

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 2023

Beloved people of NSLC,

It is September 2023, and we have a few short months before the end of the year. These last 4 months always seem to go so quickly, before we know it, we will be "ringing in the New Year". Before that happens there are a lot of exciting things that will be happening here at New Spirit.

By the time you read this, we will have passed our anniversary date. August 29th marks 1 year of us doing ministry together. This past year we have been through a lot. We have seen some changes. We have mourned the loss of beloved members. We have seen growth, from what I have been told Sunday, August 27th, saw the largest group of new members since at least the time before the pandemic. So far in 2023 we have seen 20 people become new members, reactivate their memberships, or formally become members of our congregation. We have seen building projects completed including a new sign, a pray ground, a shade structure, and the library updated to name a few. We have also exceeded many of the generosity goals that have been set. We have seen the noisy offering raise almost \$1,000 for various efforts. Various forms of faith formation have also been reestablished. In a year that pastors are often told to "not change anything", "don't take on any large efforts", etc. there has been A LOT happening.

We should celebrate all these amazing things that we have achieved together, while also looking toward the future. In the coming months we will be seeing several new initiatives, different ways of doing things, and growing some of our efforts.

I am excited about how Stewardship for All Seasons will help establish a new way of being intentional in all aspects of stewardship. Cathy and Lorrie have been working hard attending monthly classes, doing homework, and more to prepare for this new way of addressing the financial health of the congregation. I am thankful for their work and look forward to supporting this new approach to generosity and stewardship.

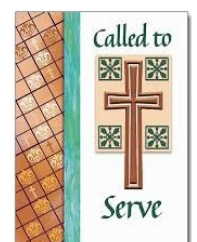
Karen, Shelly, and I have been hard at work planning our annual Trunk or Treat effort to make it bigger than previous years. Trunk or Treat is currently our largest outreach event to our local neighbors, so we are working to grow it into a truly signature event. The Witness and Welcome Committee is at work looking at community events that we can be a part of to promote the love of God as well as what The Spirit is doing here in our congregation.

We are also planning additional events that will grow our relationships as well as provide an opportunity to invite people to be a part of NSLC. The first of these events will be held in October, so be sure to keep an eye out for additional information.

As I shared in last month's newsletter, I am often reminded to "slow down". There are even a few here at New Spirit that have picked up that same gentle reminder. I am thankful for those reminders. I am also looking forward to speeding up in some areas over the course of our next year of ministry together. Together being the key word in that last sentence. We will only be able to achieve the things before us if we are together. If all of us show up and work together then I have no doubt that God will lead us to where we need to be.

In closing, where is God challenging you to show up here at NSLC? Are you being called to take a leadership position? Are you being called to serve on a committee? How are you being called to be a part of the active ministry beyond Sunday morning here at NSLC?

Pastor Hartman



September Prayer

Holy God, thank you. Thank you for all that you have provided for us. Thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to be among us. Thank you for the ways you are calling us to be a witness to your love, mercy, and grace. We pray that you continue to guide us and move us on the path you have set before us. We know there will be times of frustration so we pray that you send the peace that can only come from you during those times. Amen



As you are all aware, Marlene Hansen completed her baptismal journey in August. Pastor Hartman has been in conversation with Marlene's son, Alan, regarding a memorial service. Marlene has family and loved ones that live throughout the nation and some that live internationally. The family is in a time of conversation regarding when a memorial service will be held. When additional information is available those details will be shared with the congregation.

WITNESS AND WELCOME

Hello to you all:

I am the new chairperson for our Witness and Welcome team. Our focus is on spreading God's love. Thank you Jeremy Kwapich for your leadership these last years!!

We welcome anyone interested in helping spread the word about who we are here at New Spirit! A big event coming up in doing that is Trunk or Treat evening. As we are gathering candy, there may be some of you who don't believe in giving candy plus there are some who can't handle candy. We want to give them an alternative to candy.

This is how you can help. You can designate monies to purchase non-edibles items to allow us to include those who are impacted by food allergies/sensitivities or any other atypical concerns.



You may write a check to New Spirit with memo "teal pumpkin".

