

That's The Spirit!

Rev. Greg Hartman,
Pastor

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

March 2023

Dear Beloved of God,

During this time of redevelopment and revitalization, it is easy to get caught up in the "what needs to be done" and "we need this" kind of thinking. Sometimes we need to take a moment to step back and look at the amazing things already being done. We certainly know the amazing ministry being done through our Blessings in a Backpack, Homeless Blessings, Praise Team, and yet our ministry does not end there.

We have several ministries that fly under the radar, except for the once or twice a year that an announcement is made during worship, or an article is written for a newsletter. Our Endowment Fund not only provides stability for the congregation but also helps to fund local organizations that are working to address issues locally, nationally, and even internationally. We have an SOS fund that was established to help congregation members that have entered a time of financial hardship due to unexpected expenses like major medical bills, unforeseen auto or home repairs, and more. There are also restricted funds that help with a number of specific needs of the congregation. These funds are supported through financial gifts from members and friends of the congregation.

We have an amazing group of people that run a fantastic Sunday School program for our youth. We are establishing various adult faith formation opportunities as well. There are teams working to develop our evangelism efforts. Our building not only hosts ISC and their efforts, but also has begun to be used by other groups. Items once left to sit in places like the music room are being used either by us or other ministries in the Tucson area. We have a medical loan chest that is utilized weekly by members of our community.

Our financial support of the synod helps fund countless ministries including new or specialized ministry sites. A portion of what we give to the synod is also given to the national churchwide office which coordinates the national efforts of our denomination. Our reach is truly global through our ministries. We daily impact the lives of individuals in Tucson and around the world. The Spirit is truly active in and through us at New Spirit.

These ministries have formed the foundation of our ministry at New Spirit. These ministries are what will allow us to move forward and continue to follow where the Holy Spirit is calling us. If you would like more information about any of these ministries, please let me know. If you have an idea for a new ministry that you would like to be a part of, please share those ideas with myself or a member of the council.

When I look at the list of ministries being done here, I am filled with hope, excitement, and maybe even a little bit of pride (but not too much).

Pastor Hartman

Ministries
& OUTREACH

“Special” Lenten worship services schedule

During the weeks of Lent on Tuesdays at 5:00 pm and Thursdays at 12:00 pm (noon) the sanctuary will be opened (1 hour) for a time of prayer and reflection. No formal service will take place but resources for prayer and reflection will be available.



Holy Week Schedule

Holy Week is April 2-April 9.

April 2 - Palm Sunday

April 6 - Maundy Thursday, 6:00pm Dinner, Church worship. (Congregation members are being asked to bring side dishes and desserts.)

April 7 - Good Friday, our evening service at 6:00pm, Tenebrae worship service

April 9 - Easter Sunday, Worship service at 10:00 am.



Prayer Practices

During the season of Lent, we will be exploring various forms of prayer through teaching sermons about prayer and specific times when the sanctuary will be open for times of intentional prayer. In scripture there are many prayers recorded, the most well known of which is the Lord's prayer. Although the Lord's prayer found in scripture differs from what we say most Sunday mornings. I am sure we all have at least one other prayer that has been committed to memory, it could be a bedtime prayer or a mealtime prayer.

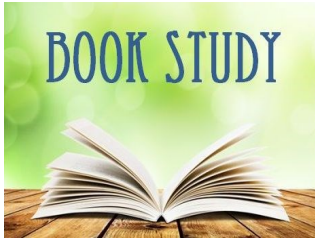


These prayers hold meaning for us, and there are other prayers or prayer practices waiting for us to explore. We will be looking at individual forms of prayer that may not be as well known, for example, Morning Prayer for Individual Use, Individual Confession, Prayers of Lament, praying with prayer beads, using artistic expression as a time for prayer, and more. I encourage you to explore one or many of these different forms of prayer. Even if it does not become a regular part of your faith life, trying a new prayer practice will inspire and encourage you to look at other ways to pray.

