

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.

September 2022

Grace and peace to you,

It's September! The year is 75% over. Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner. Time has a funny way of always moving forward. As a faith community we are entering into a new period of time. You have called a new pastor and there is much hope and anticipation for what will come. I share that excitement. My mind has been flooded with ideas since the day you all voted to call me as your pastor. As we move forward together, I know that God is with us through it all.

In our time together I am sure we will experience ups and downs. There will be times when expectations and assumptions are not met. There will be times when we are surprised by how the Holy Spirit is working among us. There will be times of great joy and times of sorrow. There will be times of celebration and times of frustration. Yet, God is with us through it all.

When we look at the witness of the Bible, we see numerous passages dealing with "the seasons of life." One of those passages that I often turn to is Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:

- ² a time to be born and a time to die;
- a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- ³ a time to kill and a time to heal;
- a time to break down and a time to build up;
- ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh;
- a time to mourn and a time to dance;
- ⁵ a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together;
- a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;
- ⁶ a time to seek and a time to lose;
- a time to keep and a time to throw away;
- ⁷ a time to tear and a time to sew;
- a time to keep silent and a time to speak;
- ⁸ a time to love and a time to hate;
- a time for war and a time for peace.



The "and" in these verses is where we often find ourselves. Those times of transitions between the various seasons of life. The "and" times can be difficult to live fully into because we so often find ourselves wanting to be in a world of "either/or." The in between times are the times when life can be messy because it is not either/or. Instead, it is a place of both/and.

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I challenge us to live fully into the "both/and" of life, especially our life together as we enter the next season of New Spirit. The "both/and" is where new things can be born. Those new things when born out of "both/and" will be surprising and possibly unexpected. That is where the excitement comes from. It also may mean that we as individuals have to go beyond our own personal preferences and desires in order to try new things with a willingness to live in the "and" times of life that we see in Ecclesiastes.

Saints and Sinners of New Spirit, I look forward to living with you in the "and" times of life. I look forward to seeing what is born out of the "both/and" during our time of ministry together.

In closing, I ask that you join me on a daily prayer practice of praying the following prayer.

"Lord, you are the God of the "both/and." You have brought us together for this time and in this place to do ministry together. We pray that you send your Holy Spirit to be among us. We pray that we listen to where your Holy Spirit is calling us as a faith community. We pray that we together can be your presence of love for all people regardless of what season of life they are in. We give you thanks for bringing us together and for what is yet to come. Amen"



Pastor Hartman

WELCOME TO PASTOR GREG HARTMAN!

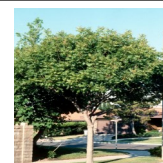
On August 14, the congregation voted to extend a call to pastoral ministry to Pastor Greg Hartman. The vote was overwhelmingly positive, and we're happy to say that Pastor Hartman has accepted the call. He began his ministry at New Spirit on August 30.

**MEET
OUR NEW
PASTOR**

Pastor Hartman will be officially installed during a celebratory worship service on Saturday, September 10, at 11:00am. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Be sure to mark the date on your calendar and be there!

TAKE A LOOK AT THE NORTH ENTRANCE TO THE NARTHEX:

We removed the old trees and replace them with a fresh new tree and plants.



GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS



God's Work Our Hands Sunday is September 11 this year. We will be updating you on our project and are planning to set this up to align with United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona Days of Caring which occurs in October. Please watch for more information.

THANK YOU FROM PASTOR CAROL

Dear New Spirit friends,

I want to thank you all—from me and from Fred—for your generous welcome to us when we were appointed to serve as your interim pastors and for the privilege of doing ministry alongside you and getting to know so many of you well.

Thank you, too, more than I can say, for all your kind words as we said goodbye.

We're sad to see this chapter end but excited to see what you write for your next chapter of ministry with Pastor Hartman.

Many of you will remember from Pastor Alan's departure that pastors are appropriately expected to make themselves scarce when they leave a church. We get out of the way of the new relationships you now have with your new pastor.

That means you won't be seeing us for a while—at least one full year. But we will be praying for you with a strong sense of hope and anticipation for what God can and will do through you.

Remember to rely on the promise of a God "who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine" (Eph. 3:20).

Many blessings to each of you and all of you together!

Your sister in Christ,
Pastor Carol



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

Women's Ministry

Women in Ministry will meet Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at 1:30 pm in room 105. All women of the church are invited to join in our study.



