

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.*

November 2021

THE ROAD AHEAD

Sisters and brothers in Christ at New Spirit,

What's the future of our congregation? Well, with our Growing Season plans we have a vision of a vibrant, growing church with members of all ages that has a significant impact on the community around us both through our sharing of the Good News of Jesus and through acts of loving service to neighbors in need.

It's hard to believe that God wants something different for us. But it can also be hard to see how we get from here to there.

The title of a book by pastor, writer, and Bible translator Eugene Peterson comes to mind: *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*. The idea is to stay in touch with God and to continue to follow, step-by-step, where God is calling us. Another way to put it would be: Just keep doing the next right thing, as best you can discern it. If something is working, keep it up. If something is dragging you down, reconsider it.

I look at the number of people from outside our congregation who came for Trunk or Treat. Of the many who came (see article on p. 3), 17 families were moved to share their contact information with us so that we can follow up. They asked for information on Sunday school, adult classes, spiritual growth coaching, and worship.

How did this happen? It happened because our folks put themselves in a position for God to speak to people from the neighborhood through them. What will grow from the seeds that were planted on October 30? We don't know, just as we don't know how God is using a conversation with a homeless person at Homeless Blessings, a package of food sent through Blessings in a Backpack, or your offer to pray with a friend who's struggling.

In any given situation, with any given opportunity, the Holy Spirit at work within us might give us a nudge, a sense that there's an obedient act to be done or word to be spoken. One by one, step by step, if we obey the nudge, God will use that to accomplish his plans.

A "long obedience in the same direction" can bring us to a place from which we can look back and see how far we've come ... and how God has walked with us all along the way.

Let's keep our eyes focused forward and take the next step, and then the next after that, in the direction our Lord is leading us.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Carol



From the
Pastor

A FEW VISIBLE CHANGES AT NEW SPIRIT

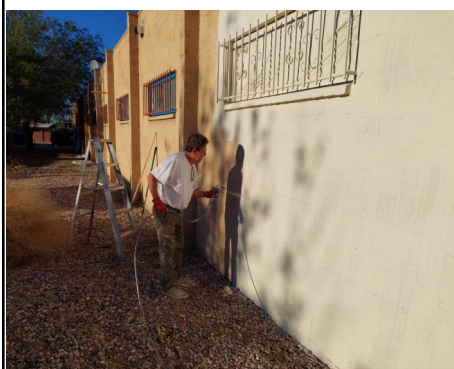
Before you even come through the doors, you'll see some significant changes at New Spirit. Many, many bags' worth of weeds are gone from our grounds thanks to diligent and persistent efforts by members. And the exterior walls of the church are a bright new shade of white, thanks to Dennis Alcock and Ken Dobbs.

Another exterior change, but one you're less likely to notice, is a brand-new air-conditioning unit on the roof of the Fellowship Hall.

Inside, notice fresh paint on many interior walls—again, thanks to Dennis and Ken—and a new drinking fountain/water bottle-filler replacing the older one that had stopped working. Go a little farther, into the kitchen, and see a new fridge as well.

Things age and things break, and we are blessed to have the means to remedy those situations and the people to handle and/or oversee the work that that entails.

Thanks to all involved!



PASTOR ALAN FIELD RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

Pastor Alan Field retired from New Spirit Lutheran Church in May, 2020, after 19 years of ministry here. Because of the COVID shutdown, we were unable to have a proper farewell for him at that time. October 31, 2021, turned out to be a wonderful day for finally celebrating Pastor Alan as he preached and presided at worship for one last time.



Pastor Alan also confirmed Ethan Rettig, whose ceremony was also delayed by COVID.

Following a joyful worship service, we had lunch on the patio under a big tent, with Mexican food and cake.

One thing remains to be done to complete Pastor Alan's farewell. We have a Memory Book out on a table in the church entryway for everyone to record a favorite memory of Pastor Alan's time at New Spirit. We'll also attempt to give our homebound members a chance to write something. When everyone's had the opportunity to share a memory, we'll send the book to Pastor Alan.



We pray many blessings on Pastor Alan in retirement. We know that he will continue to be a blessing to everyone around him.





TRANSITIONS

Rebecca Boswood, Henry Kwapich, Sarah Marvil, Evangeline Morales, and Dominick West joined in Holy Communion for the first time on October 17.

Ethan Rettig was confirmed through the rite of Affirmation of Baptism on October 31.

