

That's The Spirit!

Rev. Carol Breimeier,
Pastor

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

June/July 2022

THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS

In Sunday school and at Vacation Bible School when I was a kid, we'd sing, "He's got the whole world in his hands." The "he" is God, and, in the song, the "whole world" includes: the wind and the rain; the little bitty babies; you and me, brother; you and me, sister; and everybody here. When I sang this song as a girl, I pictured God holding a blue ball with patches of bright green grass, little trees protruding from the surface, and happy little bunnies hopping here and there.



Recently, though, when I called up that song in my memory to try to reassure myself about the state of the world, the picture that came into my head was of God tossing the world back and forth from one hand to the other like a hot potato. The world is hot—hot temperatures and hot-spots of war, hunger, racism, sickness, authoritarianism, and ...well, the list goes on. Is God, just maybe, tempted to drop the ball? Are we moving toward a point where God might say, "I promised Noah I wouldn't destroy the world again by a flood, but I *do* have other options"?

Only God knows. But God does know.

Even if it's not bunnies and bright green grass, it's still so very reassuring to know that there's something (*someone*) greater than the world. God is bigger, greater, wiser. God surpasses our world and our galaxy. Certainly God's power to create and recreate surpasses our power to mess up, screw up, and destroy.

It's humbling to realize that we don't and can't know how this period in world history will play out. But it's both humbling and encouraging to look at how Christians before us have responded when the world around them was dangerous and key aspects of civilized society were under attack.

Someone like Dietrich Bonhoeffer, from our Lutheran tradition, who stood up to the power of the Third Reich—who gave his life but he didn't surrender his faith. The conditions in which he lived may, in fact, have led him to rely more fully on his Lord and less on his own evident giftedness.

Or, Christians in China, where the faith is officially discouraged, are nevertheless adding numbers at an amazing rate. For example, a credible scholarly source estimates that the number of Christians in China grew by almost 40% between 2006 and 2010. Not long ago, the government had every cross removed from every house of worship in one area, only to see the faith hold on and thrive.

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On a smaller scale is the simple, everyday, faithful believer who suffers hard losses and finds that prayer is the essential practice that gets her through each day. Staying connected to God literally allows her to keep going, keep breathing, and even begin to experience joy again.

Does adversity actually help us to recognize, accept, and even rejoice in our dependence on God in a way that's harder to do when we feel we're on top of things...or will be again soon?

There's spiritual freedom in letting go of the (false) sense that I have control over my future, much less over the future of my country or the world. It's the freedom we claim when we sing, "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness." It's the freedom of truly believing what the apostle Paul wrote in Romans: that there is absolutely nothing that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

In the face of a world that's too hot for us to handle, trusting that God can and will handle it frees us from paralyzing worry and frees us up to do what we can to make whatever difference we can.

Our loving, redeeming God, the God who created this blue ball we live on and all the people on it—our hope is built on nothing less than his saving love. It's enough. It's more than enough.



In Christ,
Pastor Carol

GLENN SCHRADER'S INTERNSHIP ENDING

As the month of June comes to an end, so does Glenn Schrader's year-long internship at New Spirit. There were two locations for his internship, New Spirit Lutheran and First United Methodist in Silver City, New Mexico, with the first half of the year spent primarily in Tucson and the second half of the year primarily in New Mexico.

Now First United Methodist has asked Glenn to fill in for the remainder of the summer because their pastor is taking a new call. So, Glenn's last Sunday at New Spirit was May 29. He has one more year of schoolwork at Wartburg Theological Seminary before he is eligible for approval and ordination through the Grand Canyon Synod of the ELCA.

Glenn hopes to return in the fall for a visit but leaves with these words: "I would like to deeply thank Pastor Carol and Pastor Fred, the Lay Internship Committee, the Church Council, and all the members of the congregation for the wonderful opportunity to complete my internship training at New Spirit. It has been very much a blessing to be able to be part of your church community over the past year, and I want to thank you for allowing me to learn more about pastoral ministry and to share in the challenges we all have faced together this past year. Dealing with Covid-19 certainly was a challenge, but I am grateful that, through prayer, dedication, and commitment to the mission of the church, it was indeed possible to complete my internship. God's blessings as New Spirit moves into the future!"



