

That's The Spirit!

Rev. Greg Hartman,
Pastor

New Spirit Lutheran Church
*Our faith is in Jesus.
Our hope is in grace.
Our strength is in love.*

November 2022

Dear Partners,

We have entered into the final months of the year. These final months can be a time of stress, joy, generosity, and sorrow. Here at New Spirit our time of Reformation is continuing. We are planning new ministry opportunities, strengthening our current ministries, and looking forward to the coming year.

In preparation for the coming year, we are also focusing on generosity this month. New Spirit Lutheran church is a generous congregation, one place we can see that is the 12,800 Blessings in a Backpack that we give out annually. I have seen generosity on Sunday mornings at the fellowship hour. Generosity was seen at our annual Trunk or Treat event. I could fill this newsletter with places that I have seen you showing each other and the community abundant generosity.

The ministry of New Spirit would not be possible without you, the Holy Spirit and the resources that you provide. On November 20th, we will have our Commitment Sunday. We will commit to being a community where generosity is abundant. We will also commit to supporting the ministry of New Spirit financially. The Budget and Finance committee has been hard at work creating a budget that can allow the ministry of New Spirit to continue and even grow. While the budget helps us identify those things that are important and provides guidance, it means nothing unless we as a community commit to supporting it financially. Your tithes and gifts are the majority of what supports the annual budget.

It is through your gifts of time, talents, and money that New Spirit is able to make the difference we are called to as followers of Jesus. When Jesus talks about giving in the scriptures it is from a stand point of abundance. God has given to us abundantly and we are called to give out of that abundance. So, as we approach Commitment Sunday, let us ask ourselves how we are going to give out of the abundance of what God has first given to us.

November Prayer Challenge Prayer :

Lord, I pray for New Spirit Lutheran Church. We have much to be thankful for as individuals and as a community of faith. Thank you for the blessings we have received. Send your Holy Spirit to guide us in all that we do. We ask that you continue to establish a community rooted in your abundance and in gratitude. We ask all this in your most holy name. Amen

Pastor Hartman

Pastor's Page

Make My Life an Offering By Cathy Cermak

I've had thoughts of late about our bodies being temples of God, which means they are divine and meant to be offered up to God. I don't normally think of my body or my life in that way. But if I take this temple thing seriously, then I believe it includes not only how I care for my body, but also how I care for my thoughts and intentions, how I attend to what's in my heart, how I care for my relationships, how I care for my actions, how I care for and use the skills and talents God has given me, how I care for and use all of the many resources God has lavished on me, etc. In other words, *everything I have and am* are from God and belong to God. *I am meant to be an offering.* My life is not about me, it's all about God!

I ran across the lyrics to a song by Rev. Brenton Prigge, called Talents, which sums it up beautifully. Regrettably, I cannot find the music to it or even a way to contact him to get it! I love the lyrics so much; I wish we could sing them! I hope the lyrics resonate with you, too.

Talents

Verse 1

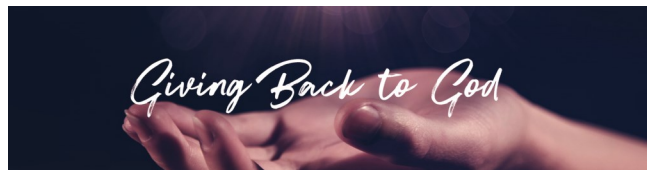
I may have less, you may have more
That's not the point
Brighter smarter richer poorer
That's not the point
This is not a competition
But to each a gift is given
When the gift is used not hidden
That, that's the point

Verse 2

Have we done enough for heaven
That's not the point
Guilt and fear of retribution
That's not the point
*It's about the way we cherish
All the countless gifts God gives us
When they change the way we live, yes
That's, that's the point*

Verse 3

Do we give as we're receiving
That, that's the point
Do we live the life God's breathing
That, that's the point
Do we add or take away from
All the lives that our lives touch on
Are we adding to the Kingdom
That, that's the point



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"Holiday Pajama Drive" Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest will be collecting "New Adult Pajamas" for home-bound seniors this Christmas. We will have a box in the Narthex soon. Your gift of a pair of new pajamas (sizes M - XXL) will surely be a blessing for our seniors at home. Donations are due by Nov. 30.

Women's Ministry Group

Women's Ministry Group (WELCA Bible Study Group) met at 1:30 on October 12, 2022, at the church.