Often, we end up falling into habits, and while those are good and holy, we must also continue to explore other ways to engage the divine. If you would like some guidance in exploring different prayer practices or would like a recommendation for a resource, please let me know.

Pastor Hartman

Pastor's Book Study Book Review



During the month of February, we read *I Can Do No Other* by Anna M. Madsen. This book explores the theological thought, that as Lutherans we are called to more than a focus on individual salvation. Madsen writes that as followers of Jesus and inheritors of the Lutheran heritage it is our duty to bring wholeness to all aspects of our individual and communal lives. The book is a well-organized and thoughtful reflection on how as Lutheran people of faith we can be a part of God's work on salvation in our current cultural context rooted in scripture and our theological heritage.

ENDOWMENT GRANTS AWARDED

The Endowment Committee met on Jan 16 over zoom to evaluate and disburse the allocated interest income from the Endowment Fund for applications submitted for the period ending 12/15/22.

The following action was taken:

Blessing in a Backpack \$10,000

Inside Out \$5,000

Lutheran Campus Ministry (UofA) \$3,000

Casa de los Ninos \$2,000

Homeless Blessings \$3,000

A surplus of \$8,000 interest income was left over.

The Endowment Board voted unanimously through email to respond to the Earthquake crisis in Turkey and Syria by sending the \$8,000 to the ELCA disaster response fund for said cause.



Total distribution of \$31,000.00 for the period ending 12/15/22

Funds were distributed in July 2022 in the amount of \$37,800.00 for applications submitted for the period ending 06/15/22.

That's a total of \$68,800.00 going out into the community and the world for 2022 applications.

The next disbursement will be in response to applications submitted by June 15.

In attendance: Brenda, Craig, Cathy, Jenny, Pastor Hartman.

March Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

3/1 John & Carol Lukecart
(Anniversary)

3/2 Shelley Colwell

3/17 Bich Francis



WOMEN'S MINISTRY GROUP FEBRUARY 2023

Women's Ministry Group (WELCA Bible Study Group) met at 1:30 on February 8, 2023, at the church.

Our Bible Study was Reviving the Soul, reviewing Commandments one and two. God is intimately connected with our history and with the history of our deliverance. Our lives are claimed by God, who is our liberator and redeemer. Each time God's name is proclaimed, it should remind us of all that God has been and done on our behalf. According to Martin Luther God is "that to which we are to look for all good and in which we are to find refuge in all need".

We will be assembling Easter cards before our next meeting in March.

Volunteers are needed to straighten up the shelves in the church library.

We will finalize details for leading the devotions based on Psalms 31:24, at the Kino Conference to be held at Desert Hills of Green Valley March 18, 2023. Theme is "You've Got the Power, Women of Hope, Courage and Strength". The focus will be on five women of the Bible and their modern-day counterparts.

The week of September 18, 2023 – Triennial in Phoenix.

Our next meeting will be held on March 8, 2023, at 1:30, at the church.

Linda Lamb – Secretary



NSLC is a community of strong believers in the power of prayer. There are many ways you can participate in this ministry. One way is to join the e-mail prayer chain.

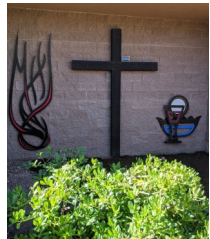


If you would like to join the e-mail prayer chain, please e-mail me at brenda21859@yahoo.com and ask to be included in the group.

If you are not interested in receiving the e-mail prayer chain, you are still invited to e-mail me at the above e-mail address for your prayer concerns. I look forward to serving NSLC in this compacity.

Brenda Feller

TELEPHONE PRAYER CHAIN: If you're not inclined to participate in the e-mail prayer chain and want to stay in the loop, New Spirit has a telephone prayer chain. You can contact Barb Verthein, Joyce Dow, or the church office to be added to the list.



