

# *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

May 2019

Dear Partners on the Trail

This year I introduced the Easter Vigil on Saturday, Easter Eve. The vigil is an ancient service in the history of the church. Traditionally it is held late at night, beginning in darkness, in a place that is not the sanctuary. After opening prayers, a fire is lighted to dispel the darkness Good Friday had put upon the world. The fire is then carried to the sanctuary as a processional to bring light into the darkened place. From the fire the Christ Candle is lit, and it holds central place in the chancel.

The Vigil, traditionally, was the ending of the preparation for the candidates for Baptism. During the 40 days of Lent, candidates were taught the catechesis, the teachings of Scripture and doctrine. On Easter morning, just after midnight, those candidates would be baptized by immersion, symbolizing dying and rising to new life in Jesus Christ.

Prior to the baptism, Old Testament stories were read. This we did here on Saturday evening - twelve stories read by twelve different readers. The stories came alive as they were read. People commented after the service how meaningful it had been for them to hear the "whole story" not having to use their recall from Sunday School days.

I thought as I listened to all those voices proclaiming the Word of God that that is the role of the Church. Each story pointed out our human frailties. Each reading pointed toward God's rule and reign. And while these were the stories we learned in our Sunday School years, as adults intentionally reading each story in its context, gave such a broad experience of the grace of God.

I began to imagine an adult study group focused upon those stories "we think we know" but hear differently as adults. I would love to lead a group, or a couple of groups, in recalling the epic tales of the Bible, especially the Old Testament.

So, as we prepare for our summer siestas, I want to plant this seed. Pray to God about your need to re-connect with the Living Word of God. Consider your attending a weekly, 90-minute walk through stories you have known all your life.

As we await the monsoons, still 2 or 3 months off...how dry is your faith? How parched is your tongue when you try to pray aloud? How hoarse is your voice when you have the opportunity to introduce someone to Jesus? Consider coming to the living waters found in John 4. I invite each of you to renew and revitalize your living faith at New Spirit.

Come! All of you are welcome on this adventure of faith!

With joyous hope....

Pastor Alan



Unlock every good thing



On **Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>** the congregation is encouraged to attend worship at 10:00 a.m. at which Bishop Deborah Hutterer and Pastor Alan will receive a blessing following their wedding in Phoenix. Following the Blessing, you are welcome to attend a reception for the couple in Fellowship Hall.

### **Holy Week Reflections**

***“This was the best holy week I have ever experienced!”*** This year our Holy Week services were rewritten in an effort to make the drama of Jesus’ Passion. **Good Friday** we offered the **“Seven Last Words of Christ”**. In brief scenes, and reflections on each scene, the trauma of the crucifixion was lifted up. Hymns added to the imagery of the worst day in human history. The darkened sanctuary, the laid out black drape, the seven candles spread over the altar made Good Friday a deeply spiritual, and moving service.

The **Easter Vigil** was a celebration! Twelve readers led us through the epic stories of the Old Testament. Each one reflected on the imperfection of humanity, and the holiness of God. In the end, we were brought to consider our own Baptism. The service ended with the Affirmation of Baptism of the corporate Body of Christ gathered.

***“It was a moving experience and really connected me to Easter in a whole new way.”***

The entire service lifted up the ancient art of oral-interpretation, or story-telling. Apart from the darkness of Good Friday, the **Easter Vigil** enabled participants to anticipate the coming celebration of Jesus’ resurrection.

Easter worship was ***“so full of grace, I could not help but cry.”*** The Praise Team introduced a new song “Raise a Hallelujah”. Its chorus was timely following the Notre Dame fire earlier in the week.

***“I’m gonna sing in the middle of the storm,  
louder and louder, hear my praises roar.  
Up from the ashes hope will arise!  
Death is defeated, the King is alive!”***

With the preface of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil on Saturday made stepping into Easter’s Celebration so much more meaningful!



**The Youth thank you!!!** Thank you to the New Spirit members who supported our Easter Breakfast event on Easter. With your help we raised \$779, which translates into three nights in the hotel, or two and a half airline tickets to Minneapolis. Your support helps us prepare for the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in June, 2021. Thanks also to Thrivent Financial for supporting this as a “Thrivent Action Team” event.

Thanks to Jenny Kwapich and Amber Uidenich who coordinated the youth in prep and serving the Easter Breakfast.



The funds raised at congregational events, like Easter breakfast or Annual Meeting Chili Supper are allocated to the youth who participate in both making/preparing the food, and serving it and cleaning up following the event.

Thank you, so much, for your support.

