

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 2024

Again & Again is our theme for the season of Lent. Again and Again we are called to listen. Again & Again God meets us. Again & Again we are shown the way. Again & Again God loves first. Again & Again we are reformed. Again & Again.

When we look at our world the brokenness we see seems to happen over and over, again & again. We often see and speak about things in cycles, when those cycles lead to harm, or oppression it can seem very hard to break those cycles. So, we see them continue and again & again we lament. Often these cycles begin to feel like chains that hold us down.

At the end of this month, we will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the ultimate chain breaker. Jesus frees us from so much, and when he does, he invites us to take an active role breaking the chains of others. As Martin Luther said "A Christian is an utterly free man, lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is an utterly dutiful man, servant of all, subject to all." Again & again we are freed. Again & again we are called to take part in the liberating work of Jesus. Again & again we are invited to help and serve our neighbors. Again & again we are disturbed in order that we take a stand on the side of God's love and mercy.

Again & again we are reminded that God so loved the world that God sent God's one and only son. Again & again we are reminded that nothing can separate us from God's love. Again & again we are reminded that we have been forgiven even before we confess. Again & again we proclaim that we follow a living God that died on a cross out of love for us. Again & again we shout out that God is with us, that Jesus defeated death and the grave. Again & again we have a chance to tell people they are loved by the very creator of the universe. Again & again we can invite others to see what is happening here at New Spirit. Again & again let us respond that what God has done for us and for all of humanity.



Pastor Hartman



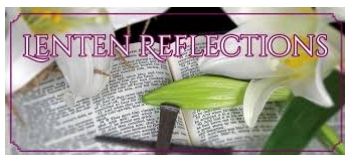
March Prayer



Creator of all things, again & again you show up in our lives. Again & again you invite us to be part of your work here on earth. We ask that you guide us and give us all that we need to respond to your calling. We pray that you continue to be with us as a congregation allowing us to continue to do the ministry you have charged us with. Amen



Lenten worship services schedule



During the weeks of Lent the sanctuary will be open during normal business hours for personal prayer and reflection. No formal service will take place but resources for prayer and reflection will be available.

Holy Week Schedule –

Holy Week is March 24 – March 31.

March 24 - Palm Sunday, Worship service at 10:00 am.

March 28 - Maundy Thursday, 6:00pm Dinner Church worship. (Congregation members are being asked to bring side dishes and desserts.)

March 29 - Good Friday, our evening service at 6:00pm, Tenebrae worship service.

March 31 - Easter Sunday, Worship service at 10:00 am.

Remember to invite someone to these services!



Praise Notes



The Praise Team has been so blessed to have Lynn and Kimmi Rupp join us over the past few months. They have added an extra dimension to our Sunday worship. Sadly, they are returning to Washington right after Easter. Thank you, Lynn and Kimmi, for sharing your gifts with us, and safe travels. Farewell until next fall.

If you love to sing or can play a musical instrument, we would love to have you join us on the Praise Team. Talk to Robert, our worship leader, or just show up. We rehearse for about an hour on Thursdays at 5:30 and arrive at 8:30 on Sundays before worship to rehearse again. Youth are welcome!

The Church Council is continuing to settle in with our new members and focus on establishing goals set forth for New Spirit in the coming year! The role of Secretary is vacant. If you are interested in this position, please see Jenny Kwapich or Pastor Hartman.

We continue to ask each of you to look for ways to get involved.... join discussion groups, working and planning groups, prayer groups and more! It takes ALL OF US to grow and share the love of Jesus!



Disturb Us, Oh God

In the song, "Common Ground" by Matt Maher, we shout "disturb us, Oh God." That might seem a bit weird that we're asking God to disturb us, when most of us are perfectly fine seeking peaceful and content lives. So why ask that God disturb us? I believe it's because God is disturbed and heartbroken over the world and wants us to pay attention. Certainly, God is disturbed by humankind's never-ceasing striving for power, continuous divisions and hatred, wars and genocide, depraved greed and obsession for more, betrayal of creation, exploitation and oppression of others, self-serving tendencies, etc. I believe God is disturbed and angered (as evidenced by Jesus' turning over tables in the Temple) by the evil systems of injustice that continue to inflict generational abuses upon people because of their ethnicity, race, sexuality, and/or gender, and rob them of their God-given dignity and right to thrive.

To be more specific, God is disturbed by hunger, homelessness, poverty, the lack of quality medical care for many, the lack of quality and equitable education for all children, the lack of equal opportunity and fair wages for so many, indifference to the daily loneliness and isolation many of our sisters and brothers cope with, our addiction to guns and violence, inadequate or non-existent responses to those who suffer debilitating mental illness, the walls between us, and our disconnectedness from God and one another. Tragically, this list goes on and on. God is disturbed by our complacency and our blindness. I believe God wants our love to be reflected in our disturb-edness for the things that disturb God, and our action.



