

That's The Spirit!

Rev. Alan Field

New Spirit Lutheran Church

October 2017

Our faith is in Jesus.

Our hope is in grace.

Our strength is in love.

Dear Partners on the journey,

Five hundred years ago.... is hard to imagine in our instant Facebook, Instagram world. Five hundred years ago, without the benefits of Eyewitness News, telephones, telegraph, or express mail a movement began which would change the world.

It was a grassroots movement of ordinary people and village priests challenging the abuse of power by those who sat in the seats of power far separated from the realities of everyday life. From the halls of gold and marble, church leaders became less concerned for the ills of the world, and more concerned with creating a piece of heaven on earth, made of marble, gold, and Michelangelo frescoes.

It was hard to see Jesus of the Gospels to be insisting on such grand palaces. And that is what moved Martin Luther to take his stand. His was a stand for the faith, and against the lure of power and wealth. His was a stand for the just treatment of common-folk and against the oppressive treatment of the wealthy upon the poor. His was a stand for confident trust in the promises of God through Jesus Christ, experienced in grace and mercy, and against the insistence of Rome to obey papal encyclicals.

The Reformation movement arose across Europe as the church, not led by the Pope in Rome but by local priests and pastors, would change civic life into what we know today. The "products" of the Reformation include the public school system, hospitals and nursing homes, public libraries, representative government at a local level, the rights of free speech, to peacefully demonstrate, and the beginnings of democratization bringing the voting process to villages and towns.

The Reformation broadened the faith-based teachings of the Church. Martin Luther was a Biblical scholar, and his desire was for his parishioners to read and know God's word. That was a very low expectation of the Roman Church, preferring to give the "role and authority of God" to the Pope as the primary "teacher and preacher."

From the Reformation many expressions of Christianity took shape, each focusing various aspects of God's revelation in Scripture. For Luther, grace was the focal pivot, "...we have been saved by grace, through faith."

For John Calvin, the references to the "Book of Life" in the Revelation gave him the notion that our salvation is "pre-destined" since it has already been written in the Book of Life. Predestination is not the sole foundation of the movement that would become known to us as the Presbyterians.

For Ulrich Zwingli, the focal point was baptism as the individuals public proclamation of their inner faith. The Anabaptist movement became a popular and strong movement in Europe. Anabaptists held to the literal translation of Scripture, and stressed personal conversion experiences as "proof of the faith." Anabaptists would become Baptists, Church of God in Christ, and many evangelical expressions.

The odd thing is that Martin Luther loved the Roman Church. His encouragement was for the Church to hear his concerns and commit to renewal. His desire was never to be the founder of the Lutheran Church. He longed for unity in the Gospel, a desire that we continue to pray for.

It is this tradition that has led us to 2017, as a church concerned for justice for all people, compassion for the poor and infirmed, and a commitment to deepen our faith in worship, prayer and diligent study of the scripture which Luther referred to as "the Living Word of God."

What marks this observance is the relationship that has been built with the Roman Church over the past 60 years. Our two churches are working closely on reconciliation in matters of faith on which we have agreement. Pope Francis will be present in Germany on October 31st to exhibit the Vatican's commitment to acknowledge much of what Martin Luther stood for was, indeed, correct. While this is historic, no, we will not be joining the Roman Catholic Church, nor they becoming Lutheran.

On October 29th New Spirit will celebrate Reformation Sunday. On October 31st watch for worldwide rites of worship in remembrance of the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther taking a stand for change.

Pastor Alan

Letter
from our
Pastor



ELCA National Youth Gathering “This Changes Everything” will be taking place in Houston, Texas, June 27- July 1. Our confirmation youth will be attending. Registrations are due now. We will be joining 40,000 ELCA youth and adults for five days of worship, learning, music, and service. Why Houston?

We had two Gatherings in New Orleans post-Katrina. For three days, 15,000 youth and adults in bright orange t-shirts set out to clean, paint, build, decorate, and share our spirit with the people of New Orleans. The people were so impressed by the “orange hordes” they invited us back. So three years later we returned! It was amazing.

Now post-Harvey for three days 15,000 ELCA youth and adults will set out to build, clean up, paint, decorate, and share our spirit with the people of Houston.

