

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 2025

Dear New Spirit,

We have officially been doing ministry together for 3 years! We have come a long way thanks to the movement of the Holy Spirit, and a whole lot of grace. I give thanks every day for our ministry together. The lives we have touched. The love we have shared with each other and those in the community. I give thanks that when I stand up before you and set out another one of my crazy ideas you just roll with it. As we enter the fall, we are starting to rev things up!

At one point in time there was a WWE team named The New Day. Their entrance music started with "It's a new day, yes it is!" We are in our new day here at New Spirit. Part of that new day is expanding our reach for the sake of the gospel. The song continues and includes the lyric "The time is now, the moment is here

Get rid of your fears, there's no time for the tears

The future is ours 'cause we got the power

In the palm of our hands given the chance, you know you gotta take it".

In 2020 many churches developed some form of online ministry to offer some form of worship while we were all trying to cope during the pandemic. Congregations that could purchase the full set-up did, others like my first call used a lot of prerecorded videos. Since that time congregations have further developed their livestream ministry or left them to collect dust. Those that have turned livestreaming into an online ministry have seen many benefits including becoming better known in the local community and beyond. The fact is we live in a hybrid world that is made up of online and offline experiences. We must proclaim the gospel in both places.

Right now, our online presence is made up of our website and our social media platforms. You may have seen that we do also post worship videos on our YouTube channel. Those videos are recorded during service using a tripod and my personal cell phone. This leads to several issues related to sound and how engaging the online worship is. We are blessed to have an amazing worship team that needs to be seen and heard better than they currently are. If you have watched the recorded worship videos you know that the angle largely gives you the view of sitting down in a pew while others are standing. Only a portion of the praise team is visible. The video also does not capture my expressions very well. One thing you all have said that you appreciate about how I preach is how expressive I am with my face and body movements. Those things do not come across well on the video filmed using my phone from the back of the sanctuary. Then there are the issues related to sound. No matter how much I try, using my limited video editing knowledge, I cannot get the sound "dialed in". I either become muffled and difficult to hear but the praise team sounds decent, or I can be heard but the praise team is not.

To reach additional people through online means, we need to be able to present both the praise team and me in a more polished and professional way. When we are talking about reaching people, we are talking about our homebound, our members that are sick and missed church, our members that are on vacation, etc., as well as those within our community and beyond that are looking to hear the good news of Jesus' love, grace, peace and mercy. A more polished and professional product encourages more people to share our message online which again increases our reach beyond our walls to spread the gospel of Jesus. After all, spreading the gospel is one of the primary aspects of being a church.



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But Pastor Hartman, aren't there better ways to spend the money? Shouldn't we invest the money into our homeless ministry, or BIB, or repairs, or the deficit? These are good questions, and ones that should be asked. Thankfully, we have a restricted fund that has been designated to be used towards sanctuary sound and media from the Lattanzi Estate. The restricted fund set-up from the Lattanzi estate has a balance of approximately \$4,500.

There are two phases for this needed upgrade. The first is the purchase of 3 livestream cameras, a laptop to run the cameras, a few controllers to be able to move the cameras for different views and a monitor. This first phase for an entry-level system will cost approximately \$5,200.

The second phase is a possible upgrade to our soundboard. Our current soundboard/mixer was purchased around 2005 making it at least 20 years old. As with other technologies, 20 years is a long time and can see great advancements. A new digital mixer would provide necessary outputs, and more that is needed for a quality livestream, it would be easier for the media booth volunteers and would free-up some much-needed space in the crowded media booth by being more compact. This part of the upgrade will run between \$1,500 and \$4,000 depending on which sound mixer is selected. The recommended sound mixer costs approximately \$3,500 but there is a secondary recommended one that costs \$1,500. Both sound mixers are considerably smaller than our current sound mixer, which would allow for the livestream laptop to be set up in the media booth. As I said on Sunday, we are approximately \$2,000, \$4,000 if we go with the recommended sound mixer, away from being able to make live streaming happen here at NSLC so that we can extend our reach to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We collected just over \$100 the Sunday I announced this in worship. We also have a member that is willing to match funds donated up to \$1,000. If we can fully match the matching funds, that would allow us to purchase at least the second recommended sound mixer. Please consider donating in addition to your regular offