

# That's The Spirit!

Rev. Carol Breimeier  
Rev. Fred Nelson

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

March 2022

## GIVING SOMETHING UP FOR LENT

When I was about eight years old, my best friend, Lisa, told me that her family was giving up TV for Lent. I had never heard of giving something up for Lent, and I thought she meant they were giving away their TV. That was looking like a problem for me, since we took turns watching Saturday morning cartoons at her house one week and mine the next.

Now I know more, of course. Now I know that giving something up for Lent—fasting from something—is a way to increase our focus on God by means of an ongoing reminder that we can live without [whatever we're fasting from], and only God is indispensable for our lives.



What the people of Ukraine are going through as I write this has got me thinking in a new way about giving something up for Lent. Anytime people are under attack—whether they stay in their homes or flee for safer territory—they immediately give up all kinds of things we take for granted. Unable simply to go to the store in safety. Finding empty shelves when they do venture out. Loved ones under threat. Means of communication often compromised. Fuel supplies in doubt, and travel severely restricted.

Under attack by a neighboring superpower, Ukrainians are living through a Lenten season when they are giving things up right and left, not by choice, as an act of piety, but by the unavoidable force of circumstances. While our nation and other countries are struggling to rein in Russia's territorial expansion, for those of us in the US without direct ties to Ukraine, our lives continue mostly unchanged for now.

But the situation in Ukraine, a country not that different from ours, might prompt us to think: What can I do without? What is indispensable for me? How ready am I to rely on God's love and care if other sources of comfort and confidence were stripped from my life?

This could be a Lent when fasting from something gains an additional meaning as an act of solidarity with those in Ukraine and all the other war zones and conflict zones in the world where God's children are doing without both comforts and necessities.

*Precious Lord, you gave up everything—even life itself—for our sake. We pray for an end to Russia's attack on Ukraine, for the safe return of exiles to their homes, for the comfort of your Spirit for all who are suffering, and for a change of heart on the part of the aggressors. And we pray: Strengthen us in our faith so that we may remain strong and faithful in the face of whatever struggles we face. May our Lenten journey make us more aware of our total reliance on your reliability through whatever we face. Amen.*

**"Forum"/group discussion on March 13, after church service with the Transition Team**

## **SYNOD ASSEMBLY—IS THIS YOUR YEAR?**

Every year, the Grand Canyon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) holds an assembly to handle the business of the synod. The Grand Canyon Synod is one of 65 synods in the ELCA. It includes all the ELCA congregations in Arizona, churches in southern Nevada, and one congregation in Utah. Each congregation is allotted a certain number of voting members at the assembly, depending on its size. Voting members expenses are covered by the congregation.

*Stirred Up*  
IN THE  
**SPIRIT**

New Spirit has two slots for this year's assembly, which will be held June 10-11 at Love of Christ Lutheran Church in Mesa. This is a great way not only to weigh in on synod decisions but also to get a better sense of how our church is connected regionally and nationally.

If you would like to volunteer to attend the synod assembly, or if you want more information, please get in touch with Pastor Carol at [carol@newspiritlutherantucson.org](mailto:carol@newspiritlutherantucson.org) or 224-422-9552.

## **WORSHIP DURING LENT**

Our Sunday morning message series for the season of Lent is called "The Week That Changed Everything." We'll take a closer look at events from the final week before Jesus' death, from his entry into Jerusalem to cheering crowds through his final encounter with Pilate, the Roman official who ordered his execution.



In addition, during Lent we have a midweek service each Wednesday, beginning March 9. We'll gather at 7:00pm for a brief, meditative worship service using Holden Evening Prayer and including short meditations on psalms. This midweek worship opportunity helps us to keep our minds and our lives centered on Jesus during this somber season that leads us to the joy of Easter.

**"Forum"/group discussion on March 13, after church service with the Transition Team**

## **NEW MEMBERS CLASS IN APRIL**

If you're new to New Spirit, or if you've been around for a while but haven't made the move into membership, please plan to stay after worship on Sunday, April 3, for a chance to talk about New Spirit, ask any questions you might have, and consider what it would mean for you to become a member of the congregation.

We will try to start pretty quickly after worship and keep this meeting to not much more than an hour.

Attending this meeting does not obligate you to join the congregation. Please come even if you're just curious about New Spirit and have a few questions.

