

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

November 2019

Dear Partners in the Gospel,

It is November already, which means the end of the “Church year” is right around the corner. For the past 12 months we have been reading the Gospel according to Luke on Sundays. His Gospel is rich in detailed stories and parables. His theology points us toward the breadth of welcome, and the breadth of grace God has of all people. Luke is unique in that. Outsiders, women and children find a key role in Luke’s telling of Jesus’ ministry. The parables of the Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, and Prodigal Son are stories in grace’s inclusiveness.

I hope you have found your faith deepening through the Gospel readings from the past year.

November begins with our remembrance of those who have died, and now experience God’s gifts of mercy and grace in the feast that has no end. We have had a number of deaths this past year. These people both blest and supported the ministry of New Spirit for decades. Their absence now leaves a vacuum in some areas of our congregational life. Yet, in remembering them, we are doubly blessed. Look for their names in this newsletter.

November brings the presentation of New Spirit’s **2020 Operating Budget: Mission Plan**. We are hopeful to fund a much pared down budget. We are committed to supporting the greater Church through the Grand Canyon Synod, and the ELCA nationwide. The Gospel is vital for the world to come to that peace that comes through Jesus. Next month, we will be in the season of Advent, and we will hear God’s promise through Isaiah that the One to come will be known as “the Prince of Peace.” Have you ever thought that your weekly tithes to the ministry of New Spirit would foster a world at peace? It could, and will, if we are able to put that much trust in God’s providing.

Of course, God’s providing is the base of our Thanksgiving celebrations. That holiday feast is intended to connect our hearts and stomachs with the faithfulness of God toward us. Feasts will be held around the nation giving thanks for the abundance that we enjoy.

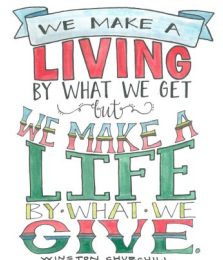
Imagine not being able to eat that feast. Imagine being held in custody while others decided whether your life, or the life of your children, is “worthy” of freedom. While most of us will gather with family, friends and a host of remembrances and plenty of food, here in Tucson and in Eloy close by hundreds of children are being held in custody apart from mom and dad. In Eloy, hundreds of moms and dads are being held as they escaped from the terror of gangs, soldiers and death squads in El Salvador and Nicaragua. There may well be thoughts and prayers of thanksgiving among those seeking refuge. But, wouldn’t being together with mom, dad and the kids be as joyful for them, as it will be for you as you sit down to feast on Thanksgiving? I believe your joy and their joy are the same.

Luke has guided our faith journey this year on Sundays. Jesus has taught us what it means to be a neighbor. What it means to be lost and then found. What it means to be persistent in pleading with God through prayer, action and intent.

It is November already. I encourage you to take a moment each day to reflect, before you get dragged into the scurry of the Holiday Season I call “Thanksmas!“. Try to be mindful each day of God’s providing and God’s call to justice and peace.

Prayerfully,

Pastor Alan



Town Hall Meeting to consider the Refugee Crisis

On October 6th 40+ people, not all members of New Spirit, gathered in the Fellowship Hall to talk about the ELCA's decision to become a "Sanctuary Church." Pastor Alan was unable to lead the discussion. The discussion was not to have been a partisan-political debate. It was intended to begin the conversation about being a welcoming community; understanding how the Theology of the Cross (Martin Luther) calls us to acts of justice for the least, the last, the little, and the lone. The discussion was to have had participants consider their Baptismal role in being the church of Jesus Christ. The discussion was to be the first of a series of gatherings to listen, to learn, and to understand the actions that we can make while not breaking any laws.

The Lutheran perspective of faithfulness is that we are called to "accompany those whose life and faith are in peril." Accompaniment does not drop a refugee at a distant bus stop and expect the penny-less, shoelace-less, non-English-speaking person to make their way to a court hearing in 8 days, 30 miles away. (Imagine if that was your plight in Laos, or Chile, or Rwanda, or Korea.) Hard to imagine? It is genuine for thousands of people, each a child of God as are we.

Christians have offered safety to people in need for 2,000 years. Three years ago the ELCA committed itself to a strategy called AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities) working with our faith partners in Central America to alleviate the conditions that cause people to migrate. In the U.S. the ELCA has a network of 151 welcoming and sanctuary congregations that are committed to working on migration issues while offering protection and advocacy for children. The ELCA has five Sanctuary Synods, all of which do work with immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

Just four years ago, the annual allotment for refugees into America was 1.4 million. Those persons went through the process of 22 security interviews, arranged sponsorship, and were given assistance to begin their journey to citizenship. Today, November 1st, that number has been reduced from 1,400,000 to 16,000 with threats to reduce legal immigration to 0 (zero).