**Grand Canyon Synod Assembly is June 14-15<sup>th</sup>** at **Love of Christ Lutheran Church** in east Mesa. The Assembly is an amazing way to learn how far local churches are able to reach with their variety of programs and ministries. Worship is always a highlight of the Assembly, as well as the report of the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA. This year Susan Armstrong, Council President, and Pastor Alan will be our voting members.





**SALCA Camp “Be Strong and Courageous”** is scheduled for May 27-31<sup>st</sup> at the Triangle Y Ranch Camp in Oracle, AZ. Summer camp is one of the best ways for campers to experience living in a Christ-centered community. Through activities, Bible Studies, games, campfire, worship, and camp meals campers will discover the power of the Spirit’s knitting them as a community of faith all within those five days. Registration is \$275 per camper. One half of that registration is paid by New Spirit from our aluminum can recycling program. The Endowment Board will be asked for additional support as well. Registration is to be done on-line at [www.mysalca.com](http://www.mysalca.com). This year **Jakob Rettig** will be a Leader in Training (LIT). Camp is for students who have completed 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade by the beginning of camp.

**May Workday** is scheduled for **Saturday, May 18th at 6:30 a.m.** We continue to stand against the weeds brought by our winter rains. We are also cutting trees back to give our “front yard” a less overgrown look. Join us on May 18<sup>th</sup>, and we will share a hearty breakfast at 8:30 a.m.



**Summer Worship schedule** will begin on **Mother’s Day, May 12<sup>th</sup>** with a **Traditional Service**. Worship will be held at **10:00 a.m. each Sunday** during the Summer. Coffee Fellowship will be served from **9:15 – 9:50 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

We are excited to add a third style for worship this summer. We will begin with a **Traditional Service** on May 12<sup>th</sup>. In addition to Traditions, **Arise to Praise** will feature the Praise Team and freshly written liturgies.

And new this year, for four Sundays we are developing a **digital worship** featuring the regular elements of a Communion service, traditional hymns and contemporary songs downloaded from the internet. These services will help introduce the congregation to new hymns, old hymns, and powerful contemporary songs intended for congregational singing.



Dates and scheduling worship styles does not follow the two-week rotation of past summers. Everyone is encouraged to worship every Sunday. God is here among the Body of Christ, and is not limited to style of music or preaching. We are God’s people. We are an Easter people. We are called to be disciples of Jesus in all areas of our lives.

Visit the “new” **Grand Canyon Synod website**. If you have not ever visited the Grand Canyon Synod’s website what better time to do that, than now? You will find lots of information about ministries of the GCS, announcements of upcoming events, conferences, lectures, and opportunities to deepen and broaden your faith. An added benefit is that you can keep track of Pastor Alan’s soon-to-be-wife, Bishop Deborah Hutterer. Add a new place to check in while you are on-line: [www.gcsynod.org](http://www.gcsynod.org)



## May Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

05/02 Stephen Lamb  
05/06 Carol Massie  
05/11 Becky Hedstrom  
05/18 Tara Payette  
05/20 Jamie Buglewicz  
Gloria Burke  
Dave Lynch  
Richard Hughes



05/23 Barbara Lattanzi  
05/25 Robert Daliege  
05/27 Lupita Garibay  
Aaron Garibay

The Church Council would like to thank the congregation for their participation in completing the Spiritual Gifts Inventory last month. The results were as follows:

Administration	13	Knowledge	16
Craftsmanship (Arts/Crafts)	24	Leadership	18
Craftsmanship (Manual)	9	Mercy	33
Evangelism	11	Music – vocal	19
Exhortation	30	Music – instrumental	9
Faith	16	Serving	22
Giving	24	Shepharding	4
Helps	48	Teaching	7
Hospitality	10	Wisdom	9
Prayer	26	Writing	10

The top three (3) gifts per person are accounted for in the above results. As you can see, we have a lot of talent spread out throughout the congregation. Some of you are already sharing your talents within our church family. Some of you might be surprised by your individual talents. In the coming weeks, you will receive a phone call from a council member to discuss your individual results.

For those of you who were not in attendance - do not worry – you still have time to complete the inventory.

God bless you all!

Susan G. Armstrong  
Council President, NSLC



### Have you planned?

Spring Cleaning is in the air. A number of people have told me how they have been inspired by Marie Kondo (the Netflix home organizer) in cleaning out closets and reducing the clutter in their homes. As you set about organizing your home, we encourage you to schedule an appointment with your financial planner, accountant, attorney, or trusted advisor to consider making a **Legacy Gift** for the work of New Spirit. In the past, members of New Spirit/Spanish Trail included the church in their estate plans. In most cases a percentage (10- 50%) of the



total estate has been given to New Spirit. In one case the majority of an estate was given. You can designate how those funds will be used: (for example the K-Hall reconstruction fund, Sanctuary flooring project, Sanctuary lighting project, etc). Without a designation from you, your funds will be divided as per the Congregation's by-law description. You can bless the future ministry of New Spirit by your prayerful **Legacy Gift**.

