

# *That's The Spirit!*

New Spirit Lutheran Church

*Our faith is in Jesus.*

*Our hope is in grace.*

*Our strength is in love.*

Rev. Alan Field

March 2019

Dear Partners on the Trail,

It rarely happens that Easter is as late as it will be this year, April 21<sup>st</sup>. The season of Lent then begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.

This year's Lenten theme will encourage participants to consider how you have responded to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and how it is reflected in your daily life. Each Wednesday evening we will consider one of six links in a chain, understanding that "a chain is only as strong as its weakest link." Through litanies, Scripture and homilies you will be called to center on each week's, or link's, theme.

I hope you and your family will make it a plan to come for supper on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. and worship at 6:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday will be a service of Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

I have written in the past about the old church tradition of "giving something up for Lent." I've never been impressed by that practice, so I encourage you to add something for Lent. Add to your calendar "your commitment to worship on each Sunday and Wednesday during the 40 days of Lent." Or, you might "add to your weekly tithe a designated amount, say 1 – 2% of your weekly income and take note of how that would impact your daily routines at home." Or, you might "add the commitment to make a new, New Spirit friend a week", connecting with familiar faces but people whom you do not know. Or, you could "add 10 minutes after breakfast, or supper, for prayer and reading a Psalm." Or, you could "plant new plants in your yard, and tend to them each day, thanking God for the gift of life in the desert Springtime."

I invite you to make this Lenten Season one in which you add something meaningful to your daily and weekly routine so that you experience the gift of God's call to "new life."

I wish for you, a blessed Lenten Season.

Prayerfully,

Pastor Alan



Dear Partners in Faith.....

The Publisher's Clearinghouse has a way of insisting that you, yes you, are going to win their forever-stream of money. You, yes, you!

The Mega-Millions, and Powerball have a way of insisting that you, yes you, are going to become an instant multimillionaire. You, yes, you!

Every Casino and hospital Mega-Lottery have a way of insisting that you, yes you, are going to win the grand prize, and you will have "good hair days for the rest of your life."

Hope is an interesting drug. It can fix our life, our energy, and our resources to chase after the impossible dream of winning. You, yes, you!

That may be a fantasy, but this month there is a serious reality that we want to bring to every New Spirit household, every New Spirit member and friend.

Every member of New Spirit has been gifted by God. Every member of New Spirit has, at no cost to you, certain skills or abilities that can help build and strengthen the Body of Christ, the church. Those gifts were hardwired into you when God knit you together in your mother's womb. These are the interests you have that you used extensively during your years in your career. These gifts are given to us by the Holy Spirit, the POWERFUL presence of God within you now. You are gifted already. You understand, or are oriented to certain things in life, and this is how God has created you.

New Spirit is not unlike many congregations in America. We are getting older, smaller, and less productive. For a healthy and hopeful future of growth and revitalization we don't need the Publisher's Clearinghouse Prize Team knocking at our door. No, we already have every gift and ability we need to re-ignite our life and ministry.

Every member of New Spirit has certain interests and abilities that can help strengthen our role in this community. Every member already has what they need to step up to make Jesus known. Every member has what they need to work beside others with different gifts and talents to broaden New Spirit's outreach and spiritual growth.

Every Sunday in March will have an emphasis on our own personal Spiritual Gifts.

On Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, we will focus on our Spiritual Gifts at worship, including completing the Gifts Inventory. In the past those outcomes were set aside, but we are committed to connect every person in New Spirit with one job they will enjoy because they are gifted for that particular duty.

You are already ready to be a winner! You have a place and a purpose in this ministry.

It will be amazing to see how everyone is gifted, and how everyone can do one thing to strengthen New Spirit.

And unlike Mega-Millions, Powerball, or the Publisher's Clearinghouse the odds are not 1 in 23 million for you to win. No, the odds are 1 to 1. You already have what it will take to rejuvenate and enliven New Spirit.



## Lenten Season Schedule:

Ash Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> Service of Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion will be held at 6:30 p.m.

Mid-week Lenten Services March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10.



## Holy Week Schedule



HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup>  
Maundy Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup>  
Good Friday April 19<sup>th</sup>  
Easter Vigil Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>  
Easter Celebration April 21<sup>st</sup>

**“Something special is happening on February 17<sup>th</sup>.”** That line was printed in the Sunday bulletin and shown on the screens every Sunday for the month prior to February 17<sup>th</sup>! For those who were not at worship that day, you missed something very special indeed.