Open Hands, Open Hearts

By Cathy Cermak

Have you noticed that Americans seem to be obsessed with the economy? This seems to happen regardless of the health, or lack of health, of our country's economy. The "world" economy of scarcity would have us fearfully believe that there is not enough to go around for all of us. I'm not insensitive to the very real poverty in our country and the world. But the world of scarcity would have us believe we must hold onto what we have, grab what we can for ourselves, and clutch it tightly *so there's enough for us*. We certainly saw how ugly this attitude became during the early stages of COVID, with people stockpiling and hoarding items like toilet paper, household cleaners, hand sanitizer, and other items – leaving grocery shelves bare in their wake.

In reality there are enough resources throughout the world to supply everyone's basic needs. It's equitable distribution and sharing of those resources that is lacking. New Spirit has a long tradition of sharing our resources with others. We do this through ministries like Blessings in a Backpack, Homeless Blessings, support of Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest, Feed My Starving Children, and others. I'm wondering, though, can I do more? Can you do more? Can WE do more, as the Body of Christ?

A few months ago, Pastor Fred spoke about the contrasting economy of Jesus. Jesus demonstrated time and time again that in his economy, love grows exponentially, bread loaves and fish multiply to feed the multitudes with food to spare, healing and compassion are abundant, and grace and mercy flow like a mighty river. His is not an attitude of stinginess. Rather, he recklessly gives away all he has, including his life, for the love of us!

The person operating under the "scarcity" theory approaches the world and others with clenched hands and heart. A closed hand is a fist. Ironically, in this fist approach, this person cannot receive. Not only do they not give, they also do not receive God's love and bounty. The sick, lame, poor, and down-spirited people who approached Jesus did so with completely open hands and hearts and utter belief. Had they done the opposite, they could not have been healed! Can we practice opening our hands and hearts to God? Can we let go of what we have to offer and see what gifts God wants to lavish on us and New Spirit? Last week Pastor Carol spoke powerfully about the parable of the mustard seed. If we believe the parable, then we know that just a mustard seed's worth of love, faith, service, and giving will multiply beyond our wildest dreams for the glory of God.



September Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

09/03 Bruce & Sarah Drath
(anniversary)

09/05 John Lukehart
Pastor Greg & Pastor Naomi
(anniversary)

09/11 Archie Burke
Fran Gale



09/15 Paul & Becky Hedstrom
(anniversary)

09/19 Renee Geiger

09/26 Barbara Wadler

09/27 Barb Verthein

09/30 Carol Lukehart
Wayne Stephens

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

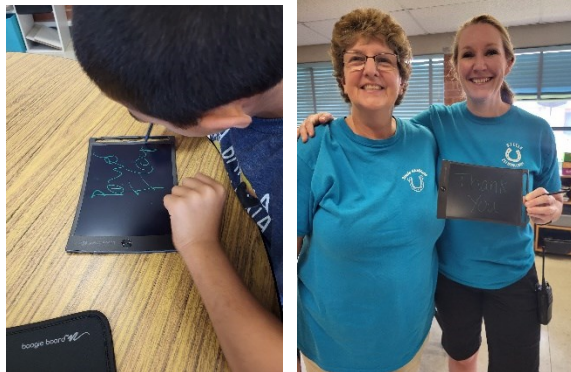


FIRST DAY PACKING!

We completed our first delivery the week of August 15th

Here at New Spirit, we feed **298** children from Erickson, Ford, Steele and Henry Elementary Schools, providing snack packs to take home on the weekend. Typical items include macaroni n' cheese box, canned sausages, chicken or tuna, oatmeal, canned beans or pasta, cereal, hot cocoa, canned vegetable, and fruit cup.

As an added bonus, we had funds available from a non-food grant to purchase erasable tablets with a touch of a button (think Etch-a-Sketch!) for Miss Plouffe's special education class at Steele Elementary. These will replace the messy, scratched dry erase pads!



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, and delivery.**

Contact Laurie Bernard at lbernard2008@hotmail.com

"Like" our page on Facebook ***Blessings at New Spirit Lutheran Church***



HOMELESS BLESSINGS

JOIN US THE 2ND SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
MAY THRU SEPTEMBER 9AM TO 11AM
OCTOBER THRU APRIL 1PM TO 3PM

A good hot meal is always welcome at our monthly event. During the summer, breakfast is served! Biscuits and gravy is always a favorite as are our egg casseroles. 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.

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, 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.

Shout-Outs

SHOUT OUT - To John Lukecart and Ken Dobbs for keeping up with the gravel from the rains in the parking lot.



New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85710

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!

<p>Sundays:</p> <p>10:00 am Worship</p> <p>You can currently watch each week's message on YouTube.</p>	<p><i>How to contact us:</i></p> <p>New Spirit Lutheran Church 8701 E. Old Spanish Trail Tucson, AZ 85710</p> <p>Phone: (520) 296-2461</p> <p>E-Mail: NewSpiritLutheranTucson@yahoo.com</p> <p>Website: newspiritlutherantucson.org</p>
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