

That's The Spirit!

Rev. Carol Breimeier
Rev. Fred Nelson

New Spirit Lutheran Church
*Our faith is in Jesus.
Our hope is in grace.
Our strength is in love.*

September 2021

RESILIENCE

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. ~Romans 5:1-5

Even if you're not currently raising children, you may well have heard some discussion in recent years about the need for parents to help kids develop resilience by letting them go through some difficult things without giving in to the urge to bail them out.

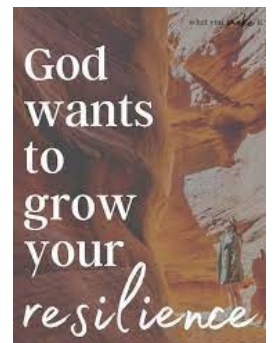
Depending on a parent's personality and personal experience, this may be easy or hard. But I expect, for most parents, it's hard. Here's your baby, whom you've been protecting from harm since birth, now entering those years when struggles go way beyond getting across the room without hitting your head on the corner of the coffee table. Relationship issues, academic issues, moral and legal issues—there are all kinds of ways kids can get themselves in a bind.

Getting themselves out of the bind, maybe with a parent's help but not without some personal pain—that's what develops resilience. But it's awfully hard to see our kids in any kind of pain.

And yet, who doesn't want his or her children to grow up to be mature adults who can handle what life will inevitably throw in their path? Who doesn't want their kids to grow up to be resilient adults?

It takes a lot of wisdom to do the right thing even when your emotions are begging you to do something different. Right in the middle of a challenging situation, parents are to try to keep their eyes on the prize: a well-adjusted, competent, *resilient* adult human being whose life will be better, richer, and happier for having developed those qualities.

All of which leads me to wonder how God feels watching his children go through this pandemic resurgence (not to mention other big catastrophes). Is it easier for God because, with his eternal perspective, he always remembers that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance produces character, and character produces hope? Does God watch us, hoping we'll come out on the other side with stronger faith and more resilient hope?



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I think the answer has to be "yes." Yes, God knows we're stronger for the struggles we endure. Like the very best parent, God provides guidance and support to help us get through, even when he doesn't swoop in and save us from the natural consequences of human sinfulness.

Friends, there is always more going wrong than you can individually set right. But we are not abandoned. One day at a time, one week at a time, one month, one season at a time, we will keep going. We will keep our eyes on the prize: the end of the pandemic, the return to normal. We will support each other and encourage one another to be patient and to persevere. Most of all, we will turn to God, asking for and accepting the strength that only God's Spirit can give us.

We will find our perseverance strengthening our character and increasing our hope. And that hope, sisters and brothers, will not disappoint us. God is with us in the midst of it all and will be there at the end—the end of the pandemic and the end of time.

With you as we wait,
Pastor Carol



REACHING OUT, WELCOMING IN

We had good turnout for three recent events focused on helping us connect with people who aren't part of our congregation yet. About a dozen people joined in each event: a One-Minute Faith Stories workshop, Greeter Training, and Visitor Follow-up Training.

One-Minute Faith Stories workshop participants worked on writing a brief story about the place of faith in their lives in order to be prepared when given an opportunity to share with someone.

Greeters talked through a process to be sure visitors feel welcome and make a few initial connections, and also to get some contact information so we can follow up after they've visited.

Which leads us to the Visitor Follow-up Training. People who attended this training heard about the importance of a speedy follow-up with visitors, something that's most effective when done by a layperson. We'll be stopping by people's homes to drop off a packet with info about New Spirit, a devotional book, a recent newsletter, and big, home-baked brownies.



If you're interested in being a greeter or helping with visitor follow-ups, but were unable to attend the training sessions, please speak with Pastor Fred (greeters) or intern Glenn Schrader (visitor follow-up). Please also get in touch with Glenn if you want to be part of a Brownie Baking Team. Glenn can be reached at glshraderdc@aol.com or 520-647-9863.

ALL ABOUT EPHESIANS

Beginning September 19, we'll spend six weeks digging into the Apostle Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus, both through Sunday messages and in discussion groups. Watch for more information about group offerings, dates and times.



COVID RESURGENCE RESPONSE

With the delta variant driving cases up again, we're making some changes at New Spirit. We are hoping and praying that these measures won't be necessary for long.

First, we are again asking anyone over the age of two to wear a mask in the building at all possible times. We are reducing physical contact again in worship. The praise team is going on hiatus, and we'll rely on instrumentalists and Robert, our worship leader, to lead congregational singing. The preacher and presider will move farther back from the congregation. We are suspending post-worship fellowship time and delaying the start of in-person small groups.