On that day, Pastor Alan and Bishop Deborah Hutterer, Bishop of the Grand Canyon Synod ELCA, announced that they will be married on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. As it is planned, their wedding will be a very small family gathering on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Then on Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, they will be at New Spirit for worship which will be written as a Blessing of their Marriage.

We encourage all of the New Spirit community to come together that day to offer blessings and good wishes for Pastor Alan and Bishop Deborah. A reception/celebration will take place after worship that day!

To allay some fears, Pastor Alan will continue to serve New Spirit and will live in Tucson for the fulfillment of his ministry at New Spirit. Bishop Deborah will live in her home in Phoenix, traveling as Bishop. One day both houses will be sold and they will move into “their home.”



The couple has been so richly blessed in this life; they ask no gifts be given. But, if you would like to honor them, they ask that gifts be made to: ELCA Disaster Relief Fund, the Grand Canyon Synod, Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest or ALS Association of Minnesota.

We thank you for your prayers and your love.....

Bishop Deborah and Pastor Alan



## March Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations



3/1 John & Carol Lukeart  
(Anniversary)

3/9 Mark Friend

3/13 Flo Vohnoutka

3/2 Shelley Colwell

3/11 Don Nibbe

3/14 Marlene Junge

3/4 Margo Nichols

3/12 Tre Garibay

3/17 Bich Francis

3/6 Ron Anderson  
Linda Anderson

3/30 Mark Canterbury



**SALCA Camp** is scheduled for **Monday May 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday May 31<sup>st</sup> at Triangle-Y Ranch Camp in Oracle, AZ.** The Camp Theme and Registration materials are coming out soon. Remember, New Spirit pays for half of the registration costs with other sources of funds available. Camp is for students who have completed 3<sup>rd</sup> grade by May 27<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. High School students are eligible to register as L.I.T. - Leaders in Training....enabling them to serve as cabin leaders in the Summer of 2020! If you don't hear anything about camp...ASK!



**Deborah's Gathering** WELCA Bible Study Group met on February 13, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 105. The meeting opened with singing Hymn "Come to Me All Pilgrims Thirsty". Sandy led the group in devotions - Take Refuge in God. January 2019 minutes were read and approved as written. Treasurer's report was read and approved as written.

Sunshine report - Eight birthday/thinking of you cards were sent. Sympathy card will be sent to the Navajo Mission as they grieve the sudden death of Mission Manager, Lea Begay.

Valentine cards were made for the youth in confirmation.

We have five members that will be attending the Sunrise/Santa Cruz Conference on March 2, 2019, in Green Valley. The outreach program for this year's conference is Personal Care/Home Cleaning Products. It was recommended that we give \$100.00 for the Love Offering. Barbara, Joyce and Gloria will finalize the details on how we will present the devotions for the conference.

Details were finalized for the group's participation (communion, ushers, luncheon help) at Sue Gilmore's memorial service to be held on February 27, 2019.

We received a thank you card from the Navajo Mission for our donation of \$300.00. The next meeting will be held March 13, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 105. Sandy will lead devotions; Joyce will lead the lesson; and Gloria will do the music.



Here is a list of things we collect: Aluminum cans for youth, aluminum can pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House, Box Tops for Education for the Navajo Mission School at Rock Point, AZ and plastic bottle caps (no metal) collected and sent to Mexico where every thousand gets a cancer treatment for a child. Items can be placed in the drawers in the back cupboard of the Narthex. Questions??/Ask Gloria Burke

When we do things for other people we don't always realize how much it means to them. I wrote a note to Esther Whitehead's daughter, Sharon, and I thought you all should know part of her reply:

I will be ever grateful to you and the New Spirit community for their support of my Mom. She loved all of you! She spoke frequently about individuals and activities. I felt completely supported by the New Spirit community during the time immediately following her death. You all were like a warm security blanket.

You all at New Spirit mean a great deal to me. A favorite picture is of mom in front of the peace lily at New Spirit. Thank you all for your love, support and prayers. Sharon



The memorial service for Margaret Benson will be held here at New Spirit Lutheran Church Saturday, March 9th at 4:00 pm. Margaret passed away January 29, 2019.

Betty Ruckert passed away February 19th. Her memorial service will be held here at New Spirit Lutheran Church, Tuesday, March 12th at 11:00 am.



