

# 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 2022

## ONE IN CHRIST

Shortly before Easter, Gate Outreach Ministries here in Tucson lost the use of what had been their worship space. Pastor Fred, who knows Pastor Will Nieves from other connections, saw the news on Facebook and invited them to come join us at New Spirit. Which they did.

About 20 folks from Gate joining New Spirit has increased the volume of our singing, the frequency of shouted "Amens," the number of smiles and hugs, and the spirit of anticipation and joy when we gather to worship our Lord.

We already knew that our former first-service and our former second-service people prefer different styles of worship, and especially of music. So not everyone grooves to all the music in our blended worship every Sunday. But that goes to another level when a young woman who's used to moving to the (Christian contemporary) music at Gate throws her hands in the air to try to dance to the 17th-century melody (written for organ) of the hymn "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds." That was a challenge, but it didn't dim her enthusiasm. There was danceable music coming up.

Thinking about that makes me smile. And, in fact, I've been seeing lots of smiles from Gate folks and New Spirit folks these past weeks. Our faces are becoming familiar to one another as we mutually welcome each other as sisters and brothers in Christ and enjoy each other's company.

That's a beautiful thing. For all our different backgrounds, different ages, different tastes in music, etc., we all recognized each other from the first moment as sisters and brothers. We know and feel that we belong together in one family, long-lost brothers, instantly loved sisters.

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity," the psalmist wrote (Ps. 133:1). How true that is!

Gate is currently looking for a new space to call their own, so we don't know how much longer we'll be seeing each other every week. But, however long we have this connection in time and space, we've always had an eternal connection—even if we didn't know it would be so fun!

In Christ,  
Pastor Carol



## **MOVING FORWARD WITH GEARHART PROJECTS**

At a congregational meeting on Sunday, April 24, we voted by a decisive margin to go ahead with improvements to our building and grounds using funds from the generous bequest New Spirit received from the estate of Virginia Gearhart.

For two months last year, we solicited ideas for spending some of the Gearhart funds in ways that would further our strategic objectives of growing in numbers and in depth of discipleship and set us up for the next chapter in the life of our congregation.

All the projects proposed for the "Strategic Wish List" will be funded following the congregational vote. Over time, as we are able to finalize plans and have work done, you'll see: a new, electronic sign to invite and welcome people to New Spirit; updated, comfortable furnishings in the library; new flooring for the library, hallway, and offices; a higher wall to enhance the patio; and sails to provide shade to the patio and lengthen the time (time of year and time of day) when it's usable.

May God bless this willingness to invest financial resources in a future that is, after all, in God's hands.



## **PASTORAL TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE**

After gathering a lot of input from the congregation through in-person meetings, forums, and surveys, the Transition Team met to decide how to transfer all that information into a document called a Ministry Site Profile (MSP). After our discussions, Cathy Cermak, with help from Nancy DiFebbo and Pastor Carol, got all the information entered. Cathy clearly has a gift in this area! Thank you from the team!

After a final review and approval by the Church Council, our MSP went to the Grand Canyon Synod Bishop for approval, which it received quickly. Our MSP is now posted online, where prospective pastoral candidates can read it. With that, the Transition Team has finished its task.

If you would like to read the MSP, please get in touch with Nancy in the office, and she'll get a hard copy to you.



It was a privilege for the five of us to serve on the Transition Team and work on the profile. We are particularly grateful to Cathy Cermak and Pastor Carol for their particular skills.

Brigitte, Cathy, Barb, and Judy

## BOUNDARY ISSUES? LET'S TALK!

Do you ever feel like your life is out of control—too much to get done, too many people to please, things you want to do that you don't get to, things that sap your joy but seem unavoidable?

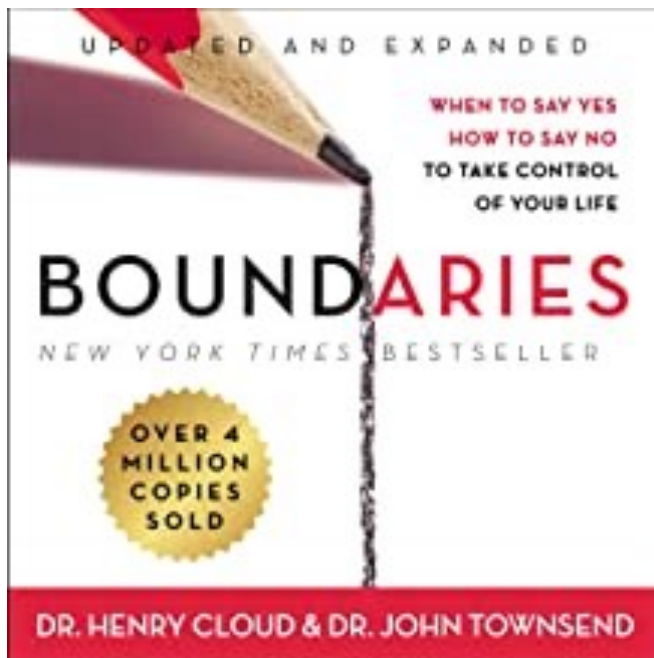
Lots of people struggle with personal issues and relationship issues that come down to questions of boundaries. Boundaries are the limits that define where we and our responsibilities stop and another person and their responsibilities begin.