If you have any questions, contact me Brigitte Stuetze or Nancy in the office.

Fall Ministry Kick-Off

It's time to get back into the swing of things at New Spirit! Join us to kick-off our regular Fall Ministry schedule. On September 10th, after church enjoy hot dogs sponsored by the Sunday School Department and Women of Ministry. Bring a potluck dish to share, and come enjoy some fun and fellowship. Ministry teams will have information and sign-up sheets. Learn more about your church and find a new way to be involved. Games will be in the courtyard where you can enjoy the new shade structure. Sunday school will be open for an open house if you've never found your way to K-hall. We will have a make and take project as well as registration. Feel free to come look around and enjoy a snack. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy and see what's happening this Fall. Mark your calendars! We look forward to talking to everyone.



Our monthly dinners are in full swing, however, we still need individuals and/or teams to coordinate dinner meal themes (Mexican food, BBQ, etc.). We are looking for volunteers for the September 19 and October 17 dinners. Please let Pastor Hartman or Jenny Kwapich know if you are interested!



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 nearly complete! We have a few minor tweaks and finishing touches which should be done by early September at the latest. It will be so nice to reach our community in another way!

Upcoming Events: Tucson PRIDE is Saturday, September 30th. The Witness and Welcome team are working on NSLC swag and the details of how we can best show our LGBTQIA+ brothers and sisters that they are loved, no strings attached.



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 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!

Do you have questions about our WELCOME STATEMENT? Are you curious as to what everything we state actually means? In an effort to confirm our welcome statement to be one that includes ALL people, the Council plans to hold 2 small group adult forums on Sundays, 9/17/23 and 9/24/23, after worship. We encourage everyone to attend and participate!



BIBLE STUDY:



Bible Study resumes September 6th. We meet every Wednesday at 10:00 am in the library. If you are interested in purchasing the learner's books for the studies, please let Nancy know this week by Thursday! Revelations study learners books are \$12.00 ea. Making Sense of Martin Luther books are \$16.00 ea.

CALLING ALL HALLOWEEN LOVERS! Karen and Pastor Hartman have a big dream for our church's Trunk or Treat. We are looking for 100,000 individually wrapped pieces of candy. Halloween is only 2 months away. In order to fulfill this dream, we already started collecting candy. If you wish to participate, the candy can be dropped off at the church office Monday thru Thursday between 8 am and 3 pm or on Sunday in the Narthex.



INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES! New Spirit can only grow by you inviting people. We have Connect cards that are available in the Narthex to help you reach out personally to people you know.

THANK YOU!! I wanted to tell everyone who donated on my behalf for Special Olympics how much I appreciate you. I was able to raise \$800.00 thanks to your generosity. You are awesome!



Sarah Elmquist

September Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

09/03 Bruce & Sarah Drath
(anniversary)

09/15 Paul & Becky Hedstrom
(anniversary)

09/19 Renee Geiger

09/05 John Lukecart
Lynda Grochowski
Pastor Greg & Pastor Naomi
(anniversary)

09/26 Barbara Wadler

09/27 Barb Verthein
Darlys Tippie

09/11 Archie Burke
Fran Gale



09/30 Carol Lukecart
Wayne Stephens



BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Who will feed the kids this weekend?



FIRST DAY PACKING FOR 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR!

The new school year has begun! Our team members supplemented the snack packs we received from Arizona Association of School Business Officials (we got 2000 total) for our first delivery of 325 to Erickson, Ford, Steele, and Henry Elementary Schools, providing snack packs to take home on the weekend.

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 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
MAY THRU SEPTEMBER 9AM TO 11AM

SOME PETS ARE HOMELESS TOO
WE NOW COLLECT DOG/CAT FOOD, OLD TOWELS, AND BEDDING FOR OUR CLIENTS AND FOR DONATION
TO THE PIMA ANIMAL CARE CENTER

FOOD INSECURITY AFFECTS ALL AGES

Our next event is September 9th. In addition to our monthly Saturday events, we hand out bags to clients on the street that include food, batteries, 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 who would be 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

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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