When I read this message from our bishop, Deborah Hutterer, I was remembering some of my feelings when raising my kids. There was such little time to give to the church. Paul worked 70 hours a week and all 5 kids were involved in sports. I often felt inadequate in my response to all God had given me. But then some sweet soul reminded me that what I was doing NOW was my response. So you see how the following article was worth sharing.

Brigitte Stuetze

“The prince should think: Christ has served me and made everything to follow him; therefore, I should also serve my neighbor, protect him and everything that belongs to him. That is why God has given me this office, and I have it that I might serve him. That would be a good prince and ruler. When a prince sees his neighbor oppressed, he should think: That concerns me! I must protect and shield my neighbor....The same is true for shoemaker, tailor, scribe, or reader. If he is a Christian tailor, he will say: I make these clothes because God has bidden me do so, so that I can earn a living, so that I can help and serve my neighbor. When a Christian does not serve the other, God is not present; that is not Christian living.” Martin Luther

What is a vocation?

I used to think that a vocation was some big thing. A one true grand calling in life with which we are somehow anointed.

But as I reflect on this quote from Martin Luther during this season of Epiphany, I am reminded that this is not the case.

Any work done in faith can be a vocation. We are all made holy through baptism in Christ to do holy work.

So everyday tasks of the Christian like changing diapers or cleaning the floors, or caring for an aging family member, volunteering with the Scouts, caring for one in hospice, creating a home filled with laughter, deliberating about which candidate to vote for—are tasks to which we are called.

Being faithful in your duties at home or work, or in whatever way you respond to God – YOU have a calling, a vocation as a follower of Jesus. Jesus has set you free to serve God and neighbor.

These vocations are as important as being a bishop or CEO or brain surgeon.

There is precious little in our life that can't be a place where God is at work healing, comforting, and restoring, when we look at it this way.

You, my dear brothers and sisters are saints. YOU get to complete the miracles placed on your paths. And while you are about that work, from time to time you will get glimpses of the Holy City that is written about in Revelation. We who are yet walking by faith live in hope and trust of God's word that there will be no more death. No more mourning or crying or pain. Where all things will be made new.

Two Assignments: As you do your tasks—phone calls, errands, whatever work you are called to this day—repeat this is holy work. And, for extra credit—remind someone else that they are doing holy work. You may discover that in sharing those words God will use you to bring new life.

The Rev. Deborah K. Hutterer  
Bishop  
Grand Canyon Synod of the ELCA





## Sunday School Happenings

By Shelley Colwell



The Sunday School would like to thank all the congregation who contributed to our holiday project making comfort bags for children undergoing chemotherapy. Depending on their age one treatment on chemotherapy can last 6-8 hours. As you can imagine that is a long time to keep a young child entertained. Due to your generosity we were able to put together 40 comfort bags; 20 for girls and 20 for boys. These bags contained puzzle coloring books, gum, mints, colored pencils, tissues, hand held puzzles, crackers, writing pads, and pencil sharpeners. They were all made from soft fleece donated by members of the congregation. The Sunday school kids made the display for the congregation, packed all the bags and helped deliver them to the hospital.

We have been told the bags are already in use and the kids are enjoying them. We will be scheduling a full-scale tour of the hospital with the kids as soon as we can work out scheduling, which they are looking forward to in the upcoming weeks. The kids had also been asking whatever happened to all those bags that sat outside of the sanctuary to occupy our youngest church goers. Over the years most of the bags and contents have gone missing so we worked on replenishing the bags as well. The kids decorated and stocked new bags which will be reappearing outside the sanctuary in the next couple of weeks.

It is almost time for the Pima County Fair, and the Sunday School kids will again be entering crafts for display there. Last year they were quite successful and earned many ribbons. This was a great way for the kids to build their self-esteem. The people that coordinate the crafts at the fair were very excited to have our kids participate as they have not had churches participate, usually just schools. The kids submitted quite a variety of projects and have come up with a lot of new ideas for this year. The fair is April 17-27<sup>th</sup> this year and it would be great for the kids to hear from the congregation that their work was appreciated. Last year we heard from Pastor Alan and Marilyn and Gene Linderkamp and it was greatly appreciated!

