

That's The Spirit!

Rev. Alan Field

New Spirit Lutheran Church

March 2018

Our faith is in Jesus.

Our hope is in grace.

Our strength is in love.

Dear Partners on the trail....

This time of year, with Lenten worship and preparations for Easter, can become a matter of routine for churches. Occasionally a new program, or alternative focus can make the Lenten journey one of new discoveries. Lent is intended for each of us to realize the closeness of God, and the reality of our call to faithfulness.

At this writing, another routine event has taken place. Once again a tragic school shooting has occurred and where one could hope the tragedy could unite people in grief and disbelief, the reality is division rather than unity. My concern is the routine that our nation seems comfortable with is the mass shooting. Unless the shooting happens to your family, in your own backyard, too many people throw their hands up in the air and say "isn't that awful?" It is, but leaders seem unwilling to do anything significant to reclaim the value of human life in America.

We will enter the Passion of Jesus at the end of March. Every year that story causes people of faith to shake their heads in disbelief. The disbelief is rooted in the response of the priests, scribes, and Pharisees. Clearly Jesus had brought an expression of the Kingdom of God that was mercy-based and inclusive. Jesus welcomed sinners. Jesus welcomed Gentiles and women. Jesus welcomed outcasts and the "forgettables." His outpouring of grace had taken the world by storm. But, it was a storm that lessened the "power and control" of the religious elite. It was a storm that rocked the boat of tradition and comfort. The change was too great to accept.

When those two fronts, powerful control and inclusive mercy, collide the result is often violent. Throughout history the mercy-givers and justice demanders have been killed by those who desire control and comfort - Ghandi, President Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., Bobby Kennedy. Today, those who call for reasonable gun control and responsible citizenship are threatened with violence.

The season of Lent calls us to look into any mirror and see who we have become. Mirrors offer a mechanical reflection of what is. While we can alter the lighting to make us look good, the premise of the vanity mirror, the truth is what the mirror reflects. We are called to make peace with the one in the mirror. We are to offer forgiveness for the one in the mirror. We are to love the one in the mirror, but not to the exclusion of neighbor, sibling, or spouse.

This month, I encourage you consider the one in the mirror. Choose to take on a healthy activity. Choose to be gentler on yourself. Choose to eat better, sleep better, celebrate more. This is our work before we gather to celebrate the new life that Jesus will gift to us in the resurrection. May this be most certainly true.

Faithfully,

Pastor Alan



In Memory....Esther Whitehead

Following a three year decline in health, Esther died in early January. She had been a member of New Spirit/Spanish Trail since 1989. Esther was a woman of deep faith, and deep opinions. Her spirit was undeterred when she identified an injustice, or irresponsibility. For years she drove a number of members from their assisted living facilities to worship on Sundays. The celebration of her life was a great time to tell “Esther-stories” and to give thanks for sharing the journey with us.



Holy Week Schedule –

Holy Week will be March 25-31. **Palm Sunday** will call us together to witness Jesus’ return to Jerusalem to “speak truth to power.” We will consider our roles in declaring the Lordship of Jesus.

Maundy Thursday is March 29th, 5:30pm dinner and service. That evening we will eat, share the ancient story of deliverance, and step into Jesus’ act of emptying himself for our sake.

Good Friday is March 30th. Our evening service at 7:00pm will consider Jesus’ sacrifice upon the cross for the sins of the world.

Easter is April 1st, and that opens a host of possibilities for our celebration of the Resurrection! Easter services will be Sunrise 6:00am on the patio. 9:00am Arise to Praise. 11:00am Traditions.

The Easter Flower Cross will be our symbol for the gift of new life. On Easter day we ask members and guests to bring cut flowers to adorn the flower cross.

Easter Breakfast will be served 7:30 – 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Easter Breakfast to support YOUTH attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering. This will be a **Thrivent Action Team project**, sponsored by Archie & Gloria Burke, with a goal of raising sufficient funds for the youth to ensure their trip is not a financial burden. Thrivent members are asked to help with the preparation and serving of food. The youth will be fully active in setting up, preparing food, serving, and cleaning up. Thanks to Thrivent for its support of youth and congregations .

The New Spirit website is quickly becoming a reality. We encourage you to check it out at www.newspiritlutherantucson.org. You will notice the use of lots of pictures on the site.

We are blest to have a number of photographers among our members. Now, before we can display a photo on the website, we need to have a signed “Photo Release” form on file. We cannot display photos of congregational activities without signed permission. (It is the culture in which we live.) So, next month a Photo Release form will be included with the newsletter. We ask everyone to fill out the form, and return it to the church office. Thank you.