Our Bible Study was Session Two of Jesus and Nature: Teachers of Faith. This study explored moments from the very beginning, when God formed the first human from the earth to the times that Jesus taught people about the Parable of the Sower and the Parable about the Fig Tree. Scripture reminds us of our kinship with soil and how necessary healthy soil is for growth (both in the biological and the biblical sense). Through all this, we will pay attention not only to the environment in which Jesus lived, but to the ground and soil upon which we live and depend.

Sandy Cooper led devotions. Guard and nurture our hearts. If we become less enthusiastic and diligent and are receiving messages that lead us away from God, we should feed our hearts with prayer every day.



Sandra Colwell reported that the Sunday School is putting together first aid kits to hand out to the homeless.

Details were finalized for the Quilting Bee Tea, October 22, 2022.

The Sunrise Santa Cruz Conference name has been changed to Kino Conference. Our group has decided that we will participate in this conference.

In December we will deliver Poinsettias to our former active members that can no longer attend the meetings.

Date to Remember: Kino Conference to be held at Desert Hills of Green Valley in March 2023. The week of September 18, 2023 – Triennial in Phoenix.

Our next meeting will be held on November 9, 2022, at 1:30, at the church.

Linda Lamb – Secretary

WOMEN OF THE ELCA THANKOFFERING

Thankoffering



"... gifts from individuals in gratitude for blessings."
— Women of the ELCA Constitution

Did you know that the concept of Thankoffering celebrations dates back more than 100 years and beyond Lutherans? Thankofferings show gratitude for God's blessings and give us an important and tangible way to express that gratitude. It is a tradition grounded in our celebration of community, of meeting together to joyfully give thanks for what God has given us.

The founders of Women of the ELCA decided back in 1988 that Thankofferings are to support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization.

Our Women's ministry group will be collecting Thankofferings on Sunday, Nov. 20. Please make sure that you mark your contribution Thankoffering.



BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Who will feed the kids this weekend?

As the new school year progresses, we are adding even more hungry children. Our count is now 320 from Erickson, Ford, Steele, and Henry Elementary Schools, providing snack packs to take home on the weekend, up from 308 last month. We provide weekend snacks for almost 40% of the students at one of our schools. As you can see, the need is great.

The Blessings Team will be hosting a special packing event on November 6th during Fellowship Hour after church service. Join us in packing and help us feed our 320 students for the weekend!

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.**

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, delivery, and gardening.**

There is a sign up sheet in the hall near the mail slots. Packing is done on Tuesdays from 8:00 to 9:30 AM. We work best with 6-8 people packing. Deliveries are done in the mornings after packing (if you want to help deliver, you can pick the day you are available).

Contact Laurie Bernard at lbernard2008@hotmail.com with questions.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THIS MINISTRY

November Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

11/04 Cordelia Lundquist

11/06 Doug Butler

11/07 Barbara Rebok



11/11 Edna Walton
Cathy Cermak

11/12 Craig Geiger

11/17 Monica Fuller
Pastor Hartman

HOMELESS BLESSINGS

JOIN US THE 2ND SATURDAY OF EVERY
MONTH
OCTOBER THRU APRIL 1PM TO 3PM

SOME PETS ARE HOMELESS TOO
WE NOW COLLECT OLD TOWELS AND BEDDING
FOR
THE PIMA ANIMAL CARE CENTER



A good hot meal is always welcome at our monthly event. Winter hours are here, so we switch from breakfast to lunch. We are starting to see some new faces and familiar ones coming back as the word gets out. The Office of the Police Examiner, Hope, and Old Pueblo Community Services regularly attend to help any clients needing housing, intervention, or other help.

We will be serving a Thanksgiving meal during our event on November 12th. If you would like to contribute to our meal, please let us know. The usual fare - turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, green bean casserole or other veggie, rolls, cranberry sauce, and pie.

A few of our clients are bringing their pet companions to our monthly events, so we are now providing some dog food and treats. Also, as a bonus, we collect old towels and bedding for Pima Animal Care Center.

Cold nights are upon us. If you have clothing, shoes, socks, or blankets/sleeping bags, we sure would like you to drop them off at the church. As the weather gets cooler, we need jackets, hats, and gloves. We are always in need of shoes. We can always use monetary contributions to help pay for new underwear, hygiene products, flashlights, backpacks, batteries, tarps, and now dog food!

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 all the volunteers who helped make "Trunk or Treat" a successful event.

SHOUT OUT - To John Lukecart for cleaning up after the "Trunk or Treat" event.

SHOUT OUT - To all the volunteers who serve on Sunday's month after month.



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.

How to contact us:

New Spirit Lutheran Church
8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85710

Phone: (520) 296-2461

E-Mail: NewSpiritLutheranTucson@yahoo.com

Website: newspiritlutherantucson.org