

That's The Spirit!

Rev. Alan Field

New Spirit Lutheran Church

Our faith is in Jesus.

Our hope is in grace.

Our strength is in love.

May 2018

Dear Partners on the Trail,

The ELCA National Youth Gathering is being held June 27-July 1st in Houston, Texas. "This Changes Everything" is the theme of the gathering, in response to the Good News St. Paul gave, "for we have been saved by grace through faith" and this changes everything.

Each day of the Gathering our youth will experience a variety of ways to interact with peers, neighbors and the world. For the past four months we have been meeting to prepare us for the event and its themes.

We have learned about advocacy, justice, inclusion, migration, and intersectionality. It is that last one, intersectionality, that has been the most challenging and enlightening for our youth.

Intersectionality deals with our various roles, conditions, and situations that can affect connecting and building relationships.

For example: I am a 60+ year-old, Scandinavian descent, single, straight, left-handed, male, former Marine, Lutheran clergy, college educated with graduate degree, health conscious, physically fit, creative writer, woodworker, cook, and...more.

How many of those "intersections" will affect the early stages of building a relationship with strangers? My role as pastor or my fitness-orientation may, or may not, have an impact on an initial meeting. My age certainly will. My race certainly could. My scars?

How often have we heard breaking news, "An unarmed black man was shot by police...."? What is missing are the intersections? Was he a dad? Was he a son, or brother? Was he compassionate? Was he dangerous? Was he employed? Was he more than simply a black man? He may have been, but now he is dead.

Our violent world has blurred the boundary that surrounds all people. We are all children of God, loved and created in the image of wonder and awe!

While it may seem to many people that the Bible encourages homogeneity (people being alike) the stories show how inclusive the Jesus movement, and the Kingdom of God is intended to be.

We are a diverse people. We come from diverse and varied backgrounds. We have a wide variety of values, (personal statements of what should be). Our morals may seem to be divergent. Our ethics are more in-step. Our spirituality, the place where we encounter the presence of God, is a rich pool of grace and mercy. Yet, it is a pool that many, many people may never even experience, because it dwells deeply within us.

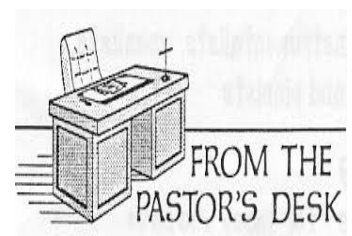
I believe that the Christian journey is one in which God calls us to go deep, to that place where our soul connects with the Eternal. It is from that place that the best of us is common language: peace, joy, grace, mercy, hope, love, compassion, generosity, and hospitality.

For a week in late June, Valerie Friend and I will lead our six youth to explore within themselves the depths of values, morals, ethics...to the place of the Spirit's life.

I would invite each of you to consider in the days ahead the many facets of who you have become, your own intersections, and how they help or hinder your building of friendships with others.

Blessings,

Pastor Alan



Summer Worship Schedule

Beginning **Sunday, May 20th** we will begin our **Summer Sunday Worship Schedule**. Coffee Fellowship will be held from **9:15 – 10:00 in Fellowship Hall**, and worship will begin promptly at **10:00 a.m.** The schedule will be followed through **Labor Day**.



We will alternate our 9:00 and 11:00 services throughout the summer. We will follow a two-week schedule: 2 weeks Contemporary, 2 weeks Traditional.

One of the challenges of churches with multiple services is the disconnect members experience with one another. Summer schedule intentionally brings the two groups together.

Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest

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LSS-SW is an agency in Arizona and Cook County, Nevada that offers aid to those in need. An outgrowth of the Lutheran Churches of Arizona in the mid-1960s, Lutheran Social Services is part of the Lutheran network of direct aid agencies. Connie Philips, Chong Bee Vang and Pastor Deborah Hutterer will be here to tell the LSS-SW story on Wednesday, May 9th, at 4:30 p.m.



May 20th is Pentecost Sunday

It will be our first 10:00 service of the Summer. It will be a day where “RED” is the color, and wind is the medium, and fire is the symbol of God’s presence.

New Spirit worshipped for the first time together on Pentecost Sunday 2004. Pentecost is a good way of understanding how we are called and sent to bring Good News to the neighborhood, and the world.

