much effort to collect these items and deposit them when and where it's convenient for you. The planet thanks you!

Brigitte Stuetze



# BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

*Who will feed the kids this weekend?*



**IT'S A FACT. WELL FED KIDS LEARN BETTER.**

New Spirit is proud to be a part of their education. Our count is now 325 from Erickson, Ford, Steele, and Henry Elementary Schools, providing snack packs to take home on the weekend.

For regular contributions, please make your tax deductible check to Blessings in a Backpack. You can drop it in the offering plate, drop it off at the church office, or drop it directly in the mail to BIB Lockbox, PO Box 950291, Louisville, KY 40295. **Remember to put Steele Elementary on the memo line.** You can also donate online through the New Spirit Lutheran Church website. Just click on the donate button.

Our team members are hard at work to keep up with the added students each week. Learn more about what we do and how you can help. **We need volunteers to help with fund raising, planning, purchasing, packing, delivery, and gardening. If you like to shop, join our team!**

Packing is done on Tuesdays from 8:00 to 9:30 AM. Deliveries are done in the mornings after packing (if you want to help deliver, you can pick the day you are available).

Contact Laurie Bernard at [lbernard2008@hotmail.com](mailto:lbernard2008@hotmail.com) with questions.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THIS MINISTRY



Our youngest client in May

## **HOMELESS BLESSINGS**

JOIN US THE 2<sup>ND</sup> SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
MAY THRU SEPTEMBER 9AM TO 11AM

SOME PETS ARE HOMELESS TOO  
WE NOW COLLECT DOG/CAT FOOD, OLD TOWELS, AND BEDDING FOR OUR CLIENTS AND FOR DONATION  
TO THE PIMA ANIMAL CARE CENTER

FOOD INSECURITY AFFECTS ALL AGES

***Our next event is June 10<sup>th</sup>.*** In addition to our monthly Saturday events, we hand out bags to clients on the street that include food, batteries, socks, and hygiene products.

New Spirit is reaching at least 100 people every month with our events and hand out bags. Coming soon.....showers - thanks to the City of Tucson's new mobile unit!

***IF YOU ARE A THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBER, PLEASE CONSIDER SPONSORING AN ACTION TEAM FOR HOMELESS BLESSINGS. WE WILL RECEIVE \$250 TO HELP TOWARDS THIS MINISTRY.***

If you'd like to help our ministry with a cash donation, please make your tax deductible check to New Spirit Lutheran Church with the notation for Homeless Blessings in the memo. You can drop it in the offering plate, drop it off at the church office, or mail it to NSLC, 8701 E. Old Spanish Trail, Tucson, AZ 85710. You can also donate online through the New Spirit Lutheran Church website. Just click on the donate button.

## **THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THIS MISSION**

Want to help? Contact NSLC Office or Laurie Bernard at [lbernard2008@hotmail.com](mailto:lbernard2008@hotmail.com)

# New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail  
Tucson, AZ 85710

## Shout-Outs

***SHOUT OUT - To our BIB team and all who made it possible for another successful year!  
Enjoy the summer!***

***SHOUT OUT - To all who do so much behind the scenes.***



***SHOUT OUT - To Ethan Rettig for help with using the microphone and managing the sound system during service!!***

Please submit words of thanks and praise to Nancy at [nancy@newspiritlutherantucson.org](mailto:nancy@newspiritlutherantucson.org) to be placed in the newsletter by the 15th of each month. Thank you!

### Sundays:

10:00 am Worship

You can currently watch each week's message on YouTube.

### *How to contact us:*

New Spirit Lutheran Church  
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