If you would like to participate, please sign up with Pastor Carol ([carol@newspiritlutherantucson.org](mailto:carol@newspiritlutherantucson.org)) or by calling the church office at 520-296-2461.



New Member Class

## **Transition Team update**

First of all, we are very grateful as you all embraced the timeline. We hope it was a positive experience for all as you remembered how God, through others, moved in our lives; the good as well as the ugly.

Secondly, we welcomed your feedback on the surveys. Again, thanks for your participation.

Now, it'll be time to "hear" from you all. We're putting together some questions/thoughts for you to ponder which we will distribute Sunday March 6. And as you review our timeline, we encourage you to ponder where and who we have been, who we are now, our strengths and weaknesses and where do we want to go from here.

Sunday March 13 we will meet, as one, following the church service where we will hear and listen for your feedback around those questions.

There'll be another such opportunity on March 20 for those who can't make it the 13th. Rest assured, during all this time we will be contacting those unable to get to church services for various reasons.

Every voice matters as we look ahead to finding our next pastor!

Barb Verthein, Brigitte Stuetze, Cathy Cermak, Judy McFarland



**TRANSITION  
TEAM NEWS**

A graphic with the text "TRANSITION TEAM NEWS" in bold, black, sans-serif font. The background is a photograph of a road with white lines receding into the distance under a bright, hazy sky.

**"Forum"/group discussion on March 13, after church service with the Transition Team**

## **LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES TO VISIT NEW SPIRIT**

On Sunday, March 6, we'll have a chance to hear from an agency that does many ministries on our behalf: Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest. Nadine Hanson, Community Engagement Coordinator for LSS-SW, will be with us at New Spirit to share the latest news and take any questions people have.



Lutheran Social Services is involved in making people's lives better in all kinds of ways, including, but not limited to, refugee resettlement, support for children and families, and assistance to older folks.

Be sure to be there on March 6. You'll be inspired.

## **WOMEN'S MINISTRY GROUP FEBRUARY 2022**

Women's Ministry Group (WELCA Bible Study Group) met at 1:30 on February 9, 2022, at the church.

This month's Bible study was session two of "The Kingdom of God: Mysteries of the kingdom." In session one of this study, we explored how the expression "kingdom of God" is used in the Bible, especially in Jesus' teaching. The phrase does not refer to a location but to an activity; the activity of God ruling or reigning over creation. Sometimes the phrase may refer to a future life, beyond death, when God rules perfectly over everything forever. Often, however, it refers to the exciting possibility of God ruling our lives here and now—a current experience of the presence and power of God that sustains and transcends our mortal existence.

Session two we looked at what Jesus calls the "secrets" or "mysteries" of the kingdom. One common theme or question is for whom is the rule of God good news? Who benefits most when what God wants to happen takes place?



Date to Remember: The week of September 18, 2023 – Triennial in Phoenix.  
Our next meeting will be held on March 9, 2022, at 1:30, at the church.

Linda Lamb – Secretary

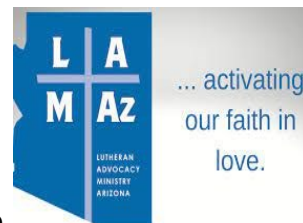
## Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of AZ News

On Feb. 2, Lutheran Day at the Legislature was held in Phoenix at the Capitol Rose Garden. The director of LAMAz, Solveig Muus, reported that 80 individuals attended the meeting. This number included representatives from Lutheran churches across Arizona, state legislative members, and representatives from hunger organizations such as Wheat and the Arizona Food Bank Network. The speeches and conversations centered around hunger issues in Arizona. As a result of this gathering, a coalition between LAMAz and the hunger advocacy groups was formed for the purpose of addressing hunger needs in our most vulnerable populations. If you would like to see pictures of this gathering, they are posted on the LAMAz.org website.

On Feb. 10, a Zoom meeting for Lutherans in the Arizona legislative district #10 was hosted by Solveig Muus. The representative from the district, Domingo DeGrazia, also attended and spoke about his work as an attorney before becoming a legislator as well as his work in the House of Representatives. He has a history of working in the foster care system and in advocating for better access to health care for poor people. He said that bills offered by the minority party usually die in committees. Many of those bills address the needs of our vulnerable citizens.