We are a “Pentecostal Church!” Our very name is GROUNDED in the Day of PENTECOST! Be filled with the Spirit of God...and each day will renew in you a NEW SPIRIT!

New Members were received on Sunday, April 29th. We’ll see if we can get their info into this newsletter in time for printing.



Surveys

Thank you to the 20 of you who filled out the council’s survey.

Its intention was to get feedback from you at how you see New Spirit functioning, etc.

Council, at our retreat, came to the conclusion that we need to look at our mission and tweak our mission statement to reflect more what we actually do. And we are only 12. That’s why we wanted to know how you all felt.

Unfortunately the lack of response doesn’t help us much. We can only assume that most of you are satisfied with the status quo (that would’ve been nice to know) or some of you don’t really care one way or the other.

Let it be known, council will proceed with assessing the direction we, at New Spirit, need to go.

Also, let it be known, we are open for feedback any time, verbally or email, etc.; we serve our Lord with your help!

Brigitte Stuetze



“Be Strong and Courageous” is the theme of SALCA Camp this year. Using the opening chapter of **Joshua** each day will lift up the ways God calls us to live our faithfulness with courage and strength.

SALCA (Southern Arizona Lutheran Camping Association) Camp is for students who have completed 3rd through 8th Grades. Camp is held at the **Triangle Y Ranch Camp in Oracle.**

Registration is **\$280/camper.** New Spirit pays ½ of registration through the proceeds of our **“aluminum can recycling.”** **Keep those cans coming!**

Grand Canyon Synod Congregation Highlight - April Newsletter



For the past three years, the Synod newsletter has featured a congregation and the ministries it is involved in. Pastor Alan contacted the Synod office and submitted the following information :

New Spirit serves the east side of Tucson in a neighborhood surrounded by transient apartments and condominiums. Caring for the needy is at the heart and DNA of this congregation, which operated for years as the Eastside Tucson Community Food Bank, serving well over 100 families per week.

New Spirit's Medical Loan Chest loans medical equipment from walkers to shower benches to wheel-chairs to Hoyer-lifts. If they got back everything loaned out, it would fill their 6,000 square foot building.

The congregation is partnered with and houses the Eastside Office for Interfaith Community Services, an agency with 112 faith communities, supporting their work of emergency rent and utility payments, food bank, and as their Resource Center for those at-risk of unemployment or underemployment.

New Spirit has a Community Garden with 36 beds, growing vegetables in all three growing seasons in the Sonoran Desert. They also feed 250 elementary school students every weekend of the school year through "Blessings in a Backpack."

New Spirit has embraced a group of homeless people who camp on the east-side. "They join us for worship on Sundays, eat supper with us at our Wednesday evening suppers," notes Pastor Alan Field. "Once a month, we hold "Homeless Blessings," hosting resource people from Tucson city government to arrange long-term housing, and public relations officers with Tucson PD. We offer hygiene products, haircuts, a hot meal, non-perishable food, seasonal clothing, batteries, tarps, blankets, and more."

Worship at New Spirit is spirited and uplifting. Arise to Praise is a thematic 9 a.m. contemporary service, written new each week by Pastor Field. The Praise Team has developed over the years to become a great team. Traditional service at 11 a.m. is rightly celebrated each Sunday.

"For a congregation of fewer than 150 worshipers on Sundays, the power of their "new spirit" is amazing!" says Pastor Field.



Our final **Produce and Bread Distribution** will be **Saturday, May 5th**. We will have two shifts: 9-11 a.m. will help set up tables, and bag vegetables. The 11 a.m. -1 p.m. shift will give out bread and veggies, and take down tables. We need 4-6 people per shift. Thanks in advance for helping. **Distribution will be off through the summer months, and will return in October.**





Keep this in mind: Summer is “**Church shopping season**” and we traditionally have quite a few guests over the summer months. We encourage you to connect with those who are unknown to you. New Spirit has a great spirit and it is one that guests would love to connect to. Sabbath worship is the 3rd Commandment. No matter what the style of liturgy, the Gospel is central to that time. Commit yourselves to attend consistently every Sunday through the Summer, and allow the Spirit of God to do its wondrous work in you.