**COVID-19
RESPONSE**

Please be in touch with Pastor Carol if you have any questions or concerns (cell: 224-422-9552 or carol@newspiritlutherantucson.org). And please keep praying that we'll get control over this pandemic, here and worldwide.

FIRST COMMUNION PREP

Anyone ready to begin joining in Holy Communion is invited to join in First Communion preparation with Pastor Carol, coming up this fall. The plan is to meet on Saturday, October 16, 10:00-11:30am. We'll gather on the patio and spend most of the time outdoors. First Communion will be the next day. If you have questions or want to participate (or have your child participate), please contact Pastor Carol at carol@newspiritlutherantucson.org. Thanks!



Women's Ministry



Women in Ministry will meet Wednesday, September 8, 2021, at 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Masks will be required. All women of the church are invited to join in our study, The Gift of the Spirit. This is a three-month study series, and a great opportunity to increase your spiritual growth. We look forward to seeing you .

Sunday School

Sunday School is getting set to start up again in person!! We will be meeting beginning after church on the 19th of September. Due to current Covid numbers we will be wearing masks, social distancing as much as possible and disinfecting before and after class.

We want to thank everyone who participated in Zoom Sunday School. It was a rewarding experience. We are looking forward to seeing everyone back in person. We are excited to explore new Bible studies, community service projects, and to get some music back into the program. All children age 3 though High School are welcome.



NEVER A DULL MOMENT



Anybody who's had a place of their own for any length of time knows how many projects and repairs crop up on a regular basis. Just to keep you in the loop about the kinds of things we've been paying attention to and taking care of, we'll list a few of the recent medium-to larger-size projects and remind you of some of the ongoing work around New Spirit.

Landscaping. In July, we were able to hire a landscaping company to do a significant cleanup of the property, including the removal of some dead or dying trees. Currently, we're relying on a small number of volunteers to do monthly landscaping maintenance for areas close to our buildings. However, because of the sheer scope of the work to be done, we're anticipating needing to make a move to include contracting with a landscaping firm in next year's budget process in order to keep our property attractive and not to burn out our volunteers.

Air Conditioning. Nothing lasts forever. Unfortunately, that's true of the big AC unit that's been doing a great job cooling our Fellowship Hall for about 15 years. About a month ago, the unit started to seriously fail, though it is limping along for the moment. After doing some research and gathering bids from three local companies, we've decided that the wisest course of action is to replace the unit with a new one. It's currently on order from the factory and will be installed when it's available. We've been setting some money aside for years for this eventuality, so we've been able to draw from that account to pay for more than half of the work that needs to be done.

Ongoing Efforts. We're blessed to have some core Property Team volunteers (Ken Dobbs, John Lukehart, Don Crow, and others) who take care of all kinds of things, week in and week out, both inside and outside. We asked them to give us a short list of recent activity, and here's what they said.

Minor to medium level repairs to electrical and plumbing issues.

With issues that we cannot handle, we act as intermediary to the professionals who are called in.

Repaired some of the Sanctuary overhead lights (still in process)

Clean sand and gravel from parking lot after every rain (ongoing issue during monsoon).

Trim trees. Chop and spray weeds.

Worked with plumbers on major water leak last year.

Generally pay attention to what is broken or not working properly and get it fixed.

Organize the monthly "Workday." This was temporarily halted during the pandemic, but we are trying to revive it. Usually consists of raking and weeding. In years past, we had 8 to 10 people show up. In the past few months, only 2 or 3 people have made it, but we have hopes for more. In the past, with the help of a few additional people, we had a hearty breakfast after the workday. Now, we only have coffee and donuts.

Big Picture. As always, let's remind ourselves of the big picture. We're not just "taking care of buildings and property." We're creating a culture of hospitality—creating spaces that are safe, clean, attractive, functional, and welcoming so that community can happen and lives can be changed by the Good News of Jesus. ***Nothing dull about that!***

~Pastor Fred

SEEKING YOUR INPUT – GEARHART BEQUEST PLANNING

Thanks to a generous bequest from Virginia Gearhart, we have a wonderful opportunity to advance the mission of New Spirit. And, given the recent adoption of our Growing Season Initiative, ***we've already charted a path forward focused on growing deeper as disciples and larger as a congregation.***

We have already given 10% of this bequest as a mission tithe to the Grand Canyon Synod, and we are reserving approximately 70% as a future mission fund, to be accessed when our next regularly called pastor or pastoral team is in place.

