

That's The Spirit!

Rev. Carol Breimeier
Rev. Fred Nelson

New Spirit Lutheran Church

*Our faith is in Jesus.
Our hope is in grace.
Our strength is in love.*

May 2021

WHAT IS THE HEART OF WORSHIP?

When I was a little girl, I liked one thing about church: singing. For me, a Sunday worship service consisted of singing and waiting to sing. I'd look through the bulletin to see what hymns were coming up—whether any of my favorites were in the mix—and then I'd wait through all the talking until the organist started playing and things got good.



When I was much older and serving as a pastor, I still loved the music in worship. I even had a new appreciation for it, because good music could salvage a service on those Sundays when I thought my sermon might be kind of a dud.

When I got to New Spirit and was meeting with folks one-on-one, a pretty large percentage of people I met with listed music and singing as one of their favorite things about our church. Music is a big part of worship for many of us, and rightly so.

Now, at New Spirit, we're going to be returning to worshiping together (more about that on p. 3), but without singing. That could be a letdown for a lot of us. But it could also be an opportunity to experience the joy and the depth of worship together without distracting thoughts about what I like and what I don't like, is this *my* kind of music or too much of *the other* kind of music, etc.

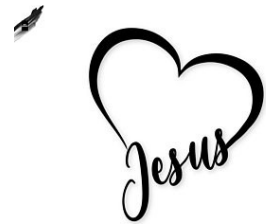
Some of you are familiar with the song "Heart of Worship" by Matt Redman. Redman's church in England took a break from what was a really good band, took out the sound system, and, as the pastor intended, left behind musical consumerism to focus on their heartfelt response to Jesus Christ and what he first brings to us.

When they felt sufficiently re-grounded in the core values of worship and were ready to reintroduce music by the band, Redman wrote the song "Heart of Worship," including these lyrics:

When the music fades, all is stripped away
And I simply come
Longing just to bring something that's of worth
That will bless Your heart

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I'll bring You more than a song, for a song in itself
 Is not what You have required
 You search much deeper within: Through the way things appear
 You're looking into my heart
 I'm coming back to the heart of worship
 And it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus



Sometimes an experiment—and an opportunity to learn something—is forced upon us by circumstances. Perhaps this phase of reintroducing in-person worship will be that kind of opportunity for us as a congregation and as individuals. It's all about you, Jesus.

Peace and blessings to you!
 Pastor Carol

FORGIVENESS: Love's Toughest Work

God's gracious commitment to love and forgive us in the face of our betrayal and rejection has been at the heart of *The Story* we've been reading for the past 30 weeks. Now get ready for a deeper dive into the multifaceted topic of forgiveness itself, what one Christian writer calls "love's toughest work." There's nothing simultaneously more wonderful and more painful in life than the giving and receiving of the gift of forgiveness.

On Sunday, May 9, we'll launch a five-week message series on key aspects of forgiveness. What is it, really? Where does it begin? What's the heart of it? What's the art of it? As we explore the following dynamics of forgiveness through our Sunday messages, we'll also continue to have weekly small group gatherings to deepen the conversation and apply it to our own lives.



- May 9 God Goes First
- May 16 The Flow of Forgiveness
- May 23 The Heart of Forgiveness
- May 30 The Art of Forgiveness
- June 6 - *One week break from message series-*
- June 13 Messy Forgiveness

Endowment Fund News

The NSLC Endowment team needs your feedback! As we proceed with new team members and into a new year of our ministry, we want our congregation family to share with us what kind of outreach strikes you!



Are you passionate about children, the elderly, local community, homelessness, refugees, racial justice, LGBTQIA+ community ... the list goes on! We ask you to take a moment to think on this, pray about it, and then let us know! You can reach out to any of the team members via phone or email and share your thoughts!

We truly value each of you and want to ensure our giving priorities are in line with those of our congregation as a whole.

Our team members are: Pastor Fred, Jenny Kwapich, Judy McFarland, Brenda Feller, Edna Walton and Craig Geiger

REINTRODUCING INDOOR, IN-PERSON WORSHIP



Beginning May 16, we will hold in-person worship in the sanctuary at 10:00am on Sundays. This is phase one of a three-phase process of returning to (the new) normal.

Here are the details:

Please call Nancy DiFebbo at the church office during the week (Monday through Thursday, 7:00 am-3:00pm) to reserve a spot. She will keep a chart so that we can maximize participation by seating couples, families, and close friends together.

You will be asked to wear a mask and to maintain social distance from other worshipers. Refrain from hugging.

If you aren't feeling well when Sunday morning comes around, please stay home and rest.