May Workday is Saturday the 19th at 6:30 a.m. Weeds are appearing in lots of places. Buffle grass is showing its resurgence. Trees need pruning. Granite needs to be evened out in most areas. You are invited to join us in these very manual tasks on May 19th. We'll be happy to have you help, and we will be happy to feed you a hearty breakfast!



The ELCA has issued a new Social Statement on “**Women and Matters of Justice.**” We are in a period of reading, reflecting, and questioning. Pastor Alan would like to lead a group study of the Statement in May and June. If you would be interested in participating, please sign the list on the magnet board. Time and days will be determined by those who sign up.

Graduations, Promotions

Our Vail students, Caitlyn Friend, Jakob Rettig, and Kati Uidenich are completing their middle school careers and will be entering High School in July.



The Sunday School children started the year making 50 bookmarks for the new hymnals. They then made a Luther Rose Picture for the church for Reformation Sunday. At Christmas they made 200 Christmas cards with cds for the veterans at the VA Hospital. They did a fundraiser for the Ronald McDonald House. They also made advent wreaths for their families. They also had 20 art pieces in the county fair in April. They will end the semester doing a Mother’s Day tea for their moms and grandmothers.

We will be starting next semester with an art show at Columbus Library during the month of September. They will be doing a community project this coming year of making care packages for UMC’s children’s cancer unit. As always we appreciate your support throughout the year.

Also we’d like to give shout-outs to Karen Colwell and Elisha De La Cruse for helping the kids get all their crafts for the fair done.

Sandra Colwell

To My New Spirit Family:

Thank you for the prayers, cards, visits and phone calls following my fall and fractured hip. You are the best!

Verola Halvorson



Deborah's Gathering Project for May-Sister Jose's Women's shelter. This shelter is the only one that is just for women and children and dedicated solely to the needs of adult unaccompanied women living in chronic homelessness . The shelter can accommodate 35 women and has additional safe spaces for 21 women and children. They also offer an emergency overnight program. It is nonprofit and supplies laundry, clothing, hygiene products, showers, beds for sleeping, counseling, 12 step meetings , aerobic classes, arts and crafts and allows pets. This shelter has a program designed to empower homeless women to overcome the barriers that prevent personal sustainability. Sister Jose's is at 1050 S Park.

There will be collection boxes in the Narthex on the side of the back parking lot so as not to be confused with the homeless collection boxes under the bulletin board. The items needed are NEW children's socks and underwear and all personal products-such as tooth brushes and tooth paste, hygiene products , shampoos and such items you may have brought home from a hotel. The shelter is new and can be visited at 1050 S. Park.

Shelter

Deborah's Gathering – April 11, 2018

The meeting was held at Sierra Del Sol where Jeanette Sather lives. We had a private room and water was served for us. There were 12 present and we welcomed Barbara Bleak, a visitor from Washington State. We will pray for good treatment for her eye and kidney problems. Everyone introduced themselves to benefit our visitors.

We sang – What a Friend We Have in Jesus, emphasizing the line that it is a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

The theme of Sandra's devotion was – We are fearfully and wonderfully made and created in love. Joyce and Barbara led the study from Luke 15: 12-32 about the prodigal son, asking what does it mean to different people? Not many Americans in a group mentioned a famine in the land where the prodigal son was and talked about how he had done wrong and repented. Russians mentioned more that he was hungry and no one fed him in the community. Tanzanians said the bible commands us to care for strangers so they thought about hospitality.

Jesus told the parable because he was criticized for welcoming sinners, and the kingdom of God is a hospitable kingdom.

In May we will meet in Fellowship Square with Joyce Dow as our hostess. Collection boxes will be in the Narthex for Sister Jose's shelter. We will continue to collect new socks and underwear for children and personal hygiene items such as toothbrushes, sanitary products, lotion, etc., for women. We designated \$100 from our funds for Gloria and Sandy to buy new items for the shelter.

As you see, we are an active group with study and service projects.

Remember to collect Box Tops for Education, plastic bottle caps for \$ for children's cancer treatments in Mexico and aluminum pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House. Boxes for the items are in the drawers under the shelf in the Narthex.

We invite more women to come study and fellowship with us in May. Watch the bulletin for the date and time or call Joyce Dow or Gloria Burke.