We are also freeing up the remainder of the bequest—roughly \$50,000 to \$75,000—to be used strategically to advance our mission *now*. At our next annual meeting we'll vote on a strategic package of expenditures. Here's how we'll arrive at that package:

Everyone in the congregation is invited to submit requests for a strategic wish list. By a process of back-and-forth conversations with the Church Council and the congregation, we'll narrow the requests down to those we, as a congregation, deem most likely to have a strong impact on our strategic goals. That package will then come to a congregational vote.

That means that you have key roles to play: first, identifying and submitting strategic wish list requests, and, second, participating in the process to narrow that list and set priorities.

If you would like to submit a strategic wish list request, simply answer the following four questions and get your submission to the church office by Monday, Nov. 1. *Be sure your name is on the request!* You may also choose to pick up a paper copy of the wish list request form at church.

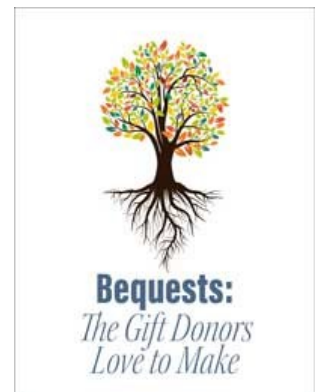
If you have questions about the process or need help filling out this form, please contact Pastor Fred at 847-323-3774 or fred@newspiritlutherantucson.org

1) What do you want to do?

Please describe the nature of what you would like to see done.

2) What will this cost?

Please do some research into the cost involved in your proposal. What is the minimum cost to do this *adequately*? If sufficient funds are available, what would the *dream version* cost? (Include both numbers.)



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3) How will this proposal advance our shared vision of growing deeper and growing larger?

Please explain how you see this proposal fitting in with and advancing our Growing Season Initiative.



4) How will this request be implemented?

If your request is chosen to be funded, who will be responsible for implementing it? Consider who might be interested in cooperating with you to accomplish this. What's your timeline and action plan?

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: DOUBLE CELEBRATION

After a long delay, we will celebrate Pastor Alan Field's ministry at New Spirit with a celebrative worship service and outdoor lunch on Sunday, October 31. We will also be celebrating the Affirmation of Baptism (confirmation) of some of our young people.



Pastor Alan served New Spirit from 2001 until his retirement in May 2020. Because all worship was shut down for COVID at the time of his retirement, we were unable to send him off appropriately. He had also planned to confirm the confirmands he'd been working with over the years. Now we'll do it all in one celebrative day.

Please be sure to be at New Spirit on October 31! Worship begins at 10:00am. Come early for a good seat!

HALLOWEEN IS COMING!

New Spirit is planning to host Trunk or Treat again this year, including hot dogs for families that attend. Because of the October 31 celebration for Pastor Alan, we may choose a date other than Halloween itself. Please watch for more info on that. Also watch for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for helpers and a box for candy donations. Please contact Karen Colwell in person or via email with any questions (klcolwell76@gmail.com).



September Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

09/01 Paul Walton

09/18 Susan Armstrong

09/19 Renee Geiger

09/03 Bruce & Sarah Drath
(anniversary)

09/05 John Lukeart

09/11 Archie Burke

09/15 Paul & Becky Hedstrom
(anniversary)



09/22 Mary Jane Beardmore

09/27 Barb Verthein

09/26 Barbara Wadler

09/30 Carol Lukeart,
Wayne Stephens



We delivered our first snack packs on August 18! We will still be delivering the premade snack packs from Optimum. We anticipate packing our own snack packs later this fall, depending on CDC guidelines.

Purchase your Jim Click Ford raffle tickets for a chance to win a 2021 Ford Bronco Sport! All proceeds stay with our program here at New Spirit. Please see the church office for tickets.

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!

Contact the New Spirit church office or Laurie Bernard at lbernard2008@hotmail.com



NEW SPIRIT DIRECTLY IMPACTS 50 PEOPLE PER MONTH

Everyone needs a hug once in a while. People living on the street want to be acknowledged. We do that here at New Spirit. In addition to supplying much needed supplies, we offer support and love to otherwise overlooked, struggling people. Our monthly events and administering directly to them where they are, makes a great impact on their lives. Thank you for your continued support!

If you have clothing, shoes, socks, or blankets/sleeping bags, we sure would like you to drop them off at the church. We can always use monetary contributions to help pay for new underwear, hygiene products, flashlights, backpacks, batteries, and tarps.

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

New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85710

Shout-Outs

SHOUT OUT - To Paul Koster for helping weed out the area by the Oleanders.

SHOUT OUT - To Sharon Dobbs for helping with weekly bulletins and the monthly newsletter.

SHOUT OUT - To all the volunteers who provided side dishes and helped with Terry Wolfe's funeral and reception.



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