Charlotte Shurtz, Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest, also attended the Zoom meeting and discussed the work of the LSS-SW with providing assistance for older adults, for foster families, and continuing efforts for resettlement of refugees. All the Tucson Lutheran church representatives spoke of their work in providing food for the homeless as well as clothing and hygiene products. It was an interesting and informative meeting as well as heart warming to hear about the work and commitment of Lutherans here in Tucson in doing God's work for the poor.

We have been invited by Bread for the World to participate in a letter/card-writing campaign. This campaign is to ask our US senators and congressional representatives to pass bills about hunger issues. Some of the areas of interest include restoring the Child Tax Credit monies to families, the Universal School Meals Act, and the Global Malnutrition Treatment and Prevention Act. You will be receiving more information during March and April. The stamped cards will be available for you in March and in April.



Barb Verthein

## March Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

3/1 John & Carol Lukecart  
(Anniversary)

3/4 Margo Nichols

3/11 Don Nibbe

3/2 Shelley Colwell



3/17 Bich Francis

## ENDOWMENT GRANTS AWARDED

At the January 25, 2022, meeting, the Endowment Board awarded \$35,419 in grants after receiving applications totaling more than \$54,000. The board voted to increase the distribution percentage from endowment funds from 4% to 5% for 2022 because of the increased needs in our community. Distribution percentages will be reviewed every year to better correspond with the growth of endowment funds and grant requests.



Funded were:

HOPE – \$2,500 to establish a special assistance program for HOPE’s Tucson Outreach Program for mental health clients.

Achieve is More – \$2,000 to support activity fees for participants who can’t afford them.

Casa de los Ninos – \$2,419 to purchase safety items for potential foster families.

ICS (Emergency Fund) – \$3,000 for crisis stabilization needs.

NSLC Growing Seasons – \$6,000 to be used for the continuance of the Growing Seasons Initiative.

NSLC Blessings in a Backpack – \$8,000 to be used to assist in overall expenses in feeding 272 children within the 4 sponsored schools.

NSLC Homeless Blessings – \$1,500 to be used to assist in monthly homeless outreach and blessing bags for member cars.

LSS-SW (Food Box Project) – \$4,000 to help address food insecurity within the aging and disability groups in Tucson and Sierra Vista.

LSS-SW (Clothing Project) – \$4,000 to address clothing needs within the aging and disability groups in Tucson and Sierra Vista.

ICS (Mobile Meals) – \$2,000 – to provide meals to low income, disabled and seniors.

Jean Rhoades was awarded \$250 for Bibles to be placed at the I-10/Wilmot Road Memorial, which will be funded by Thrivent Team Action funds, since Jean does not qualify as a 501(c)(3) organization.

We are so blessed to have these funds to benefit the community! The next round of grant applications this year will be due June 15 and awarded in July after review. If you know of a worthy organization in need, please let one of the Endowment Board members know so we can reach out to them before the deadline.

Jenny Kwapich, Brenda Feller, Craig Geiger, Carol DeBis-Harrell, Cathy Cermak, Pastor Fred Nelson, Pastor Carol Breimeier



## **We're Feeding The Kids This Weekend!**

**88,900 Kids In 46 States And Washington, D.C.**

**3,000,000** Hunger-Free Weekends

**17,305** Volunteers

**13,000** Donors

**1,092** Program Locations

For \$130 you can help us feed a child every weekend of the school year, currently serving 272 students at Steele, Henry, Erickson, and Ford Elementary Schools.

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!

Contact the New Spirit church office or Laurie Bernard at [lbernard2008@hotmail.com](mailto:lbernard2008@hotmail.com)



## NEW SPIRIT DIRECTLY IMPACTS 50 PEOPLE PER MONTH

Everyone needs a hug once in a while. People living on the street want to be acknowledged. We do that here at New Spirit. In addition to supplying much needed supplies, we offer support and love to otherwise overlooked, struggling people. Our monthly events and administering directly to them where they are, makes a great impact on lives. We also carry bags with supplies in our cars to pass out to people on the street. Thank you for your continued support!

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.

## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THIS MISSION

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

### Shout-Outs

***SHOUT OUT - To Carol Lukehart who crocheted and donated 420 baby hats for the 24 hour project. (These hats help sustain newborns in under-developed countries.)***





# 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](mailto:nancy@newspiritlutherantucson.org) to be placed in the newsletter by the 15th of each month. Thank you!

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