Sisters in Christ Gloria Burke, Secretary



Youth Easter Breakfast-Thank you to all who donated at the Thrivent Action Team Breakfast for helping and the young people going to their gathering this summer. It was a joy to work with such a great group of energetic, enthusiastic, joyful Christian Youth and their parents. The breakfast was AWESOME. Gloria Burke

Baby Hat Ministry

Some of you, who contribute baby hats, might've wondered what happens to them. I bring them to Sandy Buffington at Tanque Verde Lutheran Church. She ran a most interesting report covering the last 10 years. So keep them coming. It's a nice simple activity to do while watching TV or waiting at Dr. appointments or riding in the car.
Brigitte



VBS 2018- Hero Central

WHEN: June 18th - 22nd 9:00am – noon

WHERE: Immanuel Presbyterian campus, 9252 E. 22nd St.

REGISTRATION FEE: Information to come!



The church will pay the fee for any children of New Spirit Lutheran Church going to VBS. Parents will need to contact Nancy at the church office so that we know how many children will attend. Registration forms will be in the Narthex soon.



May Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations



05/01 Alan & Sharon
Wedemeier (Anniversary)
05/02 Stephen Lamb
05/06 Carol Massie
05/11 Becky Hedstrom
05/18 Tara Payette
05/20 Jamie Buglewicz



05/20 Gloria Burke
05/20 Dave Lynch
05/23 Barbara Lattanzi
05/25 Robert Daliege
05/26 Stanley Horley
05/27 Lupita Garibay
05/27 Aaron Garibay



BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Did you know that there are more than 1,000 Blessings in a Backpack programs across the country? Snack packs of food are going home every Friday of the school year and children are getting the nutrition they need for improved health and academic success because of people like YOU - our volunteers, donors and partners. Thank you!

This school year Blessings in a Backpack aims to serve more than 100,000 children - that's more than 3.8 million hunger-free weekends - across the nation. How can you help? For as little as \$10 a month, you can help us feed one child this school year.

Here at New Spirit, we feed **228** children from Erickson, Ford, Steele and Henry Elementary Schools, providing snack packs to take home on the weekend. Typical items include macaroni n' cheese box, canned sausages, chicken or tuna, oatmeal, canned beans, hot cocoa, canned vegetables and fruit cups.

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.**

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*



HOMELESS BLESSINGS

One of our team members, Lauren Meadows, recently had a birthday. She requested contributions to our Homeless Blessings in lieu of gifts. At our April event, she presented us a check for \$550! THANK YOU, LAUREN!

April brought us another 30 clients. We are now seeing more “marginal” clients (they have shelter but still struggle with having enough food to eat). We now offer haircuts, 1-day bus passes, access to housing, packaged food, protein drinks, hygiene products, first aid products, and a great home cooked meal.

We have as many as 16 who now share Wednesday dinners with us and a few join us on Sunday mornings for worship. Much needed hugs abound at each event. Please visit us on May 12th from 9-11 am and see for yourself!

There are collection boxes in NSLC’s narthex. See the list below of items we always need. As we grow, we are looking to put donation boxes in area businesses. If you know some place that would be willing to help us, please let us know.

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.

Want to help? Contact NSLC Office or Laurie Bernard at lbernard2008@hotmail.com

PLEASE DONATE:

MEN’S AND WOMEN’S NEW UNDERWEAR AND SOCKS

SHOES

BACKPACKS AND TARPS

AA AND AAA BATTERIES

FULL SIZE SHAMPOO, LOTION, TOOTHPASTE, DEODORANT

RAZORS, COMBS, BRUSHES

PEANUT BUTTER, CANNED MEATS

PROTEIN DRINKS

New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85710

Shout-Outs

SHOUT OUT- Terry Wolfe & Phil Pierce for grilling for the After Tax Bash.

SHOUT OUT- All our volunteers for the tax site. You know who you are!

SHOUT OUT- April's hospitality team; great goodies. And to *Stefan* for his meal on the 15th

SHOUT OUT- April cook team; much loved food.

SHOUT OUT- John Lukecart and his trusty guitar and voice. Added a lot to our celebration.

SHOUT OUT- Jamie and Mark; what a team!



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: 5:30 pm Dinner, 6:15 pm Classes

How to contact us:

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