COMMUNITY FORUM AND GUEST PREACHER

On Sunday, November 14, we'll welcome as a guest preacher Deacon Janice Zimbelman. Deacon Janice is a transition coach provided for New Spirit by the Grand Canyon Synod to help guide us through our transition to a new pastor. After worship, at a community forum, Deacon Janice will lay out the transition process for us and answer any questions you many have.

Thanks in advance to Deacon Janice for making the trip to Tucson from her home in Prescott and for her valuable support as we enter into the next stage of transition.



**Guest
Preacher**

ADVENT HOPE



The church year is a little different from the calendar year. It begins with the season of Advent starting, this year, on November 28. Advent is a time of anticipation as we remember Israel's period of waiting for the birth of the Messiah and also focus on our own waiting for the Messiah's return, the Second Coming of Christ.

Since Christian waiting is always hopeful waiting, hope is the theme of Advent. This year, our message series for the Sundays of Advent will be "How to Hope." May this season be a time of renewal and refocus for you as we anticipate the joyful celebration of Christmas.

TRUNK OR TREAT

We gave neighborhood families quite a scare—along with plenty of candy, hot dogs, and a devotional book for kids—at our annual Trunk or Treat extravaganza on October 30. An estimated 400 people came to our parking lot, some 250 hot dogs were served, and 17 families shared their contact info with us so that we can follow up and invite them to be part of other things we're doing and, if it's the right place for them, part of our community.



A huge thanks to Karen Colwell for organizing and advertising this very successful event. And a big thanks to everyone who participated, from donating candy to wearing costumes and decorating cars, to cooking hot dogs and warmly welcoming our guests.



This holiday season **we are joining LSS-SW in collecting 1,000 new queen-size bedsheet sets** for older adults and people with disabilities. Any abundance of donated sheets will be distributed to people in need across our programs, including people exiting homelessness, new refugee arrivals, and children in foster care. Your gift of NEW sheets preserves the dignity and respect of our neighbors.

There is a holiday wrapped box in the narthex for your donations. No need to wrap them, just drop and go! Please have all sheet sets to the church *no later than Sunday, December 5*, to ensure we can get them to LSS-SW in plenty of time!

We appreciate your generosity and the community efforts New Spirit members continue to provide. God's love and peace be yours!!

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

As part of "God's Work Our Hands" and Tucson Days of Caring, New Spirit gathered over 40 lbs of fresh produce, donated even more non-perishable food items, and gave over \$350 to Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest for Afghan refugees. Thirty "Welcome!" signs were created in various languages after worship on October 24, and cards were written to both Afghan adults and children. The food was immediately used to stock the pantries of 9 families who had just arrived in Tucson. In the next months, nearly 150 families and individuals will resettle in Tucson. LSS-SW greatly thanked the members of New Spirit and described the donation as "incredible": "This will make our families so happy!" Thank you all for your generosity and your continuing support of LSS-SW.



NAME TAGS

THANK YOU, THANK YOU for making an effort to wear your name tag **each** Sunday! We're asking visitors to make themselves a name tag at the WELCOME stand so others can greet them and call them by name – and if *members* wear their name tags, visitors will feel less conspicuous and will get to know *you* by name! Greeters may remind you at the door – but how much easier it will be if you make the name tag part of your Sunday ensemble! The Evangelism Team and the visitors thank you for your help!

Carol Debis-Harrell



LAMA News

Last summer after participating in a letter writing campaign that was sponsored by the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of AZ, we were encouraged to sign up for the LAMA newsletter, which is usually online weekly. You may access the website by signing on to the URL, LAMAz.org. Instructions to sign up for weekly newsletters are on the website.

The website will introduce you to the many activities that the ELCA is involved in that advocate for justice in the world as well as here in Arizona. On occasion, you may be asked to write or sign letters to our AZ senators. A recent letter was for the purpose of asking Senator Sinema to support an agricultural and nutrition program.

Other activities have included reading books and participating in discussions of these books through online participation.

The Arizona Faith Network offers a Social Justice Commission that meets monthly via Zoom. All are welcome to join this group.

Lutheran Advocacy Day at the Legislature in Phoenix will be held on Feb. 2, 2022. Lutherans from across the state will be meeting to discuss justice and peace issues in the world.

Only a few of the many activities are listed here for you to consider and to learn more about. Sign on to the LAMAz.org website for more indepth information on activities and/or events that might interest you. It is an excellent way to learn about the many ways Lutherans are helping to spread the good news of the Gospel.