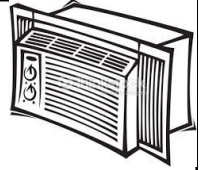
“Lent from the Margins” is our theme for Wednesday evening worship. We will be considering the call of Jesus that we take our place “in the margins” of society to offer mercy, welcome, and grace. Each week we will take a stand along the fringes of this life.

YOUTH GATHERING

ELCA National Youth Gathering is getting closer! We have our airline tickets, this month our final registration payments are to be sent in, and we will meet for our monthly “getting ready” study and activities. We have six youth preparing to attend. Valerie Friend and Pastor Alan will be the adult leaders for the trip. Stay tuned for more announcements about supporting our youth for this once in a lifetime experience!

K-Hall A/C Project is complete. The building now has three piggy-back heating/cooling units. These units will make working in K-Hall during the months of 100 degrees tolerable.

Thank you to all who donated to this project. ICS purchased one of the three units out-right. Generous donations by New Spirit members made the other purchases happen. We needed to request some Memorial Funds to complete the project. “Food Bank Volunteers” thank New Spirit for the up-grade.



Food Bank veggie give-away is March 3rd. The Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona will deliver 200-400 pounds of fresh vegetables for us to distribute to east-side neighbors. Volunteers need to be at church by 9:00 a.m. to set up the veggie tables. We will distribute veggies during our Food Bank hours, 10am -1pm. The veggies we give away are available for everyone. You do not need to be a Food Bank client to receive free veggies. If you plan to help on March 3rd, please sign the list on the magnet board in the Narthex

Work Days - Work Days are Saturday mornings from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. addressing landscape maintenance, pruning, weeding and more. Thanks to the great crews that helped February 17 & 24. Thanks, too, to the breakfast cooks and coordinators! Our March workday(s) will be: March 3rd, 10th and 17th.



It's my task to introduce myself as a member of our current council. But you all know me. I will be completing my third term on council during Pastor Alan's tenure.

But as a refresher, I've been a member of the church on this corner since 1980.

I have raised 5 children, 4 sons and 1 daughter, and now have 12 grandchildren. Those were busy years; some I barely remember. I do remember feeling it important to bring kids to church and having them participate in activities of that time of which summer camp was a huge favorite.

After I retired from being a child and family therapist for 17 years, I was finally able to participate more in activities of the church. I currently serve on altar care, the columbarium and am a worship assistant.

What has struck me of late is how superficial my worship was at times. It wasn't until I began to participate in some studies and now Tuesday morning's lectionary, that "I get it" more often now than ever before. I see how God interacts in my life and in those I love more often. They may not be the mountain top experiences but simply the lyrics of a Praise Team song or the words in a sermon which show me how He is alive and I just need to be open.

What thrills me most these days is working with some of you on various projects here at NSLC. It is within those activities that new bonds are formed, while at the same time, we worship the same God. How glorious is that!!

So as I complete this third year on council as president ex-officio, I wish you a blessed Lenten season!

Brigitte Stuetze



BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Did you know that there are more than 1,000 Blessings in a Backpack programs across the country? Bags of food are going home every Friday of the school year and children are getting the nutrition they need for improved health and academic success because of people like YOU - our volunteers, donors, and partners. Thank you!

This school year Blessings in a Backpack aims to serve more than 100,000 children - that's more than 3.8 million hunger-free weekends - across the nation. How can you help? For as little as \$10 a month, you can help us feed one child this school year.

Here at New Spirit, we feed **227** 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 or tuna, oatmeal, canned beans, 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*

Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest is one of our partner ministries in Arizona.

LSS-SW has spent the past three years re-establishing ties with congregations in the Synod. LSS-SW has expanded its work in our community. They provide support for Refugee families relocating to Tucson. Women’s Empowerment, ESL classes, job training, and more are offered to family members.



LSS-SW supports an in-home medical assistance program; a homeless shelter for women in Mesa; support for foster parents and foster families, and much more.

Pastor Alan will be organizing a “field trip” to the Refugee Focus office soon, and would like to have 8-10 people “Come and See” what LSS is doing here. If you would like to attend, please let Pastor Alan know.

Calling on past, present and future columbarium board members. Let’s meet in the library between services, Sunday March 18.

Want to identify needs and set up schedules.

