

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.*

October 2022

Saints of New Spirit Lutheran Church,

It is hard to believe that my first full month of ministry is complete. This month has been an amazing month. I have been blessed to see many of the ministries of NSLC in full effect. I have also gotten a chance to visit a number of our home bound members. We have been getting to know each other and I remain excited about where the Holy Spirit is leading us as a faith community.

As we enter into the final months of 2022, my thoughts begin to turn towards generosity and thankfulness. As I have shared with some now that we are in what I refer to as the "Ber" or some might say "brrrr" months, I have begun listening to almost exclusively Christmas music. There is one song that I listen to only a handful of times during this season. That song is "The Christmas Shoes" by NewSong. Hearing that song always brings tears to my eyes and a lump in my throat. The video is even more difficult to watch. Yet, I still listen to it at least once. Why?

"The Christmas Shoes" is difficult to hear and provokes an emotional response in me. It is also a reminder of so much for me. That song, while difficult to hear, also refocuses my attention on some of the magic and despair of these coming months. It is a reminder that we don't know the struggles that many around us face, and yet so often we find ourselves in positions to be abundantly generous even to complete strangers.

What does living a life of generosity look like for you during this time of year? Maybe, it includes increasing your generosity to the church or a nonprofit. Maybe, it means providing and sharing a meal with someone that is food insecure or going through a hard time. Maybe, its offering to babysit for a single parent so that they can have a chance to breathe. Maybe, it is including Halloween treats that are not candy for those that need that option for a variety of reasons.

Let us all enter into these remaining months of 2022, not saying "look at what I have already done" but instead asking "how can I be more generous?"

God's grace and peace,
Pastor Hartman



A Season of Generosity

As September comes to an end and we look forward to the remaining year and into the next, I remind myself how fast this part of the year goes by. Halloween is right around the corner. Many of us are busy finalizing costumes and events such as New Spirit's annual Trunk 'n' Treat Event (Saturday, October 29th). Thanksgiving follows, allowing many of us to focus on family and those things most important to us in our lives. December brings us Christmas and the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. In the Kwapich Family we spend time focusing on thoughts of thankfulness and opportunities to improve as we transition into a new year of love, grace, and generosity.

This season is also very important to New Spirit and to all who support our ministries. On Sunday, November 20th, we will be celebrating Commitment Sunday. This is an opportunity for each of us to pause and consider our individual relationships with God and all of his amazing work through the hands of New Spirit. I encourage each of us to carve out time in our busy schedules to focus on renewing our commitment to God through planning, consideration, and prayer.

Pledge cards will be mailed out on November 1st and will also be made available upon request.

See you all on November 20th.

Jeremy Kwapich
Stewardship Team



God's Work Our Hands

The past couple of years, we have opted to combine Tucson Days of Caring and God's Work Our Hands days to take advantage of the sometimes-cooler October temps. THIS YEAR, we are doing it again!!

Mark your calendars!!!



On Sunday, October 23, following service, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall. Our plan is to paint KINDNESS ROCKS to be hidden around town as well as making handmade cards of love and encouragement to include in our homeless bags. Please plan to stay from 11am to 1pm.

Looking forward to getting creative and spreading the love of Jesus to our community!!!!

Jenny Kwapich

Women's Ministry Group

Women's Ministry Group (WELCA Bible Study Group) met at 1:30 on September 14, 2022, at the church.

Our Bible Study was Jesus and Nature: Teachers of Faith. Through vines, branches, mustard shrubs, and fig trees, Jesus teaches us about our reliance on God and one another. Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches. God's reign expands like a weed to make space for abundant life.



Sandy Cooper led devotions on moments in nature. Through all creation the sounds of nature are songs of praise to God.

We are hosting a Quilting Bee Tea on Saturday, October 22, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the church. This is an opportunity for those interested in quilting to learn about quilting and the ELCA quilt mission. A free-will donation station will be set up to help fund the postage to ship quilts all over the world as needed. There will be quilt stories shared, speakers and activities. Light refreshments will be served. Invitations will be sent.

To support Blessings in a Backpack we will purchase \$100 worth of tickets from our project funds in the 2022 Jim Click raffle. If we should win, we will either sell or raffle the vehicle.

Date to Remember: The week of 18 September 2023 – Triennial in Phoenix.

Our next meeting will be held on October 12, 2022, at 1:30, at the church.

Linda Lamb – Secretary

HAVE YA' HEARD THE LATEST BUZZZZZ?

New Spirit WELCA is hosting a Quilting Bee Tea
Saturday, Oct. 22, 2022
2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
And YOU are invited!



It's a great opportunity for fun and fellowship for quilters and non-quilters alike!

Learn about the ELCA quilt mission and how you can help. Share stories, enjoy activities, hear guest speakers. Enjoy light refreshments.

HALLOWEEN IS COMING

It's that time again! Trunk 'n Treat is coming up. Join us October 29, from 6-8 pm for Trunk 'n Treat. Hot dogs will be available to the first 250 people. There is a box in the Narthex for candy donations. The sign up sheet will be out soon. I'd like to thank everyone for making last year such a success. I hope this year will be as successful.

Thanks, Karen Colwell



Trunk or Treat



BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

As the new school year progresses, we are adding more hungry children. Our count is now 308 from Erickson, Ford, Steele, and Henry Elementary Schools, providing snack packs to take home on the weekend. We finished delivery of the 2000 snack packs the week of September 25th (we added a few more items from New Spirit's food pantry) generously donated from the Arizona Association of School Business Officials. Now, we are packing our own snack packs with items that include macaroni 'n' cheese box, canned sausages, chicken or tuna, oatmeal, canned beans or pasta, cereal, hot cocoa, canned vegetable, and fruit cup.

We received a \$4,000 manna grant through the Grand Canyon Synod via Ascension Lutheran Church in Paradise Valley, honoring the legacy of member Orpha Hoganson. This will help with the increased food costs. Our yearly budget is now close to \$40,000, delivering 11,400 weekend snack packs for the school year.

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.** Contact Laurie Bernard at lbernard2008@hotmail.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THIS MINISTRY



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.

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.

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

September Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

10/02 Jakob Rettig	10/19 Sharon Dobbs	10/20 Mark & Jamie Buglewicz (Anniversary)
10/04 Mary Lou Rex Robert & Nancy Daliege (Anniversary)		10/24 Judy McFarland
10/08 Barbara Rapp		10/25 HB Hartman
10/15 Mary Henkle		10/28 Dave Grundstrom
10/18 Marlene Hansen		10/31 Lorrie Firth

New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85710

Shout-Outs

SHOUT OUT - To the volunteers who helped with the Blessings of the Pets event.



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