Just a short note to let you all know that we had another successful year at the New Spirit/AARP tax site. We completed over 1000 tax returns yet again! When you consider that the average cost of getting a return done by a paid preparer is around \$250 that's a big savings for many of our tax payers, especially when many of them found out they were getting a smaller refund (or no refund at all) due to the new tax laws. Thank you church members and volunteers that support this ministry, and have done so for the past 13 years.

John E. Lukeart





## Deborah's Gathering Minutes for April 2019

Deborah's Gathering WELCA Bible Study Group met on April 10, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Sandra led devotions – As Christ died on the cross, creation mourned the death of its creator.

March 2019 minutes were read and approved as written.

No Treasurer's Report submitted.

Sunshine Report – Twenty Easter cards were made and will be sent.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Our members have enjoyed and been inspired by this year's Lenten Devotional Book.

Sandra will inquire as to possibly setting aside part of the magnetic bulletin board to highlight our youth.

There has been no report from the Church Women United regarding the least coin project.

Library cleaning and organizing will be done on the third Saturday of the month to correspond with the church work day. This will encourage work teams to get better acquainted and become familiar with other team's projects. The date will be published in the newsletter.

Sandra will prepare a letter to the church property committee for approval for the youth paint project. An article will be put in the newsletter as to the date and for donations for paint and other supplies needed.

It was suggested that we have a get together for the women of New Spirit the Saturday before one of our Wednesday meetings with devotions, music, food and a short bible study from the Gather Magazine. There would be no business meeting at this gathering. More discussion on this at our May meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS:

It was suggested that we donate a money gift to Sarah Elmquist for her special touch camp in August. We will inquire as to the total cost of the camp and if there are any other donations going toward her attendance to determinate how much to donate.

A suggestion was made that we make up welcome packets for people moving into the new housing developments in the area. As well as our church information these packets would include the surrounding community business information. Sandra will check with the development housing management if this would be allowed.

Our meeting closed with Sandy leading us in reading as a prayer, the hymn "We Walk by Faith".

Preceding our meeting on May 8, we will meet at Garrett's for lunch at 11:30 and then proceed to church for our meeting. Everyone is encouraged to invite guests. Sandy will lead devotions and music with Gloria; and Joyce will lead the lesson.

Linda Lamb – Secretary



Did you know that the **New Spirit Memorial Garden & Columbarium** provides a peaceful and beautiful place where you and your spouse can be laid to rest at a very affordable price. The Columbarium is where the cremated remains of New Spirit members are laid to rest. The garden is a beautiful, quiet place for you to remember those who have gone on before you. The columbarium has double niches, side by side, for \$1175; and single niches that are \$600. These prices are one-half to one-third the price of niches at a public cemetery. You can get information about the New Spirit Lutheran Memorial Garden-Columbarium at the Church Office.



## *DARE to be DIFFERENT*

Did you ever play “truth or dare” as a child or adolescent? A circle of friends or acquaintances would form a circle, taking turns with choosing either “truth” or “dare.” Truth would be they would have to tell a truth about themselves. This was always the safer bet in my opinion. Dare would be the group could dare you to do something, like eat a whole jalapeño or fill your mouth with mustard and swallow it without gagging, etc. You can imagine the dares could get pretty creative and sometimes a downright poor choice with immediate regret. Nonetheless, it’s one of those games that almost all of us have either played or heard of before. So when is the last time you dared yourself to do something???

If you never had the opportunity to play this game, I’d like to challenge you now.... to a DARE!!!

*I dare YOU to be DIFFERENT!!*

I am a  
FLAMINGO  
In a flock of  
PIGEONS

As a Christian, this is often a daily challenge for me. In fact, there are so many ways I could dare myself on a regular basis.... Dare to speak out for the Lord, dare to do what is right when the world around us condones sin, dare to invite others to worship with us, dare to care for those around us, dare to get into God’s Word more and then actually LIVE it for myself, my family and this broken world. The list can go on and on and like so much in life, can begin to bog me down on all the things I *should* (Hi Esther!) be doing better.