Brigitte Stuetze



March Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations



3/1 John & Carol Lukecart
(Anniversary)

3/9 Mark Friend

3/14 Marlene Junge

3/2 Shelley Colwell

3/11 Don Nibbe

3/17 Bich Francis

3/4 Margo Nichols

3/12 Tre Garibay

3/30 Mark Canterbury

3/6 Ron Anderson
Linda Anderson

3/13 Flo Vohnoutka

3/31 Patrick Carty



HOMELESS BLESSINGS

We've been holding our Homeless Blessings events since November of 2013. We started out serving at Santa Rita Park, but decided to help Tucson's east side homeless population as there were no support services here. Our first event at New Spirit was on August 13, 2017 and we served 15 people.

The number of clients we are serving is growing! December brought us 30 people in need, January brought us 24, and February was 25. We are now seeing a few "food insecure" clients (they have shelter but still struggle with having enough food to eat). We now offer haircuts, 1-day bus passes, access to housing, packaged food, protein drinks, hygiene products, first aid products, and a great home cooked meal. Many now share Wednesday dinners with us and a few join us on Sunday mornings for worship. They have told us that they feel welcome and comforted by our members.

As we grow, we find we need more storage for the boxes of clothing, blankets, tarps, serving tables, and hygiene products. We have been blessed with cash contributions to almost cover the cost of erecting a storage shed on the old basketball court slab behind K-Hall! The new shed has been ordered and will be installed on March 3rd, just in time for our next event on March 10th!

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.

As the weather is colder now, we need blankets, coats, shoes, sweatshirts and other warm clothing to share. If you have a small tent or sleeping bag you no longer use, these are always in demand and would be appreciated.

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

PLEASE DONATE:

**MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CLOTHING
SHOES AND SOCKS
AA AND AAA BATTERIES
FULL SIZE SHAMPOO, LOTION, TOOTHPASTE, DEODORANT
RAZORS, COMBS, BRUSHES
PEANUT BUTTER, CANNED MEATS
PROTEIN DRINKS**



New Spirit's new website is now up and running. Find us at newspiritlutherantucson.org and check it out! You can find the current newsletter, Pastor's sermons, a calendar with current events, links to songs by our very own Praise Team, and you can donate online. There is information about our ministries and how you can help, links to Interfaith Community Services, Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest, and Community Gardens of Tucson. Soon to come will be Pastor Alan's blog and more pictures of our New Spirit community.

We welcome suggestions and additions. Please contact the church office and let us know.

DEBORAH'S GATHERING met Wed, February 14. The lesson from the Gather magazine was on how people interpret the verse of Luke 3: 3-17. Songs relating to the study were sung, reminding us that our hymns are not just music to sing but have words with a message.



Due to Sue Gilmore and Marilyn Linderkamp having health issues, their responsibilities will be done by other members. Sandra Colwell, being Sunshine Chairman, will send out cards to people who are ill or have problems. Gloria Burke will take care of distributing aluminum can tabs to Ronald McDonald house, box tops for education to the Navajo Mission and plastic bottle caps for children in Mexico to receive chemo treatments. Please collect these items and put them in the proper drawers in the Narthex. Linda Lamb will take care of the collection for projects, offerings and least coin penny collection.


The Santa Cruz/ Sunrise conference will meet Sat., March 3rd at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, 4520 W. Ajo Way. The theme is Fill My Cup Lord – a Mad Hatter's Tea Party – Psalm 68: 3. Bring your own favorite tea cup and dress for the occasion. What will the Queen wear – Hat? Gloves? Who will win first prize? Speaker will be Bonnie Willemsen, author, columnist, humorist. Outreach Project is Gospel Mission. If you have never attended one of these inspiring meetings sponsored by Woman's Ministries of the ELCA, contact Gloria Burk for carpooling info. Copies of the registration form are on the board outside the kitchen and the fee of just \$10 is due to the Treasurer by Feb. 24th.

Join us in Room 105 on March 14th at 3:15 for study and sharing. Then attend the Wed. supper and service. Lesson – Joyce; Devotion – Ana; Music – Gloria and Sandy.

Gloria Burke, Secretary

Easter Breakfast- April 1st, Archie & Gloria Burke will be doing a Thrivent Action Team like was done for the Chili Supper. This will be to raise funds for the youth to go to their Youth Gathering this summer. This means that we get money to buy food for the breakfast fundraiser. If you want to give some extra help in menu planning, going food shopping with me or working, call Gloria. 296-7834.



 **THRIVENT --IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THRIVENT MEMBERS!** If you are a Thrivent member you are eligible to get Thrivent Choice Dollars each year depending on how much your investments are. This is like free money that you can designate to charities or to programs in New Spirit such as SOS fund or Blessings in a Backpack. If you don't designate your dollars, they go back into a Thrivent fund for their charity programs. Many \$\$\$ have gone to Thrivent instead of our church. You must get this done before March 24th this year because of the date of Easter. The end of March is always the end of choosing where these dollars go!! If you are a Thrivent member, please call 1-800-847-4836 and ask for Thrivent Choice. Tell the person you speak with who you are, ask if you have Choice Dollars and tell them where you want your dollars to go. If you say New Spirit, the money will electronically be sent to New Spirit and then you can tell our church office where you want the money to go. It is then transferred to a program such as SOS or Blessings in a Backpack without any name attached. The money DOES NOT come out of your account. It comes because you have an account and are able to donate free money to help a worthy cause! If you have any questions call Gloria Burke at 296-7834

Please do this right away so the free money gets used the way you want it to. If you would like Rob Eyer to come and speak to the Thrivent members about help our church can get through programs such as this call Gloria. Rob is the Thrivent Representative who has been helping New Spirit with different things such as when Thrivent gave free paper goods to churches.

Gloria Burke

2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering

Every three years, the ELCA plans and presents a 5-day gathering for High School youth from across the country. An estimated 35,000 youth and adults will be gathering in Houston, Texas, June 27-July 1 for this year's Gathering titled: **This Changes Everything**. It comes from the theme verse "for it is by grace that you are saved through faith...." and that, my friends "Changes Everything."



Each day our group will participate in learning, serving, listening, worshipping, dancing, singing, with occasional opportunities offered for eating and sleeping.

As you know, Houston suffered from hurricane damage last August, and there is still a lot of work to be done to reclaim neighborhoods of the city. In 2006, and again in 2009, the Youth Gatherings were held in New Orleans, post-Hurricane Katrina. Our youth did thousands of hours working in the damaged areas. The people of New Orleans invited our youth back in 2009, after the great work done in 2006. It will be the same in Houston.

One day of our time in Houston will be joining 11,000 other youth and adults to work in the city. We will wear bright orange Gathering shirts, and will work to clean-up and re-build Houston neighborhoods. Our workday will be Friday, June 29th.

Every evening we will gather at the NRG Stadium, all 35,000 of us to hear great music, amazing speakers like Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber, and join in celebrating being the youth of the ELCA. After the stadium event, we will have options to go to late-night activities from dances, to concerts, to open-mic opportunities. Of course sleep will happen sometime.

Thursday we will meet with all the youth from our Grand Canyon Synod for a day of Bible study, activities, music and learning how to better proclaim Jesus as our Lord.

The Gathering will end at noon on Sunday, July 1st at the NRG Stadium. We will be staying overnight to go to the NASA Museum on Monday. We will fly back to Tucson on Tuesday, July 3rd.

We appreciate the generosity of the congregation in past years toward past Gatherings. We need to raise more funds for our trip. We invite you to the Easter Breakfast to help us raise the \$1000 that we need. Come for Easter breakfast, and help us get to Houston.

Valerie Friend and Pastor Alan will be our adult guides. Six youth: Amber Crace, Caitlyn Friend, Jakob Rettig, and Katie Uidenich are excited to attend. Meeting us in Houston will be Juliette and Justin Nast, friends from a few years ago.

After we return, the youth will lead a Sunday worship service and share their experiences at this "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity.

Thank you for your prayers and your support.

New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85710

Shout-Outs

SHOUT OUT- *The Mardi Gras Team - Super decorations, afternoon fun, yummy food and great music by Jay Schreiber's French Quarter String Band*

SHOUT OUT - *Ken Dobbs for all his work coordinating the K-Hall A/C project.*

SHOUT OUT - *To all contributors for our A/C project in K- Hall.*

SHOUT OUT - *February Cook Team: Terry Wolfe, Ken & Sharon Dobbs, Carol Debis and Sarah Drath.*

SHOUT OUT - *Toni Nemetz for her faithfulness in distributing bulletins every Sunday*

SHOUT OUT - *February Hospitality Crew for all the yummys.*

SHOUT OUT - *Feb 17th workday crew: Ken Dobbs, Don Crow, Archie Burke, Mark Roberts, Dave Kingston, Craig Geiger, Pastor Alan, Marty Mosthaff, Sarah Drath and the breakfast crew: Sharon Dobbs, Darlene Paape, Bich Francis.*



Sundays:

9:00 am Arise to Praise

(Spirited Contemporary Worship)

10:15 – 11:00 am Sunday School for all ages

11:00 am Traditions

(Classic Hymns & Liturgies)

Wednesdays: 5:30 pm Dinner, 6:15pm Classes

How to contact us:

New Spirit Lutheran Church

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E-Mail: NewSpiritLutheranTucson@yahoo.com

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