

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 2023

God's Stewards at New Spirit,

Where did 2023 go? We have three months until 2024! When I reflect on the last nine months, I am simply amazed. I am amazed by the generosity that we have here at New Spirit. We are a generous congregation in so many ways. I have witnessed generosity in both big ways and in small ways. During the peanut butter drive, enough peanut butter was collected to provide for all those that come through ICS's mobile food pantry here at NSLC on Thursdays for a whole month. When the schools we serve through BIB said they needed shoes to keep on hand for the kids, we set a goal of 25 pairs of shoes. As of this morning, 75 pairs plus socks have been placed into our collection bin. Even with Trunk or Treat being about a month away, as I write this article, we are already well on our way of surpassing the number of goodies we gave away last year. All these examples, and so many more, are examples of the spirit of generosity that is here.

Generosity and stewardship go hand in hand. I would dare say that the two abide in each other, meaning that they are so closely related that it is hard to tell where one ends and the other begins. During the month of October through mid-November, we will be spending intentional time discussing stewardship. During the first week of October, devotions that are focused on stewardship will be available to use at home. Starting October 8th, Sunday morning Adult Faith Formation will begin a Bible study on stewardship. There will be temple talks and sermons focused on stewardship. I am excited to see how our new approach to stewardship will increase the generosity that is already abundant here at NSLC. I encourage everyone to take an active role in participating in this effort.

In addition to the intentional focus on stewardship, we will also have events like our first game afternoon, an open mic/coffee house, Reformation Sunday, and our annual Trunk or Treat event. We will tackle the most difficult book in Pastor's Book Study for this year, "Dear Church". All of this while we continue our efforts to invite people to experience the welcome and community found here.

We are continuing to see growth in our Sunday attendance and involvement in various ministries. So far out of 38 Sundays, only 10 have seen lower attendance than 2022. If things continue to go the way they have been, I think we will see at least a 5% growth in our average Sunday attendance!! With so many congregations continuing to see a decrease in attendance or fighting to maintain, to show any growth is fantastic! Looking at the average Sunday attendance numbers for NSLC dating back to 2008, the overall trend was downward. There were some years that showed a slight increase from the previous. Those slight increases were all less than 5%. You all have been key in this effort, from inviting friends to helping promote events hosted at NSLC to volunteering at community festivals. It has been your efforts that are leading to this growth. It will be your efforts that sustain this growth in the coming years. I try not to focus too much on the future regarding numbers, and yet I again find myself very hopeful. I am optimistic that when I am writing October 2024's newsletter article we will continue to see growth. It is possible that our average Sunday attendance will be above 100.

All of this has only been possible because of your efforts paired with the work of the Holy Spirit. We are seeing these amazing things happen because we have opened ourselves to the movement of the Holy Spirit and where God is calling us as community. We are being called to spread the love, grace, mercy, and peace that God has for humanity. We are doing that by living into the calling we see Jesus giving his followers in scripture. We are living into the words of Matthew 25:31-46 and doing so out of the abundance that God has entrusted to us. Let us continue to act out of abundance when it comes to all aspects of our lives together as community.



Pastor Hartman

October 2023 Prayer:

God, you are the God of boundless grace and love. You bless us abundantly in ways too numerous to name. We pray that you continue to bless NSLC. We pray that we can take the abundance you have given us and use it to better serve you and our neighbor. We know that you will provide for us in ways both large and small. Help us to trust you in all things. We specifically pray that we continue to see more people becoming active in the community found at New Spirit. Send your spirit to continue to guide us both as individuals and as a community in all that we do. Amen



Sharing, caring, giving, loving, growing

That's a lot of "ing" ing for sure, and I'm a witness to a lot of that here at New Spirit in the 16 months I have been a member here. I hope you have also seen, felt and been a part of what is happening here as well. I jotted down the many ministries and activities I have seen and/or participated in and came up with 2 dozen of them – 24 – WOW!! Some of them are recent additions, and some have been happening for quite some time. Did you know that we support about 200 families every month as part of the drive-through food distribution program that ICS offers? And how about the 300 jars of peanut butter we supplied to them for distribution to food insecure neighbors. Or the food that is grown in the 36 plots in the City of Tucson Community Garden by individuals that then share it with their family, friends, and neighbors. Our annual Trunk or Treat community outreach event also shows how we share God's gifts to us every year. Our Noisy Offering Sundays, Prayground, plastic recycling, and (just think about some of your favorite ministries you support). These ministries are supported financially, prayerfully, and in actions of generosity of our time and abilities – all gifts from God. As stewards of these gifts, Steve Garnaas-Holmes explains our role in this way –

A good steward understands money, not for the money, but for the possibilities.



