

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

October 2018

Dear Partners in the Gospel,

In many corners of the world October is the beginning of Fall. Leaves begin turning colors, temperatures drop significantly, thoughts are turned toward being prepared for the long, long winter that will soon be upon us. That is the truth, unless you live in the Sonoran Desert.

For us, October means the end of 100 degree days, but the 90's will be our companion for some time to come.

It has been a year since we celebrated the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. While that was a memorial marker, I have to say that the state of the church today is what will lead us into the future. I believe that Martin Luther would be impressed by some things the church is doing, and distressed to see things that the church is not doing.

Over the past couple of months, I have read a number of articles about the waning of the Christian church. Noted by the authors are a number of visible signs of the Church's decline.

Sunday morning worship attendance is down. True. Sundays have been declining for the past 30 years. Why? There are lots of little reasons. For families where both parents must work, Sundays have become "family time." Two income families have discretionary income that allows weekend adventures. Sports leagues have claimed Sunday mornings as another opportunity to have young ones practice. Those same leagues hold their players hostage by denying them playing time if they do not attend Sunday morning practice. It happens.

Financial support is declining in relationship to the decline in attendance. But, and there is always the exception, congregations which are deemed by their members to be "alive and dynamic" face fewer financial imbalances. Alive churches are engaged in ministries that give life to its members. Worship, learning, and fellowship are central to their life and faith. These congregations are infectious with joy and welcome. People care about one another. People understand how difficult it is for a first time visitor to step into an unfamiliar church, and those people are great ambassadors for offering welcome and connections. Where churches are understood to be alive and vibrant, support for the ministry becomes second-nature.

New Spirit is leaning into its ministry life. Guests tell us our welcome is warm and genuine, unlike experiences visiting other churches, but (yep, another one) our folks don't close the deal. Did you get their phone number, or e-mail address? Did you invite the guests to sit with you during the Fellowship time? Did you give the guests the latest newsletter, or introduce them to your out-going friends? How do you welcome guests and visitors?

Our outreach is a tangible example of our "life together." Blessings in a Backpack feeds 279 children every weekend during the school year! That is an incredible number for a congregation our size. And, it does not stop there. The homeless of the east-side of Tucson know New Spirit is a place of welcome and safety. Our welcome is the echo of Jesus' words of welcome to all who came to him. Why do we do this? We do it because Jesus would do it.

I want to encourage more of you to step into the flow of the Spirit's power at New Spirit. This program year, we will be offering you new and greater opportunities to be the Body of Christ in this place.

The word for this new year in church life will be **courage**. Have courage as we move toward 2019. Have good courage to deepen your faith in God's grace by helping where you can; and giving more because you can; and searching more for the person in your life who needs to hear the Good News of Jesus. That Good News gives us new life: it is founded in love, and it is manifest in welcome and forgiveness. Do not be afraid of what is to come! God is here, and God is calling us to life and new life.

Thoughtfully,

Pastor Alan



Confirmation update....

Our Confirmation class completed its study of the Apostles Creed over the Summer months. We have had challenging conversations about the role of the Creator, Jesus, the Son, and the Holy Spirit living deeply within us.

We have now stepped into the waters of our Baptism as we consider what God has done for us; and what our parents have promised to do for us and our faith.

In the months to come we will be considering the Holy Communion and its meaning and use for us; and God's call to us to live as disciples of Jesus.....the really practical ways we are Living Lutheran. Our experiences in Houston at the **ELCA's National Youth Gathering** often come up in our conversations of how God's call, love, and mercy changes everything.



Reformation Sunday is October 28th!

Let's make that day a "Homecoming Sunday" for New Spirit! Over the years we have experienced a number of members and friends who have slipped beyond our grasp. Some have followed their own busy schedules. Some have had their feelings hurt. Some have been welcomed at first, but soon forgotten. Some wanted, but did not experience, a place for them to connect with members like you.



How about calling those couple of people you know and invite them for a "Homecoming Sunday" on Reformation Sunday, October 28th! Imagine how good that day will feel with old and new friends gathered in celebration of God's grace and mercy!!!

Who might you call today to invite to worship on Reformation's Homecoming Sunday, October 28th???

Thirty Years this year.....what could that be?

In 1988, the Sanctuary of New Spirit was built and dedicated. It was the vision of the people of that day that God would enable them to build a place to worship God's love and peace. No one member made it happen. A concerted effort of every member enabled them to build this building, and for the years to come...the members paid off the mortgage! Some said it could not be done, but guess what? It was done, by faith. It was done, with commitment. It was done with an understanding that God would continue to speak to the people of the east-side of Tucson within these walls.



This is the house, the home of the Lord. We get to gather in this place to be renewed in Word and Sacraments. It is our home, too. Let us be a house that sings praises to the Lord!



Lutheran Disaster Response teams were on the ground in North and South Carolina before Hurricane Florence had made landfall. As we have seen, the damage from flooding has been monumental. If you would like to offer financial aid to the recovery efforts, you can make a check out to New Spirit, and put "ELCA Disaster Response" in the Memo line.

Flu Shot Clinic will be Sunday, October 21st between services in the Library. Thanks to Amber Jindrick and the fine folks at Walgreens we can offer free flu shots. All you need is your insurance card!!! Thank you, Amber!!!



“Live Courageously” is our call to you as we plan for our ministry profile for 2019. Living Courageously enables us to step up from our fear of not having enough, and to put our trust in God to provide for our every need. Courage comes from the heart. It is the character of depth that responds to a situation with a certain faith, hope and love. Courage dwells in all of us. It is faith which enables us to reach to its power. Faithful living dwells within us as well. It can be a deeply seated part of us, and when we are able to reach into that place of abiding love it is then that we are empowered to live Courageously. Live by courage. Live by trusting God’s providing. That is central to the ministry of New Spirit. As we prepare for 2019, pray for the courage to trust God’s continual providing, and for the will and way to increase your giving to the ministry of Christ through New Spirit. If you have attained the 10% in your tithing we thank you. If you still have a way to go, consider increasing your pledge by 1% of your income, to grow to that 10% level, or above. God is up to amazing things among us on the east-side of Tucson. Here is to living Courageously in our stewardship and our lives. Courage is an amazing gift!



Lutheran Social Services and Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services have asked members to advocate for refugees seeking asylum and safety in the U.S. The administration announced it has cut refugee numbers from 70,000 to 32,000 for the coming year. This is so counter to who we are as disciples of Jesus and citizens of this country which has welcomed immigrants and refugees for two centuries. Contact your legislators, and express your desire for them to vote against the reduced refugee quota.

“Holiday Pajama Drive”. Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest will be collecting “New Adult Pajamas” for home-bound seniors this Christmas. We are asking for new adult pajamas, sizes M – XXL. A simple pair of pajamas will bring a sense of care and joy for home-bound seniors at Christmas. We will have a box in the Narthex soon. Your gift of a pair of pajamas will surely be a blessing for our seniors at home.



We have a new Bishop!

On September 8th, the **Rev. Deborah Hutterer** was installed as the sixth Bishop of the Grand Canyon Synod. She is the first female Bishop for this Synod, and is one of seventeen female Bishops in the ELCA.



Bishop Hutterer came to the Grand Canyon Synod when she was called to serve with Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest. While she began as the Congregational connector, she soon became the Director for Development. Under her leadership and diligent work she reconnected congregations with LSS-SW after nearly 12 years of disconnect. In her term, financial support for the ministries of LSS-SW has grown 450%!

She brings to the Office of the Bishop a different set of skills and aptitudes. While she served as a parish pastor for some years, her administrative gifts and organizational skills have worked well in each of her calls. She will call the congregations of the Grand Canyon Synod to re-consider their/our roles so they/we can better speak out about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. She will look more creatively at how we can communicate with our neighborhoods and communities.

Bishop Hutterer will also call the Synod to consider how we can better communicate and cooperate in our local ministries. How might we share the things we do well, and how might we rely upon other congregations to lift up the places where we fall short. Not every congregation can be a “full-service franchise.” How might we better connect with local congregations? These will be the major questions we will be facing in this new program-ministry year.

The office of Bishop can be a struggle for one person. It can be a lonely position, too. Please put Bishop Deborah on your daily prayer list. Plea for her to be wise and courageous; compassionate and understanding; and clear in her discernment of what God has in store for the Grand Canyon Synod.

Hi, I'm Laurie Bernard, born and raised in Montana until a family move to Tucson for my father's health when I was 14. The oldest child of 5 explains my bossy nature. Growing up in ranching/farming country, we had a wonderful, family oriented church experience. Sunday school, confirmation, camp, choir, the dreaded lutefisk dinners, and hide and seek with my friends in the choir robe closet or under the pews. My parents brought us to New Spirit when we came to Tucson and it became our church home.

I was married here at New Spirit in 1974, when Fellowship Hall was the Sanctuary. Both my children were baptized here as well. Then....single mom life with 2 small kids while working full time got in the way. Somehow church didn't find time in my busy schedule.

I worked for 30 years as an administrator in the mining/civil engineering sector. Now I am Office Manager at Tagline Media Group, an advertising firm specializing in website design and management, social media, and graphic design/printing.

Kids grew up and so began the grandkids phase of my life. With less pressure, it was a good time to reconnect with my spiritual life....and begin theirs. You'll see daughter Leah and grandson Hayden gracing us with their presence. Hayden likes to help with the audio visual during the service. Hopefully, next year, he will start confirmation.

"God's Work Our Hands". My mantra now. Blessings in a Backpack. Homeless Blessings. Trunk or Treat. Days of Caring. Thanksgiving Dinner for those less fortunate. Church Council. Enriching the fellowship of New Spirit members. Promoting our missions in the community. Sharing the love of Jesus Christ with all. Back to New Spirit where it all began seemed like a good choice. And it was.



**When it's
crunch time...**
**we know we can
count on
you.**
Thanks.

Looking for a job that doesn't pay money but is highly appreciated?

Well, you're in luck. We have that one. It's very occasional but most vital. It's the funeral coordinator. There will be training by Ellie Thompson. Can you believe it that she says she's getting "too old" for this. You won't be working alone. Lots of help. And it could be years before your services are needed or next week. God is in charge of that one! Contact Pastor or Ellie.

Bunches of thanks to all of you who are praying for Paul's recovery from his fall and surgery. We feel fortunate to call you "family". I have felt your love! He is progressing. Brigitte Stuetze

A thank you to Pastor Alan and Ken Yukl for the lovely Memorial Service for my daughter, Jacci Von Brook.

Also to Ellie Thompson and crew for the delicious luncheon, to Paul Stuetze for her photograph, to John Lukecart for all his help and most of all for all who came to help celebrate her life. Thank you for caring. Barb Kotlaba



New Members will be welcomed on October 7th at either service. More about these folks in the November Newsletter!

Deborah's Gathering Bible Study met on Wed., Sept. 12th, at Gloria Burke's home.

The theme of our lesson was faithful repentance. We discussed the problem and the promise of repentance. It is a gift from God and frees us from the burden of sin and guilt. He will help us heal!

We read the list of items collected for Sister Jose's Women's Shelter and thank the congregation for their donations. The list is long and is posted on the board in the Narthex.

Thank you to the congregation for their contributions to our projects. Please continue to collect the following - aluminum cans for the youth and put the pull tabs that go to Ronald Mc Donald House in the drawers in the Narathex. Put Boxtops for Education for the Navajo Mission School in Rock Point , Az. into the drawers. Collect plastic bottlecaps and put in the drawers too. Every 1,000 provides a cancer treatment for a child in Mexico.

We support the Navajo Mission School and gave \$100 to help them celebrate their 65th anniversary and the celebration that this is the first time they are completely led by all Navajo people!!

Sandra Colwell is the Sunshine chairman and she sends cards of sympathy, get well, welcome to visitors and others as the group sees the needs.

Sunday School is actively doing projects for Veterans, children at Banner Medical that are having cancer treatments, and a foster care project at Christmas.

We discussed needing more singing and will do favorites of the group in the future.

Gloria reported that it was a blessing to be able to attend the installation of our new Bishop, Deborah Hutterer as the first Woman Bishop in the Grand Canyon Synod.

WELCA (Women of the Evangelic Lutheran Church in America) will have their convention in Phoenix in November. If you are interested in attending, speak with Joyce Dow.

All women are invited to attend our meetings. We support many different causes, have Bible study using the Gather Magazine and have a lot of great discussions! Back copies of the magazine can be found on the welcome table or on the counter in the Narthex.

October meeting will be Wednesday, October 10th., at 1:30 p.m. in room 105.

This will give people time to get to the early evening class.

Bible Study-Susan Armstrong Music-Sandy Cooper and Gloria Burke
Devotions-Linda Lamb



Trunk or Treat will be Halloween night, Wednesday, October 31st. There will be no supper or classes that night. We'll be receiving kids from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

We will be collecting candy for our Trick or Treaters! Your donations make this outreach of New Spirit a real blessing for families in our neighborhood.



Soon it will be time to work on a new hospitality book that identifies workers and the month they'll be working.

Hospitality
Ministry



We expect everyone to participate as it's one of Jesus' calls to us "to show hospitality" to friends and strangers. It's a system that's working well. There's always plenty of yummys. They don't need to be a meal like when Stephan puts it on. And if you can't bring something you can always participate financially and someone in your group can buy the items. It's also not meant to cost you much, which, of course, is dependent on the generosity of folks. If a certain month is better for you, let Nancy know and she will let the necessary person know.

Brigitte Stuetze

October Workday is Saturday the 27th at 8:00 a.m.

There's lots of work to do around the grounds: clearing buffel grass, raking, trimming. We could use a few good hands to help clean up. Breakfast will be served afterward.





DAYS OF CARING 2018
United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona

New Spirit will be participating on Saturday, October 20th in the Days of Caring for our annual God's Work Our Hands event. Signup sheet is in the Narthex.

Join us in the creation of an accessibility garden!

Come get your hands dirty helping with the expansion of a garden path and the creation of plant beds and planters that can be accessed by the residents of one of our community living homes. The path will allow them to continue to take ownership of their garden and enjoy the outdoors. Adding beds and planters will add the fun of growing some of their own food.

United Way's Days of Caring pairs local needs with caring people to improve Tucson and Southern Arizona, one project at a time.

JOIN THOUSANDS FOR SOUTHERN ARIZONA'S LARGEST VOLUNTEER EVENT!

There are over a hundred projects with nonprofits, schools, care facilities, community gardens, neighborhoods and more.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY AND BE A PART OF THE CHANGE.

For more information, go to unitedwaytucson.org/daysofcaring

October Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

10/02 Jakob Rettig

10/18 Marlene Hansen

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

10/19 Sharon Dobbs



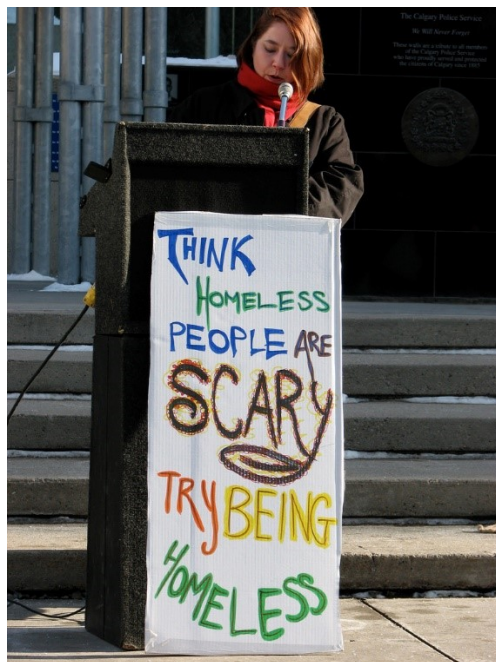
10/20 Valerie Friend
 Mark & Jamie Buglewicz
 (Anniversary)

10/14 Sue Gilmore

10/24 Judy McFarland

10/15 Mary Henkle

10/27 Carol Hughes
 Wayne Stephens



September brought us 47 clients. We are seeing more “marginal” clients (they have shelter but still struggle with having enough food to eat). In addition to haircuts, we can provide 1-day bus passes, access to housing, packaged food, protein drinks, hygiene products, first aid products, clothing, tarps, ponchos.

IF YOU KNOW SOME BUSINESS THAT WOULD BE WILLING TO HELP US WITH A COLLECTION BOX AT THEIR LOCATION, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

PLEASE DONATE:

**MEN’S AND WOMEN’S NEW UNDERWEAR AND SOCKS
SHOES
FLASHLIGHTS
AA AND AAA BATTERIES
FULL SIZE SHAMPOO, LOTION, TOOTHPASTE, DEODORANT
RAZORS AND SHAVING CREAM
PEANUT BUTTER, CANNED MEATS
PROTEIN DRINKS**

In October we move to winter hours of 1pm to 3pm.

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.

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



Most people can't wait for the weekend. Kids at risk of hunger can't wait for it to be over.

We will! This school year, we are feeding **279** children from Erickson, Ford, Steele and Henry Elementary Schools, providing snack packs to take home on the weekend. Typical items include macaroni n' cheese box, canned sausages, chicken or tuna, oatmeal, canned beans or pasta, cereal, hot cocoa, canned vegetable, and fruit cup.

The Jim Click Millions for Tucson Raffle 2018 Edition has launched! **This year Mr. Click is raffling off a 2018 Jeep Grand Cherokee Summit as the grand prize.** In addition, there are two new prizes this year, as well. Second prize is two first-class, round-trip airline tickets anywhere in the world and third prize is \$5,000. Ticket prices are one for \$25 or five for \$100. **ALL PROCEEDS FROM TICKET SALES STAY WITH THE NEW SPIRIT BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK PROGRAM.**

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!

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*

New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
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Shout-Outs



SHOUT OUT- "T" Baker - Over and above the call of duty by getting "free" food from the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona to supplement both Blessings in a Backpack and Homeless Blessings programs .

SHOUT OUT - Mary Jane Beardmore - In charge of scheduling the packing and deliveries of weekly snack packs for Blessings in a Backpack, joined by Cathy Cermak for Blessings in a Backpack.

SHOUT OUT - Susan Armstrong - Managing the distribution of hygiene products for Homeless Blessings events.

SHOUT OUT - Ken and Sharon Dobbs and Terry Wolfe for helping the September cook team on potluck night. Your help was deeply appreciated by me, Brigitte.

SHOUT OUT - September hospitality team.

SHOUT OUT - Ron O' Connor for his attention to all the details of the columbarium.

SHOUT OUT - Sandy Johnsen and Darlene Paape for helping with the Thursday food bank delivery.

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: 5:30 pm Dinner, 4:00 & 6:15 pm
Classes

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