The service will be without singing but will include the sermon and other worship components.

Communion will be served by a minimal number of servers, and they will have disinfected their hands just prior to serving.

We will collect offerings with a plate on a table rather than passing the plate around.

We will not have fellowship time, youth group, Sunday school, or adult discipleship time on Sunday mornings during this first phase.

The weekly YouTube worship video will continue but will be pared down to the sermon and a little bit of additional material. We do want to maintain an online presence going forward. Zoom communion will be offered, with the schedule for that yet to be determined.

We will welcome any visitors but will not be actively inviting the community to join us in worship at this point.

The phone number to reach Nancy and sign up for Sunday worship is 520-296-2461.

If you have any questions, thoughts, or suggestion, you can try Nancy or get in touch with Pastor Carol at carol@newspiritlutherantucson.org or 224-422-9552.

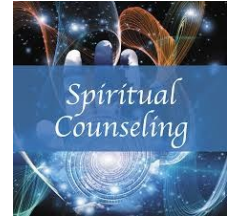
Looking forward to worshipping with you!

Pastor Carol

GET UNSTUCK

Most of us feel stuck in some part of our lives at some points in our lives. And one place where that can easily happen is in our spiritual lives. Living with the pandemic can certainly contribute to a sense that we're in the spiritual doldrums. How to shake free from stuckness and begin to see growth and forward momentum?

You have one good tool at your disposal: Spiritual Growth Coaching.



Spiritual Growth Coaching takes the coaching model and applies it to your life of faith. Your coach meets you where you are and helps you think through where you want to be and how best to start to move in that direction.

A coach will ordinarily meet with you about once a month to help you plan and to help you hold yourself accountable to your plan. Of course, if something isn't working, then you'll talk it through together and you can make adjustments or just start fresh. The point is to grow deeper in faith and closer to Christ, so that your life is more and more fulfilling and joyful.

Interested in learning more? Pastor Carol and Pastor Fred are our two current coaches, although we hope to train a few more in the coming months. Get in touch with either of us to set a time to have an initial conversation. Pastor Carol: carol@newspiritlutherantucson.org; Pastor Fred: fred@newspiritlutherantucson.org. We're looking forward to hearing from you!

We have some incredible news!!

New Spirit has received a bequest from Virginia "Ginnie" Gearhart in the amount of nearly \$306,000!!! As a congregation, this significant contribution is a huge blessing and, also, a huge responsibility. This gift gives us a tremendous additional financial boost to help fund our Growing Season Initiative and to open up some additional possibilities so that we can continue to do the exciting work God is calling us to do. The Church Council began very early discussions relating to this generous gift at the April Council meeting and decided that, as good stewards (and in accordance with our bylaws), New Spirit will immediately tithe 10% to the Synod.

So, now that we have done that, what's next?

1. The council will begin to explore and carefully consider some strategic options for how best to use this gift.
2. Meanwhile, the remaining balance of the gift has been deposited in our restricted funds account so that it can accrue some interest.
3. When ready, the council will offer some recommendations to the wider congregation, and we will undergo a process of discernment and decision-making together.

Many thanks for Ginnie's awesome generosity to us, and to our Lord for entrusting us with these resources to grow into the church that he desires us to be!

blessed
thankful
grateful

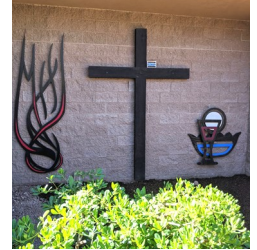
Jenny Kwapich, Council President

An Invitation to The Dance

Even though we live in a world that seems to have caused a lot of us to forget our oneness with God, deep down inside all of us I believe we do have an inkling or at least a tiny bit of memory that we are indeed one with God. It is called the Holy Spirit and we all have been given this gift by our Baptism and the death and resurrection of Jesus. Despite feelings of unworthiness, questioning the reality of God, and for some, the daily worship of small gods such as money, gotta have gadgets, new cars, or worldly power, there is still that glimmer of hope that there is indeed something more fulfilling in life.

One gains everything if we just stop and listen long enough to hear the Holy Spirit within us. It is only then that we truly experience reality: the reality of a life of hope, blessings of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and especially peace in knowing that you are loved by your creator.

In this country we look at success as having a home, family, a good job, and wealth. There is really nothing wrong with trying to better ourselves and provide for our family, but how sad it would be if that was all there is. Many have reached the top, so to speak, only to find loneliness and despair. I wonder what the world would be like if our definition of success was our ability to pour out the fruits of the Holy Spirit onto all the people we come in contact with.