The Youth will be holding two fundraisers to help alleviate the \$1000 cost per person.



In Memory....Ray Schafer died on his 86th birthday following a long journey with congestive heart failure. Ray’s life was celebrated at New Spirit on September 30th. Ray served at New Spirit by volunteering in the Food Bank, and he built some of our faith-chests that we give at Baptisms. We celebrated his life with a Barbershop Quartet, and his favorite hymn, the Navy Hymn, “Eternal Father, Strong to Save.” Remember Lis Schafer in your prayers.

It is time for Trunk or Treat

We are collecting candy and treats for this year’s ***Trunk or Treat on Halloween, Tuesday, October 31st***. This year’s hours will be ***5:30 – 7:30 p.m.***



We are hoping to have 25 cars this year to support our neighborhood children. Please sign-up on the magnet board.

Parents always thank us for doing this safe and welcoming event for their kids.

Live Generously. Generosity is one of the Spiritual Gifts that Paul identifies in his letter to the Galatians. This Spiritual Gift finds its roots in the “abundance mentality.” People who live with an abundance-mentality know with certainty that they have enough to be able to share with others, generously.

Who is the most-generous person in your life? How have they gotten to that place in their lives? Consider asking them. You might learn something powerful about faith and confidence.

This year we are focusing the call to “**Live Generously**”. Throughout October we will be reminded of how generous God has been to us, and we will consider how God now calls us to live generously in our support of the mission and ministry of Christ’s church at New Spirit.

November 5th will be Commitment Sunday and we will be asking you to increase your giving (your tithe) to the ministry of New Spirit for 2018. The economy is strong. Cost of living raises are in order. Utilities have been moderate. We have been extremely responsible in the use of your dollars as we implement the program ministry of New Spirit.



You can help us reach our 2018 Venture Budget by increasing your giving over this year’s by \$3 per week. That amount will enable us to complete everything on our priority-list for 2018.

Looking for a few good men and women

Our Mission Faire, under the leadership of our council, was fun. A lot of you stayed and joined in the festivities of good food, music and information. The representation of what we do here at New Spirit was overwhelming. The conversations among yourselves was contagious BUT, your commitment to assist us in our work was minimal. We cannot survive for long here and do what we are meant to do as the church without your support. Support comes in many ways. Yes, financial! Our finances cover the salaries and all the running of our building and services. It also supports the Synod as well as the ELCA Worldwide!

And if we had all the money in the world, we couldn't exist without the helping hands of the people.

Despite the warm fuzzies of the Mission Faire, we did NOT recruit sufficient amount of help for our various teams. Much of the work has been done by a few dedicated individuals. They will burn out! We need YOU! God has blessed us here at this corner and continues to do so. Thank Him by helping others see how He has blessed them as well. Say YES to the call or invitation to join a team. It's a great opportunity to build community. A listing of the teams are within this newsletter. Please see insert!

Brigitte Stuetze

"Lutheran Night" at the Tucson Roadrunners Hockey Game

Continuing the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, the Tucson Roadrunners are hosting a **"Lutheran Night" on Friday, November 10th, Martin Luther's birthday.** Tickets are \$24/person.



The first 300 to register will receive a **Martin Luther bobblehead doll**, fetching \$25 on Ebay these days. Reservations are limited to congregation groups. So, we will **close registration** for tickets on **October 15th. All money must be in that day. No late registrations. No cancellations.** Make checks payable to New Spirit with hockey tickets in the memo line.



The Search for a Synod Bishop

As many of you know, Bishop Steve Talmage resigned a year early to take the call as Pastor of Love of Christ Church in East Mesa. **Rev. Lowell Almen**, former Secretary of the ELCA, has been named our interim-Bishop. Rev. Almen will be meeting with Tucson clergy and congregational leaders to discuss our perception of the needs of the Grand Canyon Synod. That meeting in Tucson will be

Saturday, October 22nd, from 9-11 a.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church near the UofA campus. Council officers are encouraged to attend. If you'd like to attend, space is limited, please talk with Brigitte Stuetze.