We have been studying the book of John this Winter since Christmas. We will be transitioning to the Psalms in the next few weeks. We have acquired enough copies of the Serendipity Bible for small groups so all the kids can read from the same Bible. They also enjoy the questions that are in that Bible to facilitate discussion because it lets all of them find a meaningful answer and think a little more about the scripture meaning. We encourage the kids to read the lessons straight from the Bible themselves; even some of the kids as young as 1<sup>st</sup> grade are starting to feel confident to start reading the Bible aloud in class.



Looking forward to Spring we would also like to do another community outreach project. When we visited the hospital with the kids we found out they have their own library, so we have been discussing doing a book drive. Look for details in the coming weeks. In May we will be hosting our second annual Mother's Day tea for the moms of our Sunday School kids. We are looking forward to a busy and productive Spring term. Again, we would like to thank all of you in the congregation who have supported the kids over the years. As it says in the book of Psalms 127:3 (NLT) "Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him."



**On January 25, our program was recognized with The Kindness Award from Ben's Bells for our volunteer work with Blessings in a Backpack. This school year, we are feeding 279 children from Erickson, Ford, Steele and Henry Elementary Schools, providing snack packs to take home on the weekend.**

**We were also blessed with oatmeal packs from a packathon at St Paul's United Methodist Church. Some of our team members participated in the packing, which will give us breakfast portions to include in our snack packs for 3 weeks. Each pack will feed 6 people, so the children will be able to share with their family!**

**Your donation of \$100 feeds 1 child every weekend for the entire school year. MAKE A GIFT TO AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILD THIS YEAR.**

**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 DESIGNATE OUR PROGRAM THROUGH YOUR FRY'S COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM. A PERCENTAGE OF WHAT YOU SPEND ON GROCERIES CAN BE DONATED TO BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK. SIGN UP ONLINE OR IN YOUR LOCAL FRY'S STORE. OUR ACCOUNT NUMBER IS XL431. HELP FEED THE KIDS AS YOU FEED YOURSELF!**

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

**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](mailto:lbernard2008@hotmail.com)**

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



## OUR MINISTRY IS GROWING WE SERVED OVER 100 DESERVING PEOPLE IN FEBRUARY WITH OUR 2<sup>ND</sup> SATURDAY EVENT AND WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

It's tough on the streets. For some, it's tough to keep a roof over their head. Their stories are heartbreaking. Mental health, alcohol and drug issues are just part of the problem. These are also people who have just had a perfect storm of health, employment and financial issues and now find themselves homeless or close to it.

### THIS COULD HAPPEN TO YOU OR A LOVED ONE

Our event the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month has representatives from Old Pueblo Community Services, City of Tucson and Office of the Independent Police Examiner to provide help for those who face adversity every day just to live. Our Wednesday night dinners give them a hot meal and a trip to our Blessings Room to get canned food and hygiene products. Sometimes, they come in and have just had all of their possessions stolen. During the recent extremely cold weather, we were able to provide emergency blankets, tarps, gloves and hats.

New Spirit's Homeless Blessings Team provides a hot meal, tarps, blankets, hats, gloves, coats and warm socks, 1-day bus passes, packaged food, protein drinks, hygiene products, first aid products and clothing.

**PLEASE DONATE FOR THE WINTER:  
MEN'S JEANS – ESPECIALLY 32-34 SIZES  
BLANKETS, SLEEPING BAGS, WARM JACKETS  
SHOES AND SOCKS**

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.

### 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 OUT - To the February hospitality team.***

***SHOUT OUT - To the February Wednesday cook team.***

***SHOUT OUT - To the Praise team who continues to lead worship at 9:00 every Sunday learning new songs and introducing them.***

***SHOUT OUT - To the Tax Site volunteers whether as tax preparers or greeters. This is a “welcoming ministry” for our clients.***

***SHOUT OUT - To Ron Cermak for sharpening the kitchen knives.***

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

## Shout-Outs



***SHOUT OUT - To Sharon Dobbs for her continuous work as Restricted Funds treasurer.***

***SHOUT OUT - To Ellie Thompson and Darlene Paape for managing the memorial receptions.***

***SHOUT OUT - To All the volunteers who help set up, clean up and contribute food for memorial receptions.***

***SHOUT OUT - To Ken Dobbs, Don Crow, Terry Wolfe, and all who come on Saturdays to work on the grounds, cleaning weeds and more.***

### 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, 4:00 & 6:15 pm  
Classes

### How to contact us:

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