

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

September 2019

Dear Partners on the Trail,

I trust your Summer had moments of deep renewal, and a refreshment of spirit. We are about to step into the season of ministry at New Spirit, edition 2019-2020. There will be some differences about this year's offerings and some differences in areas for people to serve for Christ's sake.

Each September, I roll out my plans for adult education for the program year. In years past I have spent this entire space about life-long learning, deepening one's understanding of matters of faith, Biblical knowledge and God's call to live a faithful life. I continue to encourage all of that.

We are on the verge of political campaigns and the coming fifteen months are going to be saturated with calls to support one candidate or another. I want to invite you to consider how you might make your way through this campaign season:

First, what do you value? As a disciple of Jesus Christ what life-issue is most central for you? Is it justice? Who lifts up true-justice? Is it economic security? Who promises to deliver that for your family? Is it health-care? What is health-care worth to you? Other than you and yours, who deserves affordable health-care? Is it the environment? Who speaks of the environment as a sacred trust as opposed to an economic resource? Is it ethical business practices? Who speaks of checks and balances on industry and financial corporations? Is it diplomacy? Is it immigration? Is it Social Security? Is it defense? Is it education? Is it affordable housing? Is it separation of church and state? Is it funding for STEM education: science, technology, engineering, mathematics? Is it.....what is important to you?

As a disciple of Jesus how do you form and fashion your questions of candidates in the light of Jesus' call to live a new life? Some have said that "Jesus has nothing to do with my time in the voting booth" (now, more likely, the kitchen table). If Jesus is that easily set off to one side, I'd be the first to tell you that your faith may not be very deeply rooted.

Still others have said "you cannot step into a voting booth without your faith and that faith informs your vote." Yes, but blind faith on issues that you have not studied may in fact work against you in the end.

Every September, I remind you that life-long learning is a living part of your Baptism. Your parents promised they would see to your instruction in the faith. When you were confirmed, you made those very same promises. I would love to see the faces of those who issue their warnings about sermon content or newsletters. Come and see....I'd love to share the message of Scripture in a short-course in a group.

Looking forward to this year and how the Spirit will move and shake us!

Prayerfully,

Pastor Alan



ELCA Church-wide Assembly

The 2019 Church-Wide Assembly held in Milwaukee was history making. Each month for the coming nine months we will feature one of the historic decisions made by the Assembly. In the ELCA votes of a church-wide assembly are not binding for congregations. Congregations are encouraged to enter into local conversations about how say, New Spirit, will implement a given statement. With the list of areas of conversation, we will be very busy with our conversations in the months to come.

Decision to become a “Sanctuary Church.” Lutherans are an immigrant church. Once we proudly claimed our identity as a Norwegian-church, or Swedish-church, or Danish-church, or German-church. Our ancestors did not live in this country prior to 1609. If your descendants were European, you are a migrant family. Lutherans have stood by immigrants, refugees (as sponsoring Jewish families prior to World War II, or sponsoring German families after the war), and asylum seekers (Cambodian and Laotian families escaping murderous dictators) throughout our history.

The Bible is replete with God’s commands to protect foreigners in your borders, along with caring for widows and orphans, 108 times in the Old Testament alone. We cannot read the Bible with a cold heart turned to people in need. God, in Jesus, calls us to invite the outcasts to the banquet feast.

This vote does not encourage congregations or individuals to break the law. Legal means are in place for refugees and asylum seekers to be heard in courts of law.

Congregations will need to decide locally how they might walk with migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. They can collect food, clothing, hygiene packs, simple first aid packs, and water to support a local detention facility. They can collect the same to support the efforts of Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest or Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS). They can work in consort with other churches to feed and house migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who are living at those places.

Congregations will decide. Here at New Spirit we are collecting information and resources through the Grand Canyon Synod and the ELCA to have informed conversations about how we can support or “welcome even the least of these, and when you did you received me.” – Jesus.

The Church Council will schedule town-hall meetings this Fall (September- December) to address the issue and clarify our focus. All members are encouraged to attend all town-hall meetings if you want a say.

Pencil in the following dates: Sunday, Sept. 29 3:00-4:30; Sunday, October 27, 3:00-4:30, Sunday, November 17, 3:00- 4:30.