Some of our folks have new addresses:

Joyce Dow:

250 N. Maguire Ave. #225
Tucson, AZ 85710

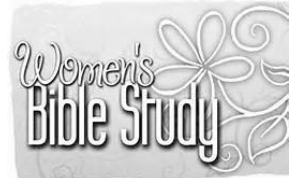
Paul Blomquist:

Atria Bell Court Garden
6653 E. Carondelet Rm. 116
Tucson, AZ 85710

You Are Invited to a Chili and Cornbread Supper following the Annual Meeting on **December 10, 2017 .**

Encourage New Spirit youth as they look forward to this once-in-a-lifetime experience, National Youth Gathering in Houston in June, 2018.

Deborah's Gathering will meet October 11th in room 105. Once again we will gather for singing, Bible study and discussing how we can help in the community. Last month we sent 8 lbs. of tabs from aluminum cans to Ronald Mc Donald House and a large amount of Box Tops for Education to the Navajo Mission School at Rock Point, AZ. Please notice that the box tops have an expiration date on them so bring them in some time before that. Also, please trim the labels. If they are not trimmed Sue has to do it and if we mail without trimming, the postage costs more. Save plastic caps from bottles and 1,000 of them will help get cancer treatments for children in Mexico. Put those items in the proper container in the drawers in the Narthex. Remember-save the aluminum cans for the youth projects and the tabs for Ronald Mc Donald House. Copies of our magazine GATHER are also in the narthex. The articles are not just Bible study but good studies for us in our everyday life. We sent \$150 of our project fund to Lutheran Disaster fund. We will be doing more study of the Apostles' Creed-I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST. LEADERS - BIBLE STUDY: MARILYN STOECKIG; DEVOTIONS: LINDA LAMB; MUSIC LEADERS: GLORIA BURKE AND SANDY COOPER; SUNSHINE CHAIRMAN(SENDING NOTES TO PEOPLE WHO ARE ILL): MARILYN LINDERKAMP. Join us at 3:15 and then go to church supper at 5:30. Gloria Burke, Secretary



TALENTS-Have you discovered all the talents God has given you? Music may be one of them! Join the Son-Shine Singers to praise God with your voice at the Traditions service at 11 a.m. Call Sandy Cooper for information. If you think you can't sing, Grace Notes Handbell/chime choir could be just the place for you. Music reading is not needed. We use color coding and help you with the counting. 3/4 of the recent choir started out not reading music. But they love to PRAISE GOD WITH BELL RINGING. Questions-call Gloria Burke

THRIVENT-Form an action team and raise funds for a special project. One of our members has formed an action team and will be helping a teachers' sorority to raise funds for an event called Walk in the Park. New items such as socks and gloves will be purchased for the event in December. GLORIA BURKE



BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Our team is privileged to be accepted as part of the 2017 Jim Click Raffle "Millions for Tucson". We are selling tickets for a chance to win a 2017 Ford Explorer Platinum. All of the proceeds from our ticket sales will go into our Blessings in a Backpack fund. Contact Laurie Bernard, Cathy Cermak or any team member for more information.

God is working through New Spirit and making a difference in our community and the lives of 222 children and their families.

For regular contributions, please make your tax deductible check out 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, and delivery.** Contact Laurie Bernard at lbernard2008@hotmail.com

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



HOMELESS BLESSINGS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH 1-3 P.M.

Want to help? Contact NSLC Office or
Laurie Bernard at 886-3242 or lbernard2008@hotmail.com

PLEASE DONATE:

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CLOTHING
SHOES AND SOCKS
AA AND AAA BATTERIES
TOWELS AND WASHCLOTHS
FULL SIZE SHAMPOO, LOTION, TOOTHPASTE, DEODORANT
RAZORS, COMBS, BRUSHES
PEANUT BUTTER, CANNED MEATS
PROTEIN DRINKS

Amber Jindrick will be hosting a flu shot clinic November 5th between services. It is free but we need at least 25 people to sign-up. Sign-ups will be on the magnet board in the Narthex.



October Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations



10/02 Jakob Rettig

10/14 Sue Gilmore

10/20 Valerie Friend
Mark & Jamie Buglewicz
(Anniversary)

10/04 Mary Lou Rex
Robert & Nancy Daliege
(Anniversary)

10/15 Mary Henkle

10/24 Judy McFarland

10/05 Guimei Jorgensen

10/18 Marlene Hansen

10/27 Carol Hughes

10/19 Sharon Dobbs

I was born in Oxnard, California in 1958. I am the oldest of four children. I have one brother and two sisters.