We have two opportunities coming up to dig into the whole topic of boundaries, using the bestselling book *Boundaries: When to Say Yes and How to Say No to Take Control of Your Life* by Henry Cloud and John Townsend.

You can join in a book discussion group via Zoom, beginning Wednesday, May 11, at 7:00pm. To sign up for this group, please get in touch with Nancy in the office ([nancy@newspiritlutherantucson.org](mailto:nancy@newspiritlutherantucson.org) or 520-296-2461). She will give you the Zoom link.

In addition, this will be our Sunday morning adult discipleship opportunity beginning May 15. On Sundays, we'll watch brief videos to introduce content, then move into conversation. No need to read the book for the Sunday group.

*Boundaries* is available from Amazon and other booksellers. Be sure to get the 2017 updated and expanded edition. If buying the book is a financial hardship for you, please let Pastor Carol know ([carol@newspiritlutherantucson.org](mailto:carol@newspiritlutherantucson.org)).



## PASTOR FRED'S FINAL SUNDAY

Pastor Fred is coming to the end of his two-year commitment as an interim pastor for New Spirit. His final Sunday will be May 15.

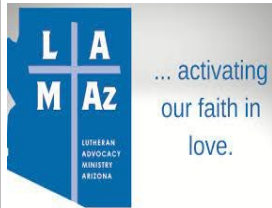
After a break of some weeks, you'll likely see Pastor Fred now and again when he comes to worship with Pastor Carol. But, after he leaves New Spirit, his work will be focused entirely on his non-profit, the Inside Out Network, which connects people leaving prison with service providers.

Please plan to be in worship on Sunday, May 15, to send Pastor Fred off with our blessings.



## Lutheran Advocacy Ministry News for May 2022

The two main focus areas for the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in AZ this year are hunger issues and civic engagement. By reading the LAMAz.org website on Tuesdays, we can become aware of various ways that we can be educated about those two issues as well as how to become involved.



Hunger issues are always concerns that are addressed every week on the website. Monthly ZOOM meetings, to which we are all welcomed to participate in, are presented online. Writing letters to our Congressional leaders, both national and state, encouraging them to support bills that would provide money for feeding our vulnerable populations is a viable option.

The AZ legislative body has bills regarding changes in voting laws that also may interest you. This website explains what the bills are about and the positions of the ELCA on these bills. You may contact your congressional representatives to inform them of your stance on any or all of these bills. You may also participate in the Right to Speak forum by commenting on line after going through the registration process with help from Solveig Muus, our director of LAMAz.

Barb Verthein

## UPCOMING MEMORIAL SERVICES:

The memorial service for Richard Hughes will be held here at church on Saturday, May 14, at 11:00am. Richard passed away March 18, 2020.

The memorial service for Paul Walton will be held here at church on Saturday, May 21, at 11:00am. Paul passed away April 10, 2022.



Maxine Nibbe passed away May 3, 2022. The memorial service will be held at a later date in Minnesota.



## HELP US KEEP KIDS HEALTHY AND HAPPY

School is almost out for the summer. Thank you to our "Blessings" volunteers who worked this school year to help feed **270** 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 \$130 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!

Contact the New Spirit church office or Laurie Bernard at [lbernard2008@hotmail.com](mailto:lbernard2008@hotmail.com)

### May Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

05/02 Stephen Lamb

05/06 Carol Massie

05/11 Becky Hedstrom

05/19 Kathleen Peterson



*Anniversaries  
and Birthdays*

05/20 Jamie Buglewicz  
Gloria Burke

05/25 Robert Daliege

05/30 Ramona Ihrke



## MONTHLY EVENT MOVING TO MORNINGS IN MAY SECOND SATURDAYS 9AM TO 11AM

The numbers of clients participating in our events is slowly picking back up to pre-pandemic attendance. Yay! We offer not only clothing and hygiene products, but a hot meal and packaged food to go. Visits from organizations now range from helping with complaints about law enforcement to housing and mental health help.

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

*IF YOU ARE A THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBER, PLEASE CONSIDER SPONSORING AN ACTION TEAM FOR HOMELESS BLESSINGS. WE WILL RECEIVE \$250 TO HELP TOWARD 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)

### Shout-Outs

***SHOUT OUT - To the Transition Team, Judy McFarland, Cathy Cermak, Barb Verthein, and Brigitte Stuetze, for their hard work.***



# 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](mailto:nancy@newspiritlutherantucson.org) to be placed in the newsletter by the 15th of each month. Thank you!

<p><b>Sundays:</b></p> <p>10:00 am Worship</p> <p>You can currently watch each week's message on YouTube.</p>	<p><b><i>How to contact us:</i></b></p> <p>New Spirit Lutheran Church 8701 E. Old Spanish Trail Tucson, AZ 85710</p> <p><b>Phone:</b> (520) 296-2461</p> <p><b>E-Mail:</b> <a href="mailto:NewSpiritLutheranTucson@yahoo.com">NewSpiritLutheranTucson@yahoo.com</a></p> <p><b>Website:</b> <a href="http://newspiritlutherantucson.org">newspiritlutherantucson.org</a></p>
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