New Spirit Columbarium & Memorial Garden is available to New Spirit members who choose to be cremated upon their death. Columbarium niches hold the cremains (ashes) in a secure space. The Memorial Garden is a beautiful oasis on the New Spirit Campus.

Niches are very cost-efficient compared to cemeteries in Tucson. A double-niche for two persons is \$1175, and a single niche is \$645. Nameplates are included in the cost. If you would be interested in being laid to rest here at New Spirit contact the church office.

The SOS (Share Our Spirit and Serve Our Saints) program at New Spirit offers aid to New Spirit members who have unexpected short term financial needs. A team of 5 studies each request individually and all information is strictly confidential.

This is an amazing ministry. The income is from congregation members (over and above their regular church tithe) and the Endowment fund. There is no item in the regular budget for this.

If you have some short-term financial needs or if you would like to make a donation, talk with Judy McFarland, Ken Dobbs, Deloris Hanneman, Barb Verthein or Pastor Hartman. The process to get money takes about a week for everyone to be contacted and get official signatures. Do not wait until bills are overdue!!!



SHARE
OUR
SPIRIT



Do you have a sweet tooth?! Do you love supporting a good cause?!

Join us for our SECOND ANNUAL Bake Sale to benefit the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation brought to you by Eva's Entourage!!

This year, we are teaming up with Paul Stuetze Photography to bring you uniquely framed images available at silent auction too!! You don't want to miss it!!

When: Sunday, March 26, 2023

Where: New Spirit Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall (before and after service)

Time: 9am – 10am and resuming sales at 11am after worship

100% of the proceeds go to:



Shout-Outs

SHOUT OUT - To Rick Firth for taking care of the Blessings in a Backpack fruit trees that are planted in the Community Garden.

SHOUT OUT - To Sharon Dobbs for helping with the bulletins every week.

SHOUT OUT - To Mary Lou Rex and Sharon Dobbs for helping with the newsletter every month.

SHOUT OUT - To all the volunteers who participate as greeters, ushers, reading scriptures and prayers, communion assistants, counters.





BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Who will feed the kids this weekend?



[This Photo](#) by Unknown

Our count is now 325 from Erickson, Ford, Steele, and Henry Elementary Schools, providing snack packs to take home on the weekend. The snack packs can include 2 breakfast (cereal, oatmeal, grits), 1-2 protein (tuna, sausage, beef stick), 1 noodle (ramen, macaroni 'n' cheese, can of ravioli), 2 desserts (pudding, fruit gummies, yogurt treats, rice krispie treats), hot cocoa mix, and chips/pretzels.

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.**

A very special thanks this month to Rick Firth for taking loving care of our fruit trees!

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, delivery, and gardening. If you like to shop, join our team!**

Packing is done on Tuesdays from 8:00 to 9:30 am. Deliveries are done in the mornings after packing (if you want to help deliver, you can pick the day you are available).

Contact Laurie Bernard at lbernard2008@hotmail.com with questions.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THIS MINISTRY



HOMELESS BLESSINGS

JOIN US THE 2ND SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
OCTOBER THRU APRIL 1PM TO 3PM

SOME PETS ARE HOMELESS TOO
WE NOW COLLECT OLD TOWELS AND BEDDING FOR
THE PIMA ANIMAL CARE CENTER

In addition to our monthly Saturday events, we hand out bags that include food, gloves, hat, socks and a few hygiene products to clients on the street.

We are starting to see some new faces and familiar ones coming back as the word gets out. The Office of the Police Examiner and Old Pueblo Community Services regularly attend to help any clients needing housing, intervention, or other help. ***Our next event is March 11th.***

Cold nights are upon us. If you have clothing, shoes, socks, or blankets, we sure would like you to drop them off at the church. We are always in need of shoes. We have been blessed with another 100 sleeping bags and a case of emergency blankets from the City of Tucson.

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

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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