I wonder what disturbs God about me. Could it be my stubborn failure to reconcile with a loved one, my failure to love more fully and intentionally, my need for control, my focus on material things, my indifference to others' needs at times, my judgmentalism and criticalness, my poor stewardship of creation's gifts, my self-serving tendencies, and my inaction when I see need? *My list goes on and on!* I believe God wants me to be disturbed not only by what's happening in the world, but what I, myself, am doing or not doing.

So during this Lenten journey, God, I ask you to disturb us and convict us deeply about the changes you want us to make, in ourselves and in the world. And I ask that you give us the courage, strength and vision to be your messengers of love, even in the face of adversity.

Cathy Cermak

The Church Council is looking for individuals willing to be on our "JUST IN CASE" emergency contact list. This would be a list of members willing to be available in the event there is a campus emergency, i.e., a gas leak, or water issue that requires someone get to the campus to assist the necessary contractors get the access they need. This list would be utilized if Pastor Hartman or Nancy were not available. If this sounds like something you could do, please reach out to Jenny Kwapich, Nancy DiFebbo or Pastor Hartman.



LAMA News

An Action Alert from the ELCA on an important bill for supporting children, homelessness, and food insecurity has been issued for your consideration. We have been asked to contact our US legislators, in particular Senators Kelly and Sinema, to support the passage of a bipartisan tax passage that will give relief to many families. The bill provides an expansion of the Child Tax Credit as well as incentives for low-income housing, and tax breaks for businesses. Family homelessness rose over 17% this year. This bill would help develop over 200,000 new affordable housing units and lift over 400,000 children out of poverty across the US. The ELCA has a prepared letter that you may use to contact our AZ senators. It is available at LAMAZ.org.



... activating
our faith in
love.

Mark your calendars for April 7th, the Sunday after Easter. Solveig Muus, the director of LAMA, will be preaching and presenting a workshop, here at New Spirit, on LAMA and its work here in Arizona. The workshop will follow the service.

Eva's Entourage

3rd Annual BAKE SALE and SILENT AUCTION

Sunday, March 24th after service, Eva's Entourage will be hosting their 3rd Annual BAKE SALE and SILENT AUCTION. ALL PROCEEDS go to the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation. Please join us in helping raise crucial funding for IBD warriors, like Eva and the other 3.1 million who fight for a cure and better medicines daily!! PLUS, fun finds and sweet treats are a BONUS!!



**Special
Olympics**
Arizona

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SUPPORT!!

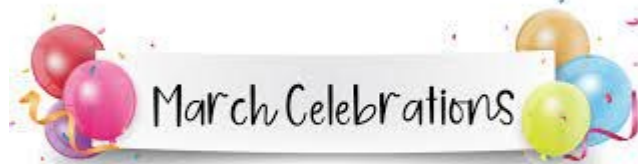
Sarah Elmquist is planning to sell cookies to help support her events for Special Olympics. Please see Sarah after church on Sundays for information and details.

March Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

3/1 Laura Lloyd
John & Carol Lukecart
(Anniversary)

3/2 Shelley Colwell

3/17 Bich Francis





Who will feed the kids this weekend?



We are blessed to provide snack packs for 325 students each weekend for Steele, Henry, Ford, and Erickson Elementary schools. We always include a special treat for holidays.

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 also donate online through the New Spirit Lutheran Church website. Just click on the donate button.

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!**

During the school year, 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 DOG/CAT FOOD, OLD TOWELS, AND BEDDING FOR OUR CLIENTS' PETS AND
FOR DONATION TO THE PIMA ANIMAL CARE CENTER

FOOD INSECURITY AFFECTS ALL AGES

Our next event is March 9th. Corned beef and cabbage anyone? In addition to our monthly Saturday events, we hand out bags to clients on the street that include food, socks, and hygiene products.

New Spirit is reaching at least 150 people every month with our events and hand out bags. We also deliver excess donations to Casa Alitas refugee center.

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. You can also donate online through the New Spirit Lutheran Church website. Just click on the donate button.

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 Torrey Thatcher for the laptop donation to use for Pro Presenter.

SHOUT OUT - To Violet for playing drums with the Praise Band during worship.

SHOUT OUT - To Rick Firth for helping out with delivery of the plastic recycling.

SHOUT OUT - To Brigitte Stuetze for stepping up to oversee the Witness & Welcome committee.

SHOUT OUT - To Sharon Dobbs and Edna Walton for taking the lead on monthly Tuesday night dinners.



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

Sundays:

10:00 am Worship

You can currently watch each week's message on YouTube.

How to contact us:

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