

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 2020

Dear Partners on the Trail,

We have never experienced anything like this COVID-19 shelter-in-place pandemic. The veracity of the virus, and its rapid infection of the human body, makes it a dire consequence of living in community. We are learning day-by-day how to best protect ourselves and our neighbors. I applaud you for your willingness to remain home, and your willingness to segregate yourself from friends and family members. There is no time-line for us to know when we will be allowed to gather again in groups larger than ten people. I would never have thought that I had preached my last sermon to you, face to face, this past March.

I want to thank you for maintaining your financial support of New Spirit during this period of sheltering in place. You have always been the most generous congregation I have had the pleasure of serving. Thank you!

That being said, this will be my last newsletter message to you. In July 2001 I stepped into the sanctuary for our first worship service together. Most of you had not yet met me. Many of you knew my mother, Louise, because of her work with WELCA and the earliest Rallies-in-the-Valley. Richard Siegel had served as the Chair of the Call Committee and he introduced me to you. That was a long time ago. In fact, well over 60% of those present on that July Sunday have died along the way. Many things have changed over these years.

Spanish Trail was a much different congregation then. The congregation was assigned Pastor Roy Guinn to serve as the interim to help STLC transition. Pastor Roy served a two-year interim here. He prepared the way and encouraged the members to grieve their losses and to become open to something “new.”

Some things that may be “new” for us have been around for a long time. My greatest desire as your pastor has been to open to you the breadth of the grace of God. I believe it is in that gracious relationship that we grow deeply. I have sought to make that grace to you in real and tangible ways.

On the 1st Sunday of Advent 2001, the Arise to Praise Service had its first run. We were so much younger then! Our song list included maybe 15 songs. We met at 8 a.m., only a few hours after Mark & Jamie’s band gigs finished at 1:00 a.m. Through the years we have learned 350+ songs, and have rehearsed three hours every week for all 18 years! That commitment has grown the 9:00 service into a unique and grace-centered worship opportunity. My thanks are given to the Praise Team and Band members for their amazing commitment and leadership. I have sought to focus our worship in the grace of God. Arise to Praise has developed into a spirited celebration of worship and praising God. Along the way Mark Buglewicz, Harry Bolin, and Renee Geiger have written and composed a number of songs we use at 9:00.

Each week I have written the 9:00 liturgy. Those services have given New Spirit a truly unique culture for worship. Creating those weekly services has deepened my commitment to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

(Cont’d next page)

I have always sought to deepen your faith through study and learning. The scripture is, as Luther called it, “Living Word” and I have always sought to make the Bible come alive. I have disciples (students) who have attended nearly every class I have ever led. I have danced at the edges of “heresy and exploration” to encounter God in those places of mystery. I have encouraged you to wrestle with the Word of life and love.

Many of you came to learn. We’ve wondered “If I’m Supposed to Be So Happy, Why Do Little Things Tick Me Off?” I have led you deeply in “Prayer: The Dance of the Heart”, and “Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep” as we considered the topic of death. “Fear in a Time of Hope” addressed matters of the reality of fear. “Dinosaurs, Dodoes, and Thee” helped us look at the matters of Creation and the Theory of Evolution with a bit of “String Theory” woven in. Many of you completed the Adult Confirmation classes addressing the tenets of being Christian of the Lutheran-persuasion. The “Gnostic Gospels” course was especially enlightening. We have “Read Through the Bible” three different years, as you read 3 chapters per day to complete the Scripture in a year. We had great conversations about what you had discovered in the Living Word.

Over these years our children and youth have become very connected to the Southern Arizona Lutheran Camping Association (SALCA). I served as pastoral leader of SALCA for twelve years. Our campers have experienced the creation of Christ-centered communities, and what it means to live together grounded in grace and faith. Our youth have attended ELCA National Youth Gatherings and have experienced the work of the Church on an eye-opening scale.

Along this 18-year journey I have made mistakes. I have spoken too quickly and at times too harshly. I have dreamed dreams but did not see them through. I ask your forgiveness for those memories that still hurt, frustrate, or disappoint you. I taught a class about that, you know! I have celebrated with you through pregnancies, baptisms, first communions, confirmations, and weddings. I have grieved with you in hundreds of funerals and celebrations of life. And throughout these years God has been ever so present in this place!

I am confident that your next chapter, this interim period, will be time enough for you to remember, to tell stories, to both laugh and cry tears of grief for the memories of what we have shared.

You have blessed me, time and time again. I thank you for your love, your support, and your willingness to step into new, and untried, opportunities, and your prayers. You are amazing, and I love you deeply. This has been a wonderful ride!

And with that, I bid you peace.....