Yes, thanks to our financial support of these ministries we can continue to show that we are a church family that shares, cares, gives, loves and continues to grow. And, as stewards of God's gifts he has blessed us with, let's continue to look and support other possibilities for us to show God's love to others.

Lorrie Firth
Stewardship Committee

WITNESS AND WELCOME

Such important words and actions in the life of the church. As you live your daily life and come across opportunities where God's word through NSLC could be shared, let me know.

For example, we participated at the TUCSON PRIDE event on September 30. I'm looking ahead to 2024 and welcome feedback from all of you. And of course, we're rallying for TRUNK OR TREAT. It is our opportunity to witness to our immediate neighbors. Look forward to seeing all of you.

Brigitte Stuetze



ATTENTION NSLC MEMBERS

Would you like a chance to help shape the future of New Spirit Lutheran Church? Do you have a desire to have input on how decisions are made? Here's your chance!



We're looking for a few good individuals to help steer NSLC in the new year. Don't be shy! This is your way of honoring your Lord by using your talents to help spread his love. YOU ARE NEEDED!

Nominating Committee
Contact Brigitte, Renee Geiger or Brenda Feller.

what's happening

from the Witness & Welcome Team
(Jeremy Kwapich, Jenny Kwapich, Craig Geiger, Renee Geiger
Joyce Dow, Diane Schreiner, Brigitte Stuetze, Paul Stuetze, Joy Wolfe and Pastor Hartman)

Welcome to Renee Geiger and Joy Wolfe as new members of our team!

Sign update: The sign is DONE!!!! YAY!! Huge thanks to all involved in bringing that to fruition!

The team is also starting to work toward and finalize needs for our Trunk or Treat event.

If you have ideas on how to continue to reach others within the surrounding Tucson community, please let us know!

The Fall Ministry Kickoff was held September 10th! The following ministries had ZERO interest which means, WE NEED YOU!!! If any of these ministries interest you, please let someone on the Council know!



Caring in Community – Coordinates expressions through support groups, Women In Ministry, youth groups, large congregational events, member care and visitation.

Building and Grounds – Oversees maintenance of the church campus, schedule regular maintenance of operating systems and periodic workdays to maintain the campus.

Memorial Garden & Columbarium Board – oversees the sale of niches, plaques and maintenance of the Memorial Garden, submits an annual report and audit of financial records and coordinates location changes in the event the Columbarium and its contents are relocated to a designated cemetery.

Other ministries include: Witness and Welcome, Missions and Service, Worship and Music, Stewardship, and Budget and Finance.

The Church Council is continuing to focus on the established goals set forth for New Spirit and strategic plans to achieve them!

We are beginning discussions about upcoming vacancies within the Council as 2024 quickly approaches. If you feel a desire or call to look at joining our Church Council, please let Jenny Kwapich know of your interest. We will have multiple vacancies to fill in the coming year.

We continue to ask each of you to look for ways to get involved.... join discussion groups, working and planning groups, prayer groups and more! It takes ALL OF US to grow and share the love of Jesus!



Please continue to pray for our New Spirit and Council leadership.

TELLING our STORY

Faith Stories.... Have you taken the time to share your faith story? Faith stories can be a very personal subject but they also have the ability to touch someone's life. They can encourage others in ways we don't even realize. Would you be willing to share how Jesus has changed YOUR life? If so, please let Pastor or Jenny Kwapich know!

Thank you to all who participated in our roundtable meetings regarding the updates we'd like to make to our welcome statement to ensure New Spirit is truly welcoming ALL. The dialogue is necessary and will help us maintain putting LOVE into action here at New Spirit!