My parents were members of a Lutheran church in East Lansing, MI, where my father ran the dairy farm at Michigan State University. Every Sunday morning our family put on their "Sunday best" and went to church and Sunday school. My parents were very active in the church and our family was close friends with the pastor and his family. My early childhood memories of Jesus were of him in a long flowing robe and sandals, sitting under a tree with children and animals in his lap and surrounded by a crowd. Christmas always involved an Advent wreath on the dining room table and taking turns reading from the Bible. My siblings and I received an allowance every month, and part of that money was required to be added to the collection plate at church.

In 1972, my parents moved our family to Tucson. It was difficult for me to adjust to this new environment. There was no grass and hardly any trees. It was hot and dry when we arrived in June. Thank goodness my parents bought a home in a neighborhood that had a communal pool, with an active swim team. Joining the swim team allowed me to make friends and stay cool. We joined Dove of Peace Lutheran Church and I was confirmed there. The youth group (Luther League) was run by a wonderful man named Pastor Greg Adolf. He was extremely dynamic and outgoing. His sermons and teachings kept me extremely intrigued in my faith during my teen's and 20's. However, when I experienced the death of a dear friend in 1986, I felt a great loss and didn't understand God's plan. I didn't pray much at that time in my life, which was a big mistake on my part. I struggled with my faith for the next 15+ years. I felt a spiritual connection to God, but didn't work hard enough on keeping a relationship with him. I attended several Lutheran churches in town, but didn't feel a connection with any of them.

I was married for 24 years and have a wonderful 23-year-old son named Zachary. He is the love of my life. He and I attended church together for several years during his childhood. About 15 years ago, I started saying the Lord's Prayer every morning when I would get in my car and get ready to head out for the day. Any internal stress I was handling at that time, I found it comforting and calming to say this prayer.

My father invited me to attend church with him when he was in town. We would meet for breakfast first and then come to New Spirit Lutheran Church. As I started coming regularly, certain members of the congregation would also welcome me and make me feel comfortable being there. I began to feel connected and wanted to join and become part of the New Spirit family. I feel close to many members of the congregation and hope to continue to make new friends. I became Vice President this year and will be stepping up to President in January. I have more faith and hopefulness in my life with God. I still struggle, but I don't feel alone. I look for goodness and kindness in others. I work hard on patience with others and with myself. But I always know that God is there for me.

Psalms 116: 1-9

God's blessings to all!

Susan Armstrong

October Adventure
Spiritual Growth for October
Deepening Our Prayer Life

*AND SO THE
Adventure
BEGINS*

Prayer

It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch
a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway
into thanks, and a silence in which another voice may speak.

--*Mary Oliver*

There are so many forms of prayer. There are rows of books on the shelves; there are silent mystics and those who shout from the roof tops making demands of God. But in all this diversity, Mary Oliver's poem puts me at rest, especially when I become self-conscious of my words or feel that I am lacking in faith. We sometimes question if there IS a God who is really listening? How do we even approach this mystery when our minds are so finite and our longings so vast for ourselves and the world?

One important centering truth is that prayer is **not to change the mind of God, but for God to change us**. That requires a sense of simple dialogue; it requires moments of silence and listening.

As we practice prayer, the Spirit guides us to the experience that there is One who is hearing our simple prayer, one who cares for us deeply, one who knows us and is profoundly present. As we embrace stillness and slowly learn to remain in quietness, we can begin to sense that our intentions and our motivations change. We begin to line up with the one who is hearing our prayer as God holds our conversation in infinite love and mercy. Our prayer becomes edged into a bigger frame and understanding. We change. We become wiser, more compassionate and understanding.

Our prayer is a state of communion; it is a state of union and connection with Love. And that leads us to understanding the path of "praying constantly" as Jesus taught. This isn't prayer with elaborate words, but a conscious loving union with God demonstrated wherever we are in the world. It is a way of being in the world---our conversations, our labors, our interactions, even the most mundane aspects of life---an iris or a weed. In this state of consciousness, nothing is secular; all is holy ground in this very real union with God.

