

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 2019

Dear Partners on the Trail....

“We need to talk.” I’m not sure if those four words strike fear in your soul, but when I hear them I know that what’s coming next is important. “We need to talk.”

Church ministry takes people who serve. For a number of years, New Spirit has grown pretty complacent about how we operate. “Things work well on Sundays” so everything must be going well. Yes, that’s true....but....and there’s always a but.

If you have not served as a teacher, team member, office worker, reader/communion assistant, or singer/instrumentalist in the past two years it is your time to step up. Our teams have work to be done. Our image in the community needs some attention. Our connections with each other need to be attended to.

Many of us have become strangers to others. It happens. In a culture where busy-ness is honored, and time is not a renewable resource, we have become disconnected. I think of the rings of Saturn which from a distance are beautiful, and amazing. But, a closer look reveals chunks of ice and stone in a parallel orbit, rarely connecting, rarely touching, but always just sort of.....there. Church can feel like that.

We need to talk. There are important conversations that need to be had. On October 6th, we will be holding a **Town Hall Meeting at 3:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**. We are going to talk about our life together in 2019, and about the ELCA Churchwide Assembly vote to designate the ELCA as a “Sanctuary Church.” It is a first in this country. It is deeply historical in our context. The Lutheran Church has provided broad sponsorship of refugees and immigrants for well over 100 years in America. How might New Spirit participate, legally, in offering welcome and acceptance. We need to talk.

We need to talk about worship, and education, and connection groups to better facilitate our life as the Body of Christ at Camino Seco and Old Spanish Trail.

We need to talk, and we will be doing more intentional talks over the coming months. This is the season of the shared word, the identified dreams, and the approachable goals. But, none of us are mind-readers, so we will need to take some time, to sit and talk, sit and listen. We have to talk.

Those four words can mean the world to this faith community.

We need to talk! We do.

Prayerfully,

Pastor Alan



Youth and ELCA National Youth Gathering – Minneapolis

Our Youth population ebbs and flows over the years. Today, our Middle School and High School youth number an even dozen. Twelve is the perfect size for a vibrant youth group. Twelve is the best size for service projects, playing games, and conversing about difficult subjects. I think Jesus thought 12 was an important number, as he called together his first group of students.

In 19 months, 40,000 youth and adults from across the country will be heading to Minneapolis for the ELCA National Youth Gathering. New Spirit's youth have been working to raise funds for that event. We hold two fund raisers each year: the dinner after the Annual Meeting (2nd Sunday in December), and the Easter Breakfast. The youth do most of the prep and serving for those projects.

Now for the hard stuff. Just because a youth is a "member" of New Spirit does not mean they get an "automatic pass" to attend the Gathering. Worship is central to our life of faith, and regular worship attendance is expected. The Gathering is a week-long event centered in worship...so if worship is not important to parents or youth, they wouldn't like a Gathering.

Strangers don't travel well. We will be living in hotel rooms for a week. Unless youth have established relationships with one another that time can be difficult. We are planning a number of Youth Group activities between now and then to help knit this group together. It will be in those experiences youth will make connections.

"Super Group" still has occasional meetings here in Tucson, and we will plan on attending those events when they happen.

The total cost for a youth to attend a National youth Gathering is close to \$1,000. Parents are responsible to pay the Gathering registration fee: **\$350**. That payment will be due next September!!! The other \$650/per youth is raised by the youth. That covers airfare, hotel rooms, and a food stipend. Adult leaders attend at no cost, but the youth fundraising covers their costs. Adults do need to take a week vacation from work.

More information will be forthcoming.



Adult Ed "The Epic Stories of the Bible" have been intriguing on Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. Long-term we are looking at opportunities to engage more members in faithful learning. Growth in faith is a life-long journey. In what ways are you a life-long student?

Bishop Deborah Hutterer will be preaching at New Spirit on Christ the King Sunday, November 24th at both services. Mark your calendars....and invite your extended friendship lists to share in the day of grace and Good News.