Pastor Alan

*Blessed
Thankful
Loved
Grateful*



Pastor Alan's last Sunday will be **May 17th**. It is very doubtful that we will be "fully open" by that date. The limiting of crowds will grow slowly. Today it is ten persons. The next level may be 25 persons, then 40 persons.

That being said, our plan is to stream the Service on Facebook Live, or another platform. Pastor Alan will preach, and **Bishop Deborah Hutterer** will share a blessing upon Pastor Alan's years of leading New Spirit, and now into the next chapter of his/their life. We encourage you to plan on joining us on-line for that very important remembrance.

Interim Pastor:

I am pleased to be able to update everyone on our progress of identifying interim coverage upon Pastor Alan's retirement. We are close to finalizing the Synod required contract and are confident that all will be in place to start by June 1, 2020. More to come when all the details are finalized. Thank you all for your continued support and flexibility during these very challenging pandemic times.

David Grundstrom
Council President



"A couple Pastor Alan-isms that have become part of who New Spirit is."

"The lazy-boy recliner of faith."

"....and I will see you....next time!" Ends every Children's sermon.

"The heat of the charcoal fire is the ANGER, but the problem is the fuel (coals: hurt, frustration, disappointment, embarrassment, loss).

"The Holy Spirit is the POWERFUL presence of God in us NOW!" (yah, he yelled POWERFUL for emphasis.)

"Grace is the Love of God, freely given, with no strings attached."

"Mercy is the LOVE that forgives."

"Squeezing the keys....as the image for understanding the need to forgive, or let go."

"Forgiveness is the ultimate act of.....Self-Love."

"The Kingdom of God is the REIGN and RULE of God in our hearts now."

"BUT....and there's always a BUT!"

"And all God's people said... "YES!!!"



Books & CDs....from Pastor Alan

Over the years Pastor Alan has accumulated many books and music CDs. He would like to share from the excess with you. He will put those books and CDs on a table in the Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to stop by the church during Office Hours to "take a few."

Those books and CDs will be available after May 1st in the Fellowship Hall.

Prayer of consolation for Barbara Verthein upon the death of her husband, Albert. Al died Saturday, April 18th, at TMC. Prayers for peaceful grief and release.



Church during a Pandemic

It's been 4 weeks since our last in-person service. That's a LONG time!!! We need to gather. What makes church so special is the people. What you miss are the smiles, the hugs, the joking around with kids. The sights and sounds are so beautiful. Hugs, bumping elbows, fellowship, laughter, the teachings, coffee and communion.

We all know there is a difference between grandma and grandpa talking to the grandkids on Facetime and them scooping the kids up and hugging them as they come through the doorway.

In times like these, I'm very grateful for the ability to gather on-line. On-line is the next best thing, but not THE best. It offers us the ability to meet to communicate, to catch our breath, to prepare for the next chapter, to hear the Word.

We as Christians are usually the first to rush into situations like the one in which we find ourselves today, the first to try and help. This time, our way of rushing in is to STAY IN. And so we will meet online until we can safely meet in person again.

This season has the ability to present some amazing opportunities for churches with eyes to see. But this is tough! It's also worth it. So keep loving your church. Write the encouragement note. Make the check-in phone call. Dive into the Word. Pray like you've never prayed before. Continue to give offerings that support the good things New Spirit does.

Church is never canceled. Consider yourself invited. We may not wow everyone and that's okay. If our Heavenly Father is pleased, that is enough.

Jenny Kwapich, Church Council Vice President



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

05/25 Robert Daliege

05/27 Lupita Garibay
Aaron Garibay

Summer Worship Schedule

Due to the COVID-19 crisis worship will continue at 10:00 a.m. on “Facebook Live.” We are looking at using a more flexible platform (YouTube or Vimeo) to include more liturgy and music.



On Mother’s Day, May 10th we were going to shift to our Summer Worship Schedule with worship at 10:00 a.m. The schedule for services will include both Arise to Praise services and Traditions services.

When the CDC lifts the “**shelter-in-place**” order so “**large groups can gather**”, we will resume weekly worship in the Sanctuary with Holy Communion.

Please remember to keep your tithes and pledges up-to-date. While summer in the desert is hot and dry, it is important to remember that our income drops when winter guests return to their homes. Their giving is nearly 15% of our annual budget, so the summer months can be difficult for paying our obligations. You can give by mailing in your checks, stopping by the church office, or by using the “Donations” icon on the New Spirit website:
www.newspiritlutherantucson.org.

“How do I watch the on-line Sunday services?”

Our services are live-streamed on **Facebook at 10:00 a.m. Sunday mornings.**

Go to www.facebook.com and in the “Search” line (top left screen) type: “new spirit.” A list of sites will appear, look for the one with our Sanctuary picture. Sign-in and click on videos, or live-stream. You can request to be “friends” with New Spirit, and that way you will be notified of live-streams.