TRUNK OR TREAT:



New Spirit will be hosting Trunk or Treat this year on Saturday, Oct 28, from 5-7 pm and we will be doing hotdogs for the families that come. There will be signup sheets soon for participating and for helping with the cooking and games. We have collected over 11,000 pieces of candy and give away items as of the end of September. Our wish is to collect 100,000 pieces. There is still time to make your donation. Any questions contact me via email or in person.

Trunk or Treat Karen Colwell klcolwell76@gmail.com.

New Spirit Coffeehouse Open Mic Night!

Join us for an evening of warmth, talent, and community at the New Spirit Coffeehouse Open Mic Night! It's an event you won't want to miss, filled with music, song, and good company.

Sunday October 15 from 5 to 7 pm in Fellowship Hall. Share your musical talents, poetry or spoken word performances. Refreshments will be served. We are looking for volunteers to contribute snacks and help with set up. Please contact Robert Encila by email: robencila60@gmail.com or 520-270-7049.



GAMES AND FELLOWSHIP:



Join us for an afternoon of games and fellowship October 22nd at 3:00 pm. Games will be provided or bring your own, four players or more please. Bring your own soda.

God's Work Our Hands

For a few 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!!

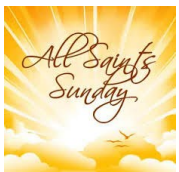
Mark your calendars!!!

On Sunday, October 22, following service, we will gather in the fellowship hall for a community project to be announced.

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



REMEMBER THE SAINTS ON ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



All Saints' Sunday is November 5. This year, we will mark All Saints by inviting everyone to bring photos of loved ones who've passed away to place on the altar and light a candle. Framed photos are best, but unframed are fine, too. We will be visually reminded that we are just part of God's communion of saints.

October Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

10/02 Jakob Rettig

10/19 Sharon Dobbs

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

10/20 Mark & Jamie Buglewicz
(Anniversary)

10/05 Marjorie Smith

10/24 Judy McFarland

10/07 Susan Trumbull

10/25 HB Hartman

10/15 Mary Henkle

10/28 Dave Grundstrom

10/31 Lorrie Firth





BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Who will feed the kids this weekend?



SHOE DRIVE IS A BIG SUCCESS!

Thanks to all who contributed to the shoe drive over the summer. We will be delivering the shoes and socks to our 4 schools in October! Join us for a shoe sorting session on October 8th at 11:15 AM.

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 Lock-box, PO Box 950291, Louisville, KY 40295. **Remember to put Steele Elementary on the memo line.** You can also donate online through the New Spirit Lutheran Church website. Just click on the donate button.

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. If you like to shop, join our team!**

During the school year, packing is done on Tuesdays from 8:00 to 9:30 AM. 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



HOMELESS BLESSINGS

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

SOME PETS ARE HOMELESS TOO
WE NOW COLLECT DOG/CAT FOOD, OLD TOWELS, AND BEDDING FOR OUR CLIENT'S ANIMALS AND FOR
DONATIONS TO THE PIMA ANIMAL CARE CENTER

FOOD INSECURITY AFFECTS ALL AGES

Our next event is October 14th. Join us for spaghetti lunch. In addition to our monthly Saturday events, we hand out bags to clients on the street that include food, socks, and hygiene products.

New Spirit is reaching at least 100 people every month with our events and hand out bags. Thanks to the City of Tucson's new mobile unit, we can provide showers! We are looking for a few stylists who can give haircuts to our clients. Do you know anyone willing to volunteer for a few hours just once a month?

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. You can also donate online through the New Spirit Lutheran Church website. Just click on the donate button.

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 the praise team for their dedication each week to come to rehearsal and early Sunday morning, not to mention their voices.

SHOUT OUT - To Sharon Dobbs for her dedication handling the Restricted Funds year after year.

SHOUT OUT - To Lorri Firth in her first year as our treasurer and being so capable.

SHOUT OUT - To Sarah Drath for always being there to lend a helping hand, especially in the kitchen.

SHOUT OUT - To Paul Koster his help during fellowship hour and the monthly dinners.

SHOUT OUT - To Diane Schreiner for spearheading the schedule for Tucson Pride participation and those manning the table, Becky Schmidt, Marty Mosthaff, Pastor Hartman, and also Diane, and all those who helped support our presence at the Pride Event.

SHOUT OUT - To Nancy DiFebbo for all she does above and beyond her job description.

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