2022 GRAND CANYON SYNOD ASSEMBLY IN THE BOOKS

Barb Verthein, Laurie Bernard, and Pastor Carol (along with about 220 other people) attended the 2022 Assembly of the Grand Canyon Synod, held early in June at Love of Christ Lutheran Church in Mesa.

As the highest decision-making body in the synod, the assembly adopted a budget (mission spending plan) and held elections. You can take a look at the Mission Spending Plan for 2023-24 at <https://www.gcsynod.org/2022/assembly/mission-spending-plan>. We elected synod council members and voting members for the next ELCA Churchwide Assembly, to be held in August in Columbus, Ohio.

One of the highlights of the assembly was a presentation by Rev. Roberto Trejo Haager, pastor president of Iglesia Luterana Mexicana (ILM). Bishop Deborah Hutterer, Synod Vice President Barbara Carl, and Rev. Trejo signed a covenant officially recognizing our synod's partnership with ILM. This is the Grand Canyon Synod's second international partnership. We are connected in the same way with the Lutheran Church of Senegal.

Bishop Hutterer reported that, thanks to the generosity of our congregations, the \$500,000 goal of the synod's Growing Generosity appeal was met in just one year. A new "stretch goal" of \$750,000 has been set. Funds raised will go toward Lutheran Campus Ministry, new and ethnic-specific ministries in the synod, and increasing advocacy efforts. Note: We did our part! When New Spirit tithed on the generous bequest from Virginia Gearhart's estate, that money went to the Growing Generosity appeal.

Talk to Laurie, Barb, or Pastor Carol if you want to know more about the assembly.

Stirred Up
IN THE
SPIRIT

CONGREGATIONAL FORUM SET FOR JULY 10

Our next congregational forum is set for Sunday, July 10, after worship. This is an opportunity for leadership to share any updates—including about the call process—and for everyone to ask questions, share opinions, and hear from one another. Please plan to attend if possible!



LUTHERAN ADVOCACY MINISTRY ARIZONA NEWS

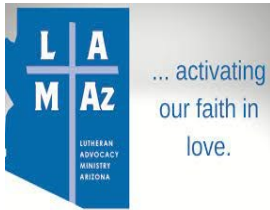
Latest News

Democracy in Action: four days in DC.

Hunger advocates from across the country gathered in Washington, DC on June 6-7 for the 2022 Bread for the World Advocacy Summit. Solveig Muus, our LAMA director, joined colleagues for training, worship, and advocacy on Capitol Hill.

The Arizona Hunger Policy Workgroup was awarded a 2022 SPARK Grant of \$20,000 to use toward fighting hunger in Arizona.

The ELCA urges us to become more involved in countering the reality and fear of violence in our communities and our neighbors' communities in the effort to pursue justice and peace.



The ELCA resources on gun violence include "A 60-Day Journey Toward Justice in a Culture of Gun Violence." Included is an easy-to-use guide and appendix with documents and actions on gun violence.

The Calendar for July activities that you may be interested in is published weekly on the LAMAz.gov website.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY GROUP

Women's Ministry Group (WELCA Bible Study Group) met at 1:30 on June 8, 2022, at the church.

This month several of Gather's authors shared their stories of those who have reached out across barriers of age, race, and ability to bring people together and share hospitality. We shared our own stories about the places God has led us. Stories change the way we think about things. Stories are something we all have, regardless of who we are or where we come from.

For our devotions Sandy Cooper wrote a beautiful and heartfelt prayer of gratefulness for the people and the ministries that kept our church going during the pandemic and beyond.

We discussed hosting a get-together for others sometime in the fall with a quilting theme. We could show and share stories of our favorite and special quilts. A donation station could be set up to help fund the postage to ship quilts where they are needed. We will decide how to spend our project money at our next meeting.



We also discussed coordinating with the Sunday School to host a pet blessing day at the church. Stations could be set-up for water and pet treats (possibly some homemade). There would also be a station of treats for your pet's human friends.

Date to Remember: The week of 18 September 2023 – Triennial in Phoenix.