If there is consensus after one of the meetings, the additional meetings will not be needed. If consensus is not reached, additional town-halls may be scheduled.

Coming next month: Social Statement on Justice, Sexism, and the Abuse of Women



Bishop Hutterer will be preaching here:

But.....the date had to be changed due to her schedule. The Bishop will be preaching on **Christ the King Sunday, November 24th**, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. You will certainly want to be present to hear the Bishop’s message.

Feed My Starving Children Packing Event

Feed My Starving Children will be hosting a “Million Meal Packing Event” in February. Instead of paying for the Tucson Civic Center, the packing will happen at four churches across Tucson. We have been invited to pack with ***Resurrection Lutheran Church in Oro Valley on Saturday, February 8th, 10:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.***

We have been asked to bring ***60 packers!*** A sign-up list will appear on the magnet board on November 1st. Packers can be as young as 6 years if accompanied by a parent.

Feed My Starving Children feeds hundreds of thousands of children in the blight of starvation in 90 countries around the world. The nutritionally-engineered meal has a rice base, and includes protein, dehydrated vegetables and a vitamin-mineral compound.



FMSC packing events are FUN! Packing teams get pretty competitive, and the music that lifts the event is great for singing along with.

The New Spirit Endowment is a supporter of Feed My Starving Children, and our support waives the “packing fee” FSMC normally charges.

More information will be coming.

2019 Summer Worship Schedule

Thank you! Thank you for deciding to participate in worship weekly, not concerned for what “style” the worship would be. Our attendance was up, significantly on some Sundays, over years past when we used the algorithm of two-weeks traditional, two-weeks contemporary.

With the addition of the “media worship” we were able to weave traditional hymns, 9:00 songs, and new music that fit our weekly themes so very well. From this Summer’s media worship we will be introducing four songs for the 9:00 service.

People have asked if a “media service” can become a part of our monthly schedule. As of this writing we have not identified how we might do that to bridge the two services. If you have ideas, have a conversation with Pastor Alan.



Epic Stories of the Bible

How many Bible stories are you able to tell “by heart?” Would they be accurate? After the Easter Vigil in April in which a number of Bible stories were read, a number of those who came commented, “I remember that story, but not that way.” What was remembered could be likened to Cliff’s Notes, a brief framework, but little understanding of the story’s purpose in the whole.

Pastor Alan will be leading a 6 week course in ***“The Epic Stories of the Bible”*** on Wednesdays, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 105 beginning Sept. 4th. We will re-read the story, and we will seek to discover its purpose .

You learned most of these stories in Sunday School. As adults, you are invited to take another look!



Youth Led Annual Meeting Meal

The Annual Meeting will be December 8th. The Youth will be preparing and serving a meal as a Fund-Raiser for their participation in the ELCA National Youth Gathering in June, 2021 in Minneapolis.

It is not too early to start planning the meal, and for New Spirit members it is not too early to consider how you will support their trip.

The ELCA National Youth Gathering is held every three years drawing between 35-40,000 youth and adult leaders for a five-day celebration of community, speakers, worship and amazing music!

The registration for the event is \$390/youth and will be due in mid-September, 2020. We ask parents to pay the registration costs.

Fund-raising pays for the hotel rooms for a week, food allowance for eight days, and admission to an off-site attraction following the Gathering on the Monday after the event.



We have at least 10 youth within the age-limits (finished 8th grade by the Gathering, and graduated High School the year of the Gathering).. We will need two adults to be leaders for our group. Selection will involve an interview, and your willingness to miss work for eight days (vacation time).

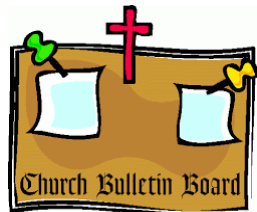
Puppet Ministry News

It is a “resurrection” of our puppet colony! We had a great response to the call from Puppeteers! Watch for scheduling of rehearsals, training, and dates for puppet plays at worship.



If you'd like to be a puppeteer, contact Amber Uidenich. Thanks, Amber!!!

