

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 2020

Dear Partners on the Trail,

For eighteen years I have begun my letter to you in the newsletter, Partners, that is how I see you! We are called to be “church together” and in our work to proclaim the saving grace of God through Jesus Christ. You and I have been called to listen, learn, consider, claim, and live out God’s promises of Good News: Jesus Christ is Lord!

We have been partners in leading New Spirit through your work as members of the Church Council. For years members of the Council have dreamed, implemented, encouraged, and at times pushed the membership to step up to ensure ministry will continue in this place. We are partners in that work.

For 18 years the Praise Team has been dedicated to leading worship with uplifting songs and music. This group of people has been faithful for all this time. They gather every Thursday evening for our two-hour rehearsal, and they arrive at 8:00 a.m. to rehearse the music for any given Sunday service. Together we are Partners on the Trail.

Over the coming months, I will be sharing a number of aspects of my time with you here at New Spirit. You have blest me. You have surrounded me with encouragement as well as love. You have made yourselves vulnerable as you have chosen to attend classes and Bible studies I have offered. The resounding response to those classes and studies is simply, “Pastor Alan will mess with your head.” Indeed, I have stretched the understanding of many in this place.

I am not yet done at New Spirit. There is more yet to come! I have found myself replying to the well-wishes toward my retirement with this response:

“Not yet! I will be appearing here next Sunday morning, too.”

I offer this with my thanks to each of you. We are Partners in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,

Pastor Alan



Accompanying the Senegalese Lutheran Church

On one of our days in Dakar, Senegal we visited the Center for Development. This outreach ministry of the Senegalese Church offers free education to teenagers and young adults. They have a library, a rarity in Senegal, that is filled with books in French, and Wolof (the indigenous language). Students can learn to read here. They have a computer lab to teach internet skills, but more. They teach accounting, bookkeeping and the necessary skills needed to work in the financial industry. They even operate a bank, to teach economics in a culture where abject poverty is all around. The Center has over 200 students, all attending at no cost. Why would the church be concerned with education? Along with the education, all of the learning is taught in the light of Jesus Christ. Students are expected to do service projects for people in their neighborhoods. They are expected to attend all classes they sign up for, and are held accountable for their participation in classes. They in turn can become mentors for younger children and teach children in their families and neighborhoods how to read and write. The Gospel of Jesus is a very practical commodity in the hands of those who believe. Thanks be to God!!!



Lent is upon us!!!

We have traveled this 40-day season many times together. Our Lenten disciplines have included midweek services and daily prayer practicing lectio divina, meditative, and intercessory prayer to center our thoughts with the message of mercy. Lent can be so very refreshing, and I invite you to join with me, again, to prepare ourselves for the events of Holy Week, and ultimately our Celebration of the Resurrection.

Our theme will be **“A Ridiculous Journey”**. Each Wednesday we will be challenged by a short, thought-provoking video to begin a Lenten conversation.

We will use as our central symbol for this Lenten season the **“Christmas Tree Cross.”** Its stark form serves as a reminder that the Christ of the Passion is also the Christ of the Bethlehem stable. On Maundy Thursday, the cross will be encased in wire symbolizing Christ’s arrest, trial, and scourging. On Easter we will cover the cross with cut flowers to show the radiant transformation of the cross, and even more, our lives in the amazing news that Easter brings. I brought the flower-cross to New Spirit eight years ago, and look forward to sharing it with you once more. The radiance of the cross can be our radiance as Christ Jesus rises within each of us.



We will consider the events of **“The Easter Vigil”** on Saturday evening, before Easter. We will hear, again, the mighty acts of God all of which point us toward Jesus of Nazareth as our Savior and salvation.

Easter morning we will bring cut flowers for the Easter Cross. The Youth of New Spirit will be serving **Easter Breakfast** to raise funds for the ELCA National Youth Gathering in June of 2021. **“Bountiful”** is the theme, and our youth will experience a week in Minneapolis with 40,000 of their newest and best friends!!!

Easter Worship Services will be at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.



What happens when a Pastor retires?

As Pastor Alan ends his call as Pastor of New Spirit, there are some clear steps that will be happening in the next month or two. The Bishop's Associate for Mobility will meet with the Council president and the council. An interim pastor will be appointed by the Bishop to lead New Spirit through the coming months and into the program year. The interim will fill in all pastoral duties, including preaching, celebrating baptisms, weddings, and funerals during his or her time at New Spirit.

Further details will be brought by the Bishop's associate, and will be shared with you by the Church Council.