Protection for the most vulnerable is why immigration work is important. Would "safety" be a high priority for you travelling with your children? Of course it would. Can't that same desire be held by frightened moms, terrified children, and hope-filled dads? Safety is a Christian ethic. Hospitality is a Christian ethic. Feeding the hungry is a Christian ethic.



"For all the saints, who from their labors rest...."

This year we give thanks to God for these our brothers and sisters in Christ:

Betty Ruckert

Dorothy Hybarger

Sue Gilmore

Verola Halvorson

Wes Mengert

Chieko Casey

Richard Fox

Miller Glanzer

Stan Horley

New Spirit Congregation Annual Meeting

The **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** will be held, **Sunday, December 8th at 4:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary.



The **Agenda** will include the election of Church Council members, the election of one Endowment Board member, the appointment of Audit Committee members and one Memorial Garden Columbarium Board member.

The **2020 Mission Plan – Operating Budget** will be presented for approval.

“Members in good standing” will need to sign-in upon arrival for the meeting. To be a “Member in Good Standing” one must have communed at least once in the past calendar year, and given a “gift of record” (your tithe, given in an offering envelope or direct deposit from your bank account). The list of members in Good Standing will be at the entrance to the Sanctuary. If your name does not appear on the list, that means the Office does not have a record of your attending worship or making an offering to support God’s ministry in this place.

Following the Annual Meeting the Youth of New Spirit will be serving dinner in the Fellowship Hall. This meal is a fund-raiser for them as they prepare to attend the 2021 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. The dinner is a Thrivent Action Team project. Your generous support will help defray the costs of airline tickets, hotel rooms and the participants’ food allowance.

The BISHOP is coming! The BISHOP is coming! The BISHOP is coming!!! On Sunday, November 24th, Bishop Deborah Hutterer will bring the message for Christ the King Sunday. Bishop Deborah is striving to be present in worship at every church in the Grand Canyon Synod in her first two years as Bishop. By November 24th she will have been to 50 congregations. Worship that day will be ONE SERVICE at 10:00 a.m. so all of New Spirit can experience the Bishop together. Mark your calendars. THE BISHOP IS COMING!!!



Epic Stories in the Bible has been taught by Pastor Alan since early September. Each Wednesday at 4:00 P.M. we have read the Bible stories we learned as kids, but now with adult ears. We read Noah and the Flood, Abraham and Sarah, Joshua and the Battle of Jericho, Gideon and the Amelakites, the book of Ruth, David & Goliath, David & Bathsheba..... In the coming weeks we will continue to read the **Epic Stories of the Bible**.

Hello everyone. Here's hoping you had a great summer. As we move into the fall season Terry Mysak and I are getting ready for yet another tax season. Every year for the past 13 years our volunteers have helped people save quite a bit of money getting their taxes done for free. Last year we did over 1000+ tax returns and it grows every year. The first year we did this we only did 70 returns! If you would like to be part of this ministry either as a tax preparer or a greeter we would love to have you. Classes for the tax preparers begin in January and we will open the first week of February. Our hours will be Thursdays and Fridays from 2:00PM – 6:00 PM and on Saturdays from 9:00AM-1:00PM. Please let me know if you are interested and I'll get you signed up. John Lukehart



Don't forget to save plastic bottle caps for free treatment for young cancer victims in Mexico. Save aluminum cans for the Youth and the tabs for Ronald McDonald house. Save box tops for education for the Navajo Mission School. Can tabs, box tops and bottle caps go in the drawers in the hallway in the Narthex.



Like music but never played an instrument? Can't read music? Grace Notes Handbell Choir is the place for you! We use a color code system. So come join us. Praise God with bell ringing! Call Gloria - 296-7834.

Watch the November notice for donation information to WELCA for the THANK OFFERING.

Thank you,
WELCA WOMENS' BIBLE STUDY GROUP



Thanksgiving Eve Communion Service will be celebrated Wednesday, November 27th at 6:30 p.m. This simple celebration will focus upon the goodness and generosity of God for all that we have. Despite the busy-ness of those days, plan to take 45 minutes to give thanks through prayer, Scripture, and Holy Communion, the first thanksgiving dinner.

November Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

11/01 Joel Carty

11/04 Cordelia Lundquist

11/06 Ana MacKay

11/07 Barbara Rebok

11/09 Mark Buglewicz
LaSandra Matthews



11/11 Edna Walton
Cathy Cermak

11/12 Craig Geiger

11/14 Caitlyn Friend

11/18 Virginia Gearhart

11/20 Nikole Garibay
Sharon Wedemeier

11/25 Barbara Carty

11/26 Victor & Cori Garibay
(Anniversary)



Thank you to all our “Blessings” volunteers who work so diligently to help feed **290** children from Erickson, Ford, Steele and Henry Elementary Schools, providing snack packs to take home on the weekend.

We rely on your generosity to purchase food for the snack packs we provide. Your donation of \$100 feeds 1 child every weekend for the entire school year. **MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILD THIS YEAR AS A CHRISTMAS GIFT IN YOUR LOVED ONE’S NAME.**

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***



FREE DINNER
You can Help!
Sign-up sheets in Narthex

THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS
Thursday, November 28th
11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
ARIZONA BEER HOUSE
150 S. Kolb Road

Contact NSLC Office or Laurie Bernard at
lbernard2008@hotmail.com



New Spirit hosted Open Space Church on Saturday, October 26th for a demonstration of mural painting.



Women's Ministry Group Minutes for October 2019

Women's Ministry Group (WELCA Bible Study Group) met on 9 October 2019 at 1:30 at the church.

Our bible study was Session two of "No Hard Feelings" the ache of grief. We explored stewardship of emotions, specifically grief, through biblical poetry, Psalms 25, 77 and 126 as well as Lamentations 2 and 5. Biblical poetry offers countless resources for liturgy, lament and hope for those who grieve, those who struggle to name their grief and those called to comfort the grieving.

The meeting opened by singing the hymn "How Long, O Lord".

Susan Armstrong led devotions on peace and edification; let us listen and be peacemakers, choose to be more like Jesus based on Romans 14:19 and 2 Peter 3:18. The word Goodbye means Go with God; God be with you.



September 2019 minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report was approved as presented. We will continue to purchase two extra subscriptions to Gather Magazine for new members or visitors for our bible study.

Thank Offering: Envelopes will be distributed during services to the women of New Spirit on November 10, 2019 and collected on November 17, 2019.

Sunshine Report: The list was reviewed and updated to add a few more names. Birthday, Get Well, and Thinking of you cards will be sent.

Least Coin Report: Our group donated \$50.00 for this project at the Tucson Church Women United celebration on October 5, 2019. Even though the local Tucson organization is disbanding the least coin project is continuing for the state Church Women United; our group has decided to continue collecting for this mission.

OLD BUSINESS:

Library organizing is nearing completion and the excess books will be donated.

Five of our members attended the Tucson's Church Women United last celebration on October 5, 2019. A brief history of the organization was presented followed by a light lunch. It was a sad but also a joyous time knowing that this organization has been instrumental in getting several programs started and the members are looking forward to new missions that God has planned for them.

Discussions need to be scheduled for our responsibilities for devotions and the mixer for the 2020 Vision Sunrise Santa Cruz Conference to be held in Sierra Vista on March 7, 2020. Theme: The Greatest is Love; Verse: 1st Corinthians 13:13; Song: Jesus Loves Me.

NEW BUSINESS:

Both of our church kitchens are in dire need of cleaning and organizing. Our group has agreed to take the lead for this project with the help of other church members. Susan Armstrong will write an article for the newsletter and post a signup sheet for workers on the bulletin board.

Gloria Burke will provide the name of the new head of the Campus Ministry. It was suggested that this person be a speaker when we host our women's get together at New Spirit.

Next meeting will be held on November 13, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. at the church. Sandy Cooper will present the devotions; Gloria Burke will do the music; and Joyce Dow will lead the lesson.

Linda Lamb – Secretary

New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85710



Shout-Outs



SHOUT OUT- Hospitality Team for October

SHOUT OUT- The October workday crew.

SHOUT OUT- The Volunteers who helped with Oktoberfest.

SHOUT OUT- The Volunteers who helped with Trunk or Treat.

SHOUT OUT- to Shelley Colwell, Laurie

Bernard, Terry Wolfe, Jenny Kwapich, Naida

Granmo, Ellie Thompson and Renee Geiger for their contribution to prepare and deliver meals to the Linderkamps as part of the Meals From the Heart Ministry.

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: 4:00 pm Classes

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