"Be still and know that I am God." God give us the grace and longing to be still and to open our prayer to every moment of life.

Renee Geiger



I would like to thank all the church members who gave support, sent cards and prayers during Ray's illness and subsequent death.

God bless you for caring.

Lis Schafer

Third Quarter Giving reports are available from the Church Office. Give Samantha a call and she will get your copy to you. Thanks.

New Spirit Health Ministry Opportunity

BALANCE WORKSHOP

Have you fallen in the past year? Falls are becoming one of the most dangerous experiences, not only for seniors, but for people of all ages. We have had a lot of people falling in the past year, and the occurrences of falls seems to be going up.



If you'd like to learn more about avoiding the dangerous possibilities that occur when you fall, on **Wednesday, October 25th at 4:00 p.m.** we will be offering a workshop with a Physical Therapist to address the issue of **"Keeping Your Balance"**. **John Utes** will lead his workshop on balance in the Sanctuary that day. You are invited to bring a friend.

The workshop is free, but we ask that you would sign-up on the magnet board.

Following the workshop we invite you to stay for Wednesday evening supper at 5:30.

ELCA Disaster Relief Services are hard at work in Houston, in Florida, and in Puerto Rico after hurricane devastation of the past six weeks. Disaster Relief is the only agency that gives 100% of donated funds toward the victims of disasters. All other agencies, including World Care use up to 35% of donations to pay administrative costs.

Because Disaster Relief is an organic part of the ELCA, admin costs are already covered. Consider supporting ELCA Disaster Relief today, as we know disasters are always right-around-the-corner for anyone.

I want to tell everybody about my week at camp. It was great! In my cabin, we had two caregivers Judith and Chris and nine women.

The camp had a pool, waterslide, a big swing and a zip line.

After dinner the first night we prayed for the people that we love. It was cold that night!

On Tuesday, my new friend Whitney and I hiked up the mountain with other people to go on the zip line! When I saw how high it was, I wasn't sure about going on it. I thought about it and decided not to do it this year. Next year for sure!

One day we had a really big storm. We had hail and thunder and lightning. We had a talent show that day and some of us dressed up as our favorite animal. Guess who I was? You're right, a cat!

I met lots of wonderful people. My favorite though is Jason. He is beyond sweet! Everyone was very nice.

Every day we had chapel and singing for about a half an hour. We had two pastors who preached for two hours sometimes. I came to understand how close God is, and how much God wants me to know and love him.

The week that I was away at camp changed the way I really see things. And I feel like I learned how to be more patient with everything.

I really loved Special Touch Camp! My mom and I are saving up so I can go again next year!

Thanks to the Endowment Committee, Pastor Alan and Laurie Bernard for helping me pay for camp this year. Thanks for everyone for supporting me! You are the best people ever!!

Love,

Sarah Elmquist



*Special Touch Camp is a National Christian Camp Association that provides outdoor ministry opportunities for developmentally disabled adults.

New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85710

Shout-Outs

SHOUT OUT- *Ken Dobbs for his leadership of the buildings and grounds team.*

SHOUT OUT - *Our council for organizing the mission faire and providing delicious breakfast dishes.*

SHOUT OUT - *Laurie Bernard for her passionate leadership of the Homeless Blessing event, plus joined by Cathy Cermak for Blessings in a Backpack.*

SHOUT OUT - *Our summer months work day crews: Don & Maxine Nibbe, Mike Bromeland, Ken Dobbs, Terry Wolfe, Don Crow, Archie Burke, Pastor Alan, Shelley Colwell, Sandra Colwell and John Lukehart.*

SHOUT OUT - *Jay Schreiber for his music contribution at our mission faire.*

SHOUT OUT - *Stefan for cooking breakfast once a month over the last months.*

SHOUT OUT - *September cook team, Pastor Alan, Barbara Rebok and Brigitte Stuetze for getting the ball rolling in "tasty style".*

SHOUT OUT - *To all of you who help with the BIB.*

SHOUT OUT - *Don Austin & Steve Lamb who bring worship to screens every Sunday*

SHOUT OUT - *Workday breakfast crew: Sharon Dobbs, Bich Francis, Darlene Paape and Ellie Thompson*



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: 5:30 pm Dinner, 6:15pm Classes

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