Bishop's Spring Conference

On February 15th, representatives of ten ELCA congregations in Tucson gathered at Our Saviour's to talk, to listen, to ask questions, and to look for ways to better be church together. Dave Grundstrom, congregation president, and Pastor Alan attended. In three segments of the meeting, we considered the plight of the "church" in 2020 in relation to the book, "Canoeing the Mountains". The book was an investigation of the Lewis and Clark mission to discover the "Northwest Passage" in the early 1800's. The connection you ask: they believed they would find a river beyond the Continental Divide that would allow them to paddle to the Pacific Ocean. But, instead of a river what was there were the Rocky Mountains. No river. No direct route to the Pacific. No way to do what they were supposed to do. You can't canoe the mountains. In church language, we cannot lay programs from the 1970's or 80's over people who live in 2020, and expect those programs to work. They won't. They don't. The Church Council will be visiting that matter on its retreat in St. David.

We divided the attendees by generations: Sandwich (1930-41) Boomers (1942-1958), Busters (1959-1975), Gen-X'ers (1976-1992), Millenials (1993-2009), Gen-Z'ers (2010-). We shared events in history that formed and fashioned "our generation", and characteristics of "our" generation. The Church is the "only agency in the world" that regularly involves six generations at one time. How do we do that at New Spirit?

The Bishop called us to focus on one-third of the Grand Canyon Synod's strategic goals: communicate Jesus,



Pastor Miguel Acosta-Gomez shared his work in congregations to renew and regenerate local congregations to better live out our mission. New Spirit could benefit from a weekend with Pastor Miguel, but not until the new pastor is called.

Church Council Retreat

The Church Council will be on retreat Feb 27-March 1 at the Retreat Center in St. David. This is a very important time for the members of the Council. We will focus on creating goals for the congregation, spending time in personal-spiritual reflection, and time for the team to strengthen relationships.



What is family?

You say that's easy to answer. It's who you're born into. I come from a family emigrated from Germany in 1956 to the Chicago area through Lutheran World Relief. I still remember the blue and yellow badges we wore during our travel by ship which was a retired navy transporter. We arrived in New York and then got on a train to Chicago where we were met by our sponsor, a Lutheran pastor, and joined the "family" of Trinity Lutheran Church in Evanston, Illinois. Yes, we were strangers in a foreign land but love abounded toward us. We were settled in a furnished apartment, work was found for my dad and there was constant emotional support from church members which I see now, but I didn't as a child. The adjustments to a new land and language was not easy for any of us. It was through the love of those parishioners that I thrived. You see, my parents weren't church people but they did support confirmation as in their eyes it was tradition and a sign of moving into adulthood. It was through that time and henceforth that I began my relationship with God and became part of the Christian family. God's love never wavered although I did while in college.

It was through the people coming to church on Sundays that I grew in my faith —through their stories and challenges and observing their commitments and their support of each other. That is family!

That is what binds us here at New spirit. Looking around Sunday mornings as I see your faces, I feel comforted and content. I know you prayed for me when I was ill.

As some of you leave for cooler climate in the summer (I wish I could go with you), I look forward to your return and rejoice when that happens. That is family!

When we join to celebrate the life of a loved one, that is family!

When we pray for healing of others, even when we don't know them well, that is family!

I'm so very proud and happy to be a part of the family of New Spirit.

So you see, "family" is more than the people you were born into.



Much love to all of you from Brigitte

March Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

3/1 John & Carol Lukehart (Anniversary)	3/6 Ron Anderson Linda Anderson	3/13 Flo Vohnoutka
3/2 Shelley Colwell	3/9 Mark Friend	3/14 Marlene Junge
3/4 Margo Nichols	3/11 Don Nibbe	3/17 Bich Francis
	3/12 Tre Garibay	3/30 Mark Canterbury



Women's Ministry Group Minutes for February 2020

Women's Ministry Group (WELCA Bible Study Group) met on 12 February 2020 at 1:30 at the church.

Our bible study was Session Two of "We Are Called" hearing God's Voice. Consider how Jesus called disciples during his earthly ministry. The story of the risen and ascending Jesus calling Paul. Reflect on Jesus' invitation to all of us to take up the cross and follow him.

The meeting opened by singing the hymn "We Are Called".

January 2020 minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

Sandy Cooper led us in devotions taken from The Abe Lincoln Devotional and the Lutheran Prayer Book, Prayer for the Ministry, Abounding in the Work of the Lord, Believers are the Salt of the Earth, My Soul and all its Powers, and A Prayer for Courage. We each received a Shine Your Light on Others page to color and display.

Sunshine Report: Birthday and thinking of you cards were sent.

OLD BUSINESS:

A thank you letter was received for our donation of \$985.00 supporting ministries of Women of the ECLA.