When we can hear God, I believe we can step away from the need to excel and succeed and instead seek love and peace in our hearts, minds, lives, and relationships. In this way our lives will be an outward expression of God and a remembrance of the oneness we have with Him. This is a life with meaning in all the encounters and experiences we have with others, instead of a life surrounded by things we have acquired.

I've heard a lot lately about how wonderful it would be if we were so filled with the Holy Spirit that we danced in the aisles at church on Sunday. But what about the other six days of the week? What tune are we dancing to on those days? Do people in our everyday walking-around life see the Holy Spirit in us? And, just as importantly, do we search for the Holy Spirit in others? It's there, really. Part of our job is help them find it and experience it.

What do we gain from the Holy Spirit? We gain ourselves. We gain God. We gain reality and everything that really matters. And we gain more peace and comfort than we can imagine.

John Lukecart

May Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

05/02	Stephen Lamb	05/19	Kathleen Peterson	05/25	Robert Daliege
05/06	Carol Massie	05/20	Jamie Buglewicz Gloria Burke	05/27	Lupita Garibay Aaron Garibay
05/11	Becky Hedstrom			05/30	Ramona Ihrke
05/18	Tara Payette				



Women's Ministry Group Minutes for April 2021

Women's Ministry Group (WELCA Bible Study Group) met at 1:30 on April 14, 2021 at the church. Gloria Burke led us in the hymn "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia."

Sandra Colwell led devotions. As we face many challenges during our lives, we can take a lesson from a child. (A six-year-old child laughs many times throughout the day.) Be aware of our inner child and laugh like a six-year-old.

Gloria Burke shared information on the levels within the host of Angels that determine their degree of perfection, nature, and grace. These levels are First Choir, Second Choir, and Third Choir.

Our Bible study (led by Joyce Dow) was "Journeys with Angels." Angels sharing hospitality, good news and laughter. Angels give us a glimpse of the New Creation, where alleluias ring, accompanied by peals of laughter and joy.

Something to Think About:

What if we woke up tomorrow with only the things you thanked God for yesterday? What would our world look like?

Old Business:

Easter cards were sent.

New Business:

The Triennial Conference has been rescheduled for September 18, 2023, in Phoenix, AZ.

Our next meeting will be held on May 12, 2021, at 1:30, at the church. Sandra Colwell will lead devotions. Our lesson will be on The Journey of Generations by Violet Little. Shared blessings that are inter-generational.

Linda Lamb – Secretary



Shout-Outs

SHOUT OUT - to the Evangelism Team for their efforts kick starting our Growing Season!

SHOUT OUT - to the Church Council for their continued dedication!

SHOUT OUT - to Laurie, Marty, and the BIB and Homeless teams!!!

SHOUT OUT - to Craig Geiger for cleaning up the Christmas lights in Fellowship hall. We appreciate your eye!

SHOUT OUT - to the online service contributors! We love seeing your faces!!

SHOUT OUT - to Pastor Carol and Pastor Fred for their spiritual coaching efforts!

SHOUT OUT - to all our small group leaders. Your time and devotion to The Story is such a blessing!

SHOUT OUT - to Edna Walton for her many years of service to the Budget and Finance Team. You will be missed!





NEW SPIRIT IS STILL DELIVERING FOOD AND SOON WE WILL BE HARVESTING OUR OWN FRUIT

In May, the community garden at New Spirit will be receiving 4 mandarin and 2 apple trees for planting. Soon, we will be using the fruit from these trees to supplement our snack packs!

We are still delivering the premade snack packs from Optimum. We anticipate packing our own snack packs when school is back in session for the fall, depending on CDC guidelines.

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!

Contact Laurie Bernard at lbernard2008@hotmail.com

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



HOMELESS BLESSINGS

SPRING IS IN THE AIR! Our event on May 8 will be from 9-11 AM. COVID-19 safe practices are still in place. The event will still be scaled back with no clothing distribution, but the cook team is back in business with a limited menu. We are thankful that we have been able to share our blessings with our clients over the last year, sometimes just out of our cars!

If you have spring/summer clothing, shoes, socks, blankets/sleeping bags, AA & AAA batteries, hygiene products, or packaged food, we sure would like you to drop them off at the church. We can always use monetary contributions to help pay for new underwear, backpacks, and tarps.

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 would 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: (in usual times) 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) You can currently watch services Sundays on YouTube.</p>	<p><i>How to contact us:</i> New Spirit Lutheran Church 8701 E. Old Spanish Trail Tucson, AZ 85710 Phone: (520) 296-2461 E-Mail: NewSpiritLutheranTucson@yahoo.com Website: newspiritlutherantucson.org</p>
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