Barbara Verthein

MEDICAL LOAN CHEST

We wanted to update everyone on some changes we have made over the past year for the Medical Loan Chest. Currently we take the following equipment: wheelchairs, 4-wheel walkers, bedside commodes, tub transfer benches, and shower chairs. Anything else, we refer people to World Care or Southwest Medical Aid. If anyone has diapers to donate, please send them to Southern Arizona Diaper Bank. We are asking you check with the office if you have something that you want to donate before putting it in the loan chest room. If you or anyone you know is in need of any of these items or someone inquires with you, please have them call Nancy in the office at 520-296-2461 or email: nancy@newspiritlutherantucson.org. Thank you.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY GROUP MINUTES

Women's Ministry Group (WELCA Bible Study Group) met at 1:30 on October 13, 2021, at the church.

September 2021, minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's report was approved as presented.

Our Bible study was session two of "The gift of the Spirit: A divine wild goose chase." Barbara Rebok presented scenarios then asking "What Would You Do," such as, a clerk gave you more change than was owed. This led to interesting discussions and gave us a way to grow in the knowledge of ourselves and to deepen our connection with others and with the Holy Spirit.

Old Business: We assembled Christmas cards to be mailed. We will be sending letters to each household for the November WELCA thank offering.

New Business: We will finalize the November WELCA thank offering letters and mailing.

Dates to Remember: November 6, 2021 – 30th Grand Canyon Women's Virtual Convention via Zoom. The week of September 18, 2023 – Triennial in Phoenix.

Our next meeting will be held on November 10, 2021, at 1:30, at the church. Sandy Cooper will lead devotions.

Linda Lamb – Secretary



Shout-Outs



SHOUT OUT - To Sharon Dobbs for being here every week to help put together the bulletins for service.

SHOUT OUT - To Judy McFarland, Deloris Hanneman, Nancy Cunningham, and Sharon Dobbs for counting and making up bank deposits.

November Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

11/04 Cordelia Lundquist

11/12 Craig Geiger

11/06 Ana MacKay

11/17 Monica Fuller

11/07 Barbara Rebok

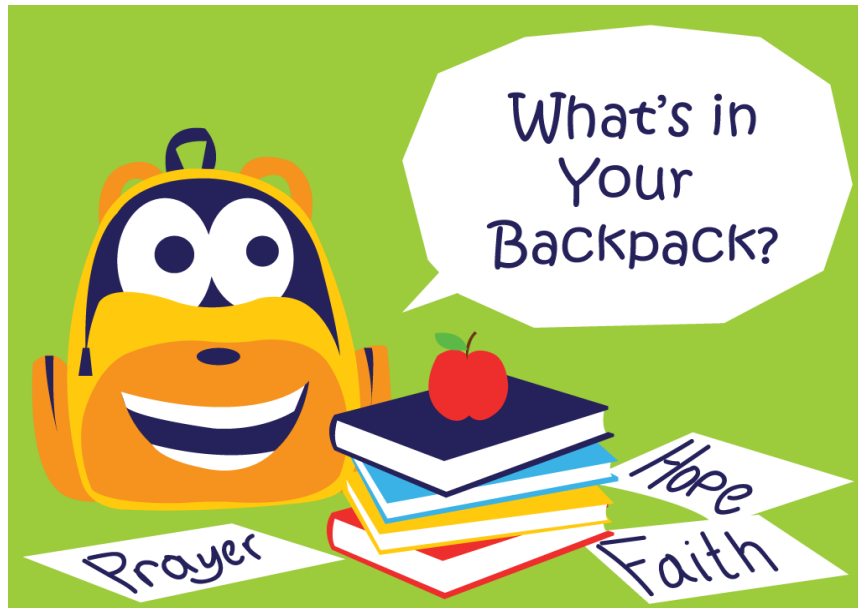
11/20 Nikole Garibay

11/09 Mark Buglewicz

11/26 Victor & Cori Garibay
(Anniversary)

11/11 Edna Walton
Cathy Cermak





AND FOOD FOR THE WEEKEND!!!!

Purchase your Jim Click Ford raffle tickets for a chance to win a 2021 Ford Bronco Sport! All proceeds stay with our program here at New Spirit. Please see the church office for tickets.

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!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN FEEDING 280 CHILDREN EACH WEEKEND!

Contact the New Spirit church office or Laurie Bernard at lbernard2008@hotmail.com



HELPING THE HOMELESS CITY-WIDE

Marty and Laurie participated in "Hope in the Park" sponsored by Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness at Santa Rita Park on Friday, October 29. Included in the event were providers for medical, dental, legal, birth certificates, identification cards/driver's licenses, Social Security, housing, drug/alcohol counseling, and more.

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 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

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!

Sundays: 10:00 am Worship You can currently watch each week's message on YouTube.	<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
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