The church youth have completed 18 scarves for children and 13 scarves for the homeless. Their next project is making cards to insert in the bulletins on Palm Sunday for the congregation to take and invite someone to Easter Service. They will also be making Easter centerpieces for the tables in fellowship hall and sponsoring an egg hunt between services. Plans are underway for a Mother's Day brunch in May.

The VHS tapes in the library will be boxed and a decision made later what to do with them. To assist the library personnel an article will be placed in the church newsletter as to what are acceptable donations.

Susan Armstrong will be contacted to offer assistance in keeping the WELCA Bulletin Board up to date.

NEW BUSINESS:

Assistance with housing for those attending the WELCA Triennial in Phoenix, AZ on 16 – 19 July 2020 will be provided by the Arivaca Fund.

On March 7, our group will be attending the Sunrise/Santa Cruz Spring Gathering at Sierra Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Vista where we are responsible for Conference Devotions and Mixer. We will donate \$75 to the love offering.

In closing we sang the hymn "Take My Life, That I May Be".

Next meeting will be held on 11 March 2020 at 1:30 in the church.

Linda Lamb – Secretary



In memory....Barbara Lattanzi died at Northwest Hospital where she had been treated for pneumonia. Barb, a consummate Wildcat, Packers, and Cubs fan could always be seen adorned in her team colors at worship. She had an indomitable spirit of optimism, hope, and joy. She and Fred (d. 2005) joined Spanish Trail Lutheran Church way back in the late 1960's or early 70's. We celebrated Barb's life in a lively Memorial on February 15th, with the Praise Team leading the worship music. Barb would have loved it. She will be inurned in the New Spirit Columbarium next to her husband, Fred. Prayers for sons, Mark and Greg, as they grieve the death of their mother.

*In
Memory
of*

Carol Brennan died at the Beehive Memory Care home in west Tucson on February 15th. She had struggled with dementia and increasing blindness for months. Carol joined Spanish Trail Lutheran Church with Bobby Short in 2003. She loved the church and her many friends here. A Memorial Service will be held in the near future. The date and time will be announced. Please pray for Bobby Short, who is living in Iowa with his brother.



“Have you planned your funeral service yet?” Our last three Memorial Services were held for members who “were going to plan it, but just didn’t get around to it.” This puts undo pressure on grieving family members to choose readings and hymns that give you comfort and peace.

PLEASE.....get a copy of the funeral planning guide and fill out the worksheet before it is too late. Your family and friends thank you in advance.

SALCA Summer Camp will be held May 25-29, 2020 at the Triangle Y Ranch Camp in Oracle. The theme for this year is **“Who Are You?”** and will focus on discovering ourselves in Jesus Christ. The week will be filled with games, crafts, Bible Study, activities, and great camp food! New Spirit will pay for one-half of SALCA's registration.

Watch for more information coming soon.



ELCA National Youth Gathering is happening in Minneapolis, MN, June 29- July 3, 2021. The theme is **“Boundless: God Beyond Measure!”** We will join 40,000 youth and adults from across the country for five amazing days of music, speakers, activities, service projects, and fun!!! The New Spirit Youth are actively raising funds to pay for hotel and airline fares. Parents are responsible for the registration fee of \$360.

Noodles and notebooks.



For a lot of kids, food is their most important school supply. Because when kids have enough food, they do better in school. Donate \$10 and help provide food on the weekends for a child for a month.

For more information go to www.blessingsinabackpack.org.



This school year, we are feeding **290** children from Erickson, Ford, Steele and Henry Elementary Schools, providing snack packs to take home on the weekend.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO VOLUNTEER "T" BAKER WHOSE REGULAR VISITS TO FOOD BANK OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA SUPPLEMENTS OUR WEEKLY SNACK PACKS.

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

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



YOU CAN HELP TOO!

Everyone can get involved in helping those less fortunate. Students from Steele Elementary do. You can too. Each event, our fabulous cook team comes up with a wonderful menu of home cooking...a rare event for many homeless people. March will bring meatloaf, mashed and scalloped potatoes, green bean casserole, salad, and scrumptious desserts. Like to cook? Once a month, help us provide some of your "yummy" talent!

Our event the 2nd Saturday of each month has representatives from City of Tucson, and Office of the Independent Police Examiner to provide help for those who face adversity every day just to live.

New Spirit's Homeless Blessings Team shares 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

New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85710

Shout-Outs

SHOUT-OUT - To February hospitality team.

SHOUT-OUT - To BIB shoppers, packers and deliverers.

SHOUT-OUT - To the volunteers who provide meals for “Meals From The Heart”.

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

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: 4:00 pm Adult Education

How to contact us:

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