Magnet Board News



The magnet board needs to be a central place where volunteer opportunities, sign-ups for classes and events, news from the ELCA and the Grand Canyon Synod, and our outreach programs can post their news. So, the magnet board will be cleared on September 3rd, and new sections will be created to give better order to our public ministry. We have purchased new magnets, as well, to better hold our vital news.

September Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

09/01 Paul Walton	09/11 Archie Burke	09/26 Kimberli Crace, Barbara Wadler, Amber Crace
09/03 Bruce & Sarah Drath (anniversary)	09/15 Paul & Becky Hedstrom (anniversary)	09/27 Barb Verthein
09/05 John Lukecart, Carol Westover	09/18 Susan Armstrong	09/30 Carol Lukecart, Wayne Stephens
09/07 Dean Crace	09/19 Renee Geiger	
09/09 Cekai Maple	09/22 Mary Jane Beardmore	



Counters Needed

Over the past year a number of our Sunday Offering counters have retired or moved. We would like to create three or four more teams (2 people / team) to count Sunday offerings on Sunday mornings. If we can field six or seven teams, counters would need to count once every 6-7 weeks. Please consider serving. For more information please contact Nancy or Terry Wolfe. Thank you in advance.



MEALS FROM THE HEART

Join our new ministry delivering meals to our homebound church members
Share your good cooking!

We are looking for volunteers to prepare 1-3 supplemental meals and deliver to the homes of our faithful members who are no longer mobile. New Spirit will identify those in need and schedule team members for weekly delivery. Currently, each volunteer delivers once a month. Sign up sheets are in the Narthex or contact the NSLC office for more information on how you can help.



GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS
SEPTEMBER 7, 2019
7 AM – 9 AM

New Spirit's work this year will be a cleanup of Camino Seco Road and Old Spanish Trail. Bring your work gloves, trash grabbers, wagons, or whatever you want to work with. We'll provide the trash bags. Get your exercise while doing God's work and help us clean up the neighborhood. Sign up sheets are in the Narthex or contact the New Spirit office and let us know you'll be joining us.



OCTOBER 26TH FROM 11 TO 3
Food....Games....Music



New Spirit will be hosting Open Space Church who will be giving demonstrations of mural painting. Kids will be welcome to try their hand at painting too!

Please! We need volunteers for planning, games, cooking, and cleanup. Sign up sheets are on the board in the Narthex or Contact NSLC office



Join us for the 4th Annual Blessings in a Backpack
Mayor's Packing Day
September 19th at 3:30PM at Saguaro Christian Church
8302 E Broadway (SE corner at Sarnoff)

HOMELESS BLESSINGS SUMMER HOURS MAY-SEPT 9 AM TO 11 AM

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

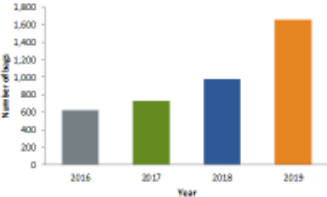
Want to help? Contact NSLC Office or Laurie Bernard at lbernard2008@hotmail.com

2019 ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS JULY 2019 PACKING DAY FOR BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK



The Numbers STIFEL

AASBO Blessings in a Backpack
Volunteer Event



2016 – Stifel, 1GPA (\$2,500)
• 625 bags: Fed 205 children at 4 elementary schools for 2 weeks
2017 – Stifel, 1GPA, The Trust (\$3,000)
• 732 bags: Fed 222 children for 3 weeks and part of fourth week
2018 – Stifel, 1GPA, The Trust (\$5,000)
• 980 bags: Fed 279 children at 4 elementary schools for 4 weeks
2019 – Stifel, 1GPA, The Trust, Gust Rosenfeld, Primary Consultants, GCON (\$10,000)
• 1,659 bags

3

THANK YOU!

New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85710



Shout-Outs



SHOUT OUT - To the August hospitality team.

SHOUT OUT - To the August workday crew.

SHOUT OUT - To Valerie Friend for 12 years service as the Endowment Board Secretary.

SHOUT OUT- To Toni Nemetz for many years of handing out the bulletins for Sunday services and counting.

SHOUT OUT - To Don Austin and Steve Lamb for setting up the digital/media services with the YouTube videos.

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

How to contact us:

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