Our next meeting will be held on September 14, 2022, at 1:30, at the church.

Linda Lamb – Secretary

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

SCHOOL IS OUT FOR SUMMER VACATION! While we won't be delivering snack packs to the children until August, we are busy replenishing the \$37,000 in funds needed to support sending home weekend food for the 2022-2023 school year.

We are fortunate to have the support of New Spirit, and also the Grand Canyon Synod, Arizona Association of School Business Officials, Community Foodbank of Southern Arizona, Jim Click Raffle, and others.

Here at New Spirit, we feed **290** children from Erickson, Ford, Steele, and Henry Elementary Schools, providing snack packs to take home on the weekend. Typical items include macaroni n' cheese box, canned sausages, chicken or tuna, oatmeal, canned beans or pasta, cereal, hot cocoa, canned vegetable, and fruit cup.

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.**

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, and delivery.**

Contact Laurie Bernard at lbernard2008@hotmail.com

"Like" our page on Facebook ***Blessings at New Spirit Lutheran Church***



OUR AWESOME TEAM MEMBERS

"T" Baker	Marlene Hansen
Cathy Cermak	John Lukecart
Joyce Dow	Marty Mosthaff
Sarah Drath	Philip Pierce
Sarah Elmquist	Barbara Rebok
Monica Fuller	Brigitte Stuetze
Craig Geiger	Phyllis Wagner

June/July Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

06/04 Jessica West	06/27 Archie & Gloria Burke	07/09 Ron & Shereen O'Connor
06/16 Betty Cooley	(Anniversary)	(Anniversary)
06/17 Robin Hughes	06/30 Barbara Kotlaba	07/12 Ron & Cathy Cermak
06/22 Ron Cermak	07/01 Dennis Armstrong	(Anniversary)
Marilyn Linderkamp	Dominic West	07/16 Marilyn Stoeckig
Eugene & Marilyn	07/02 Deloris Hanneman	07/20 Judy McFarland
Linderkamp	07/03 Zachary Buglewicz	(Anniversary)
(Anniversary)	07/05 Eugene Linderkamp	07/22 Chrystal Wood
06/24 Joy Wolfe	07/07 Michael Ansbro	07/27 Esther Hopkins
06/26 Jeanette Sather	07/09 Bruce Drath	07/29 Linda Kurowski
		07/31 Nancy Daliege





HOMELESS BLESSINGS

SUMMER HOURS
SECOND SATURDAYS 9AM TO 11AM

The numbers of clients participating in our events is slowly picking back up to pre-pandemic attendance. Yay! We offer not only clothing and hygiene products, but a hot meal and packaged food to go. Visits from organizations now range from helping with complaints about law enforcement to housing and mental health help.

If you have clothing, shoes, socks, or blankets/sleeping bags, we sure would like you to drop them off at the church. We can always use monetary contributions to help pay for new underwear, hygiene products, flashlights, backpacks, batteries, and tarps.

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.

OUR AWESOME TEAM MEMBERS

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| Don Crow | Robin Ploueffe |
| Sarah Drath | Glenn Schrader |
| Sarah Elmquist | Kathy Stedman |
| Monica Fuller | Marilyn Stoeckig |
| Naida Granmo | Nancy Strait |
| Paul Koster | Barb Verthein |
| Marty Mosthaff | Jack French |
| Phil Pierce | Teresa Westhoff |

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THIS MISSION

Want to help? Contact NSLC Office or Laurie Bernard at lbernard2008@hotmail.com

Shout-Outs

SHOUT OUT - To Ken Dobbs for overseeing repairs to the sanctuary lighting and getting our "new," temporary mics up and running.



New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85710

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

<p>Sundays:</p> <p>10:00 am Worship</p> <p>You can currently watch each week's message on YouTube.</p>	<p><i>How to contact us:</i></p> <p>New Spirit Lutheran Church 8701 E. Old Spanish Trail Tucson, AZ 85710</p> <p>Phone: (520) 296-2461</p> <p>E-Mail: NewSpiritLutheranTucson@yahoo.com</p> <p>Website: newspiritlutherantucson.org</p>
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