The videos of our services are stored on the site, so if you cannot make 10:00 a.m. Sunday, you can catch it later.



We are in need of a video-tech team. On April 19th, Facebook Live broke. There are so many churches now live-streaming Sunday worship services the Facebook system could not handle it. The result was a number of moments of buffering and loss of audio.

To better serve our ministry, we would like to use a more flexible platform like Vimeo or YouTube. Both have low cost programs to allow us good streaming service. We are looking into buying a good quality camera, and whatever hardware we need to convert video and audio streams to compatible formats for the platform.



Would you be a good candidate to help with this ministry? This would be a natural for a tech-savvy teenager!!!



June newsletter articles will be due May 18th.



Confirmation update... Allison Uidenich, Katie Uidenich, and Ethan Rettig have completed their studies of the Catechism, Scripture, and the Christian life. We were to celebrate their **Affirmation of Baptism on Mother's Day, May 10th**. Because we are still in the "shelter-in-place mode" the Service of Affirmation of Baptism will be scheduled after the CDC lifts the present limitations. We want the entire congregation to celebrate this milestone for these young people so the date will be some time in the future. Pastor Alan will return to New Spirit for that day, to preach, and to celebrate their affirming the Promises of their Baptism.

Confirmation



The 2020 Grand Canyon Synod Assembly has been cancelled. The 2021 Grand Canyon Synod Assembly will be held in Las Vegas in June, 2021. Dates will be published soon.

NEW SPIRIT angels still fly to my house. Scott Thompson is my personal driver, he flies in food from his mom Ellie to leave on the back porch. Angel Judy left her tasty lemon bars on the back porch. I told her I am not a big sweets eater so call them fruit, like Ellie's cherry pies are fruit! Of course I live with angel Archie who feeds me well. I think I flunked Weight Watchers with him as a cook. 😊 Drive-by-talks, call when near house and I will be wheeled to the front of the house near mail box. Thanks for all the cards and especially prayers. See you soon. Special thanks to Pastor Alan for the Easter Service. Gloria Burke



Treasurer's Note from Terry Wolfe

Hello everyone, I hope everyone is healthy and doing well. I thought it was important to give you all an update about the church's current finances. First, I want to thank everyone who has financially supported the church and its missions through these difficult times.

Each month our anticipated income is \$17,684.83 from our members and another \$1,666.67 in loose income for a total of \$19,351.50.

In March member giving totaled \$17,637.66 and loose giving totaled \$1,593.00 for a grand total of \$19,230.66 which is 99.38% to budget. Our expenses totaled \$21,279.15.

For the month of April member giving totals \$23,276.16 and loose giving totals \$930.00 for a grand total of \$24,206.16 which is 23% over budget. Our anticipated expenses for April will be below normal due to the cancelling of our normal services and the stay-at-home orders. Our benevolence is paid up through February.

At the end of March our expenses have exceeded our income by \$2313.68. If you remember at the annual meeting we approved a budget of \$261,925.00 that was \$29,000.00 short of anticipated giving. The cancelling of services will help, but not alleviate this disparity.



To help make up the difference between our venture budget amount and our anticipated income, it was suggested that everyone that can afford it, donate 10% of their stimulus amount to the church to help make up the difference. I plan on doing it and implore everyone that can afford it to do the same. Looking forward to seeing everyone at service, hopefully, in the near future. God bless you all.



2400 snack packs delivered to 3 Eastside elementary schools for distribution to our students. A special thanks to Blessings in a Backpack and New Spirit for their contributions! Shout out to Cathy and Ron Cermak, Laurie Bernard, Leah Bernard, Hayden Harriger, and Jay Granmo for loading and transporting. Thanks to Ford, Steele, and Erickson school staff for helping unload and making sure the food gets to the kids.

Your donation of \$100 feeds 1 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

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



HOMELESS BLESSINGS YOU CAN HELP TOO!

At this time due to the Coronavirus outbreak we are unsure of our May Schedule. Please contact the New Spirit office for updates.

Our event the 2nd Saturday of each month has representatives from City of Tucson and Office of the Independent Police Examiner to provide help for those who face adversity every day just to live.

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

**PLEASE DONATE :
MEN'S JEANS – ESPECIALLY 32-34 SIZES
BLANKETS, SLEEPING BAGS, JACKETS
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

New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85710

Shout-Outs

SHOUT-OUT - To *Terry Wolfe* for countless hours working on the grounds and making a huge difference .

SHOUT-OUT - To *Ken Dobbs & Don Crow* for helping Terry.

SPECIAL NOTE: Due to the uncertainty of dates that the church will re-open, we have not included a calendar with this newsletter. Please check the calendar posted on the website. If changes occur for re-opening, the Council will make phone calls to notify members. Stay Safe and Stay Healthy!

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)

How to contact us:

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