I was recently at a Mercy Me, Crowder and Micah Tyler concert when prior to singing his hit single “Different,” Micah Tyler spoke about the song and its background. His words hit me like a ton of bricks! So many times, we go to the Lord and ask “God, if you would just change the circumstances around me, I can handle this.” You’re chugging along with things being thrown at you from every direction and when you’re down, it feels like you get hit with even more and you think, “I thought I was doing ok here but it keeps getting worse.... Can you just make things different?” I know I’ve prayed that prayer far too many times and you know what? There are times when God answers that prayer and calms the storms around me. Then there are the times that He doesn’t and I find myself frustrated and angry or questioning Him like “Why didn’t you make this easier?” or “What the heck kind of lesson are you trying to teach me with all this chaos?” Here’s the part that hit me hard.... What if, we simply prayed “God, please make ME different so that I can navigate these storms and let YOU shine through in what happens around us.” We have the greatest opportunity to show God’s grace simply in how we handle our circumstances.

Matthew 7:13-14 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>13</sup> “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

The world around us travels the wide road. What if instead of speaking it, we truly CHOSE the narrow road....What if WE dare to be DIFFERENT?!

Jenny Kwapich

# A NEW SPIRIT SHOUT OUT GOES TO OPEN SPACE CHURCH

Open Space Church was founded in 2014 by Pastor Lars Hammar and a few graffiti artists and musicians to be a place where we could live in the faith without having to check who we were at the door, without having to give up our creativity, our art, our passions and ourselves in order to fit in to a churchy mold. We wanted a place that was safe to be who we are, yet open and free to explore and grow.

Open Space is a church, and we worship and pray and grow in our faith together. Every first Thursday night we gather in fellowship to share highs and lows, listen to each other's joys and concerns, and pray for each other, and spend some time in the Bible learning about God and what it might mean for us to live and follow Jesus.

Half of all we do at Open Space is giving art to the community, for free.

A lot of the art we do is graffiti or street art based, but not exclusively. We believe that giving back is a fundamental part of being a Christian, and being artistic is not something for the special people, but something we all can do – being made in the image of God, our creator. Not everyone at Open Space does graffiti, or does a lot of drawing, but we support those who do, and we encourage healthy (and legal) ways to express yourself and explore faith and life through art.

Open Space is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), an open and progressive denomination that takes the Bible seriously, but not literally – that teaches peace and justice.



Mural at San Juan Baptista created by artists from Open Space Church



## HANDBELLS & GUITAR IN CONCERT

Mother's day, May 12, 2019 at Christ Church United Methodist  
655 N. Craycroft Rd. 3:00 pm

Gabriel Ayala, guitarist and the Christ Church Ringers performing

For information please see the notice posted in the Narthex on the Magnet Board



## Crackers and calculators.



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](http://www.blessingsinabackpack.org).



**BLESSINGS IN A  
BACKPACK**

*Who will feed the kids this weekend?*



School is almost out for the summer. Thank you to all our “Blessings” volunteers who worked so diligently this school year to help feed **279** children from Erickson, Ford, Steele and Henry Elementary Schools, providing snack packs to take home on the weekend.

Though school is out soon for the summer, we still rely on your generosity to prepare for the next school year. Your donation of \$100 feeds one 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](mailto:lbernard2008@hotmail.com)

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





**NEW SPIRIT CHURCH DOES NOT TURN OUR  
HEADS AWAY FROM THOSE IN NEED  
SUMMER HOURS MAY-SEPT  
9 AM TO 11 AM**

It's tough on the streets. For some, it's tough to keep a roof over their head. Their stories are heartbreaking. Mental health, alcohol, and drug issues are just part of the problem. These are also people who have just had a perfect storm of health, employment, and financial issues and now find themselves homeless or close to it.

Our event the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month has representatives from Old Pueblo Community Services, City of Tucson, and Office of the Independent Police Examiner to provide help for those who face adversity every day just to live. Our Wednesday night dinners, give them a hot meal and a trip to our Blessings Room to get canned food and hygiene products.

New Spirit's Homeless Blessings Team provides a hot meal, tarps, blankets, clothing, 1-day bus passes, packaged food, protein drinks, hygiene products, first aid products, and clothing.

**PLEASE DONATE FOR THE SUMMER:  
MEN'S JEANS AND SHORTS – ESPECIALLY 32-34 SIZES  
BLANKETS, SLEEPING BAGS  
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](mailto:lbernard2008@hotmail.com)

# New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail  
Tucson, AZ 85710



***SHOUT OUT - To the April hospitality team.***

## Shout-Outs



***SHOUT OUT - To the April Wednesday cook team.***

Please submit words of thanks and praise to Nancy at [nancy@newspiritlutheran.com](mailto: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, 4:00 & 6:15 pm  
Classes

### ***How to contact us:***

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