Feed My Starving Children will be hosting a Million Meal Packing Weekend, February 7, 8, 9, 2020. We have been invited to pack at Resurrection Lutheran Church the morning of Saturday, February 8th. Feed My Starving Children packs nutritionally engineered meals for children in third world countries (112 countries at present.) These packing sessions are great fun, and participants enjoy the music, the competition, and the camaraderie.



New Spirit needs to bring 40-50 packers for the two-hour packing session. More info, and a sign-up sheet will be appearing soon!!!

Town Hall Meeting ELCA “Sanctuary Church”

At the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August, the delegation voted overwhelmingly to declare the ELCA a “Sanctuary Denomination.” What does that mean for New Spirit? The fact that 90% of the voting members affirmed that resolution is significant.

But....the ELCA does not dictate to congregations things “we must do.” Every congregation has the opportunity to choose among themselves about how we will do our ministry.

Our Synod is a border Synod. Immigration, refugees, and asylum seekers are political matters that is in our own front yards.

We will have a **New Spirit – Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, October 6th, at 3:00 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. This will be an informal time for conversation about what role New Spirit will take. Since this will not be a “congregational meeting” no vote will be binding. Information from that conversation will be presented to the Church Council. A resolution may come from that, and would be voted on at the Annual Meeting on December 8th.



Confirmation Update - The class has completed its study of the Lord’s Prayer, and will begin their study of the Apostle’s Creed and begin a lengthy study about “Who is Jesus?” The class is now in the early process of writing their “Statements of Faith.”



SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will be holding an Open House on October 27th. Come and see the improvements that were made to our Sunday School Rooms.

Fall is Stewardship Time and this year’s Commitment Sunday will be November 3rd, which is also All Saints Sunday. We will be sending information shortly. We need everyone to increase your committed giving. This has been a difficult year for us, the first time in over a decade. Please prayerfully commit to increasing your giving. Thank you.



A note from the Custodian:



There has been a considerable amount of litter in the Hymnal holders on the back of the pews. Please carry your trash out of the Church after the service and dispose of it properly. Your cooperation is appreciated. Thank you.

Last week I read a brief story that touched me deeply. It was about a man observing a huge crew of people building a cathedral. It was massive and the most impressive structure that the townspeople had ever seen. The visitor stopped to observe an old man carefully carving a delicate, detailed little bird at the end of one of the rafters. The visitor asked the man, “Why would you spend your time carving this beautiful bird if no one can see it?” As the man lovingly continued his artistic work, he smiled and said, “Yes, but God can.”

In being on council these past three years, I am always impressed by the numbers of folks who faithfully carve and weave beauty into the fabric of our church and beyond our walls. Many impact the world in ways that are seldom realized by those who give and those who receive. Much of the service that is offered, is offered behind the scenes and sometimes taken for granted. To give a **shout out** to all these folks would take many pages. But I am heartened that as faithful members, each of us is reminded of Jesus’ words, “As you have served the least of these, you have done it unto me.” Jesus is saying, “I am there”.

In the liturgy on September 9th, there were words on the screen that said that God gifts us with God’s generous and delighted heart. I take this to mean that as we gently wield the tools that God has given us, we are a part of the gracious workings of the Dominion of God. In Christ, we are born into a new being. We are reborn to be joyful and generous children of God. That is our Happy Birthday gift! This is not an emotion, but a reality of how we see our lives surrendered to love. This is not a burden, because it is a gift with God’s loving handprint all over it, a gift with God’s intimate watchfulness and participation in our journey of ministry, outreach and growth.

We know who we are and where we are. Each one of us can say thank you for the privilege of being a distinct piece of the whole cathedral, invisible or visible, where God has placed us. God is there, God is here, and God is delighted and full of what shall be as the way is being paved a day at a time.

Renee Geiger, Council Member at Large



October Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

10/02 Jakob Rettig

10/19 Sharon Dobbs

10/04 Mary Lou Rex

Robert & Nancy Daliege
(Anniversary)

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

10/08 Barbara Rapp

10/24 Judy McFarland

10/15 Mary Henkle

10/27 Carol Hughes

10/18 Marlene Hansen



Trunk or Treat - Halloween is Thursday, October 31st this year. We will be hosting Trunk or Treat from 5:30-7:30 p.m. We need *“a ton of candy”*. Please bring donations to the church Narthex. We would like to have 20 cars to sign-up to do this important outreach to the community. Parents each year thank us for providing a safe space for their children to trick or treat. New this year will be hotdogs and drinks for the first 200 guests. Can you help us this year?



HOMELESS BLESSINGS HOURS OCT - APR 1 PM TO 3 PM

Our event the 2nd Saturday of each month has representatives from Old Pueblo Community Services, City of Tucson, and Office of the Independent Police Examiner to provide help for those who face adversity every day just to live.

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



Octoberfest is Saturday, October 26th. We are excited to welcome the artists from Open Space Church who will create a mobile mural during our event. The artists are renown Graffiti Artists from Tucson. Open Space is a sponsored ELCA mission focused on urban art.



Octoberfest will run from 11:00 – 3:00. Lunch will be served at noon: Brats, hot dogs, and soda. Children will have an opportunity to learn painting with the artists.

INVITE your neighbors, kids, grandkids, strangers. It will be a great day if you come to be a witness to the community of New Spirit in this place. Mark your calendar, and be sure to show up!!!



Due to the reduced number of volunteers and attendees, it has been decided by the Hospitality Committee, that the Hospitality Hour will be suspended for the months of June, July and August during the summer worship schedule.

Women's Ministry Group

Women's Ministry Group (WELCA Bible Study Group) met on September 11, 2019 at 1:30 pm at the church. Our bible study was titled "No Hard Feelings". Bible verses were Psalms 44, 51, 69 and also Ephesians 4:26 which says "Be angry but do not let the sun go down on your anger".

We discussed – Have you ever been angry at God? Where is the line between anger and hate? When did God get angry with his people? How can we manage our anger?

Gloria Burke led devotions: Use comic relief to deal with anger; humor causes people to be able to laugh together. Allow ourselves to receive forgiveness.

May 2019 minutes were approved as read. Treasurer's report was approved as presented. Sunshine report: Thinking of you and birthday cards were sent out.



OLD BUSINESS:

The Sunday School rooms in K-Hall have been cleaned up, painted and have new window treatments. Porcelain white boards have been ordered and will be installed. An open house will be scheduled and announced in the newsletter.

Tucson Church Women United are celebrating 107 years in mission and the 59th Christmas in September will take place on October 5th at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church. A registration fee of \$10.00 includes two raffle tickets and lunch. Wear your favorite hat or scarf and have some fun.

Library cleaning and organizing is almost finished; the children's section still needs more organizing.

Due to the number of gatherings and retreats this fall, the plans to have an event for the women of New Spirit Lutheran Church will be planned for January/February timeframe.

A thank you note from Sabbar Shrine for our donation of \$100.00 to their transportation fund was received.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made and carried that we donate \$100.00 to sponsor Brittany Garrelts, a healthcare provider aboard a Mercy Hospital ship off the coast of Africa.

A motion was made and carried that we donate \$100.00 to Lutheran World Relief for the Bahamas storm damage project.

The Grand Canyon Women's Retreat will be held on November 8 and 9 at Love of Christ Lutheran in Mesa, AZ.

Gather Bible Study will be held on January 19, 2020 in Henderson, NV, celebrating 50 years of women's ordination.

July 16-19, 2020 will be the WELCA Triennial to be held in Phoenix, AZ.

Sunrise Santa Cruz Conference will be held on March 7, 2020 in Sierra Vista. Our group is in charge of the mixer and will lead devotions.

The meeting closed with the group singing the Hymn: "Canticle of the Turning".

Next meeting will be held Oct. 9 at 1:30 pm at the Church. Susan Armstrong will present the devotions and Joyce Dow will lead the lesson.

New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85710



SHOUT OUT - To the September workday crew.

SHOUT OUT - To September Hospitality team.

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

Shout-Outs



SHOUT OUT- To Elisha De la Cruz & girls, Amber & Joe Uidenich & kids for all their hard work and time painting the Sunday School rooms. We couldn't have done it without their help.

SHOUT OUT - To Sandy Cooper for help with posters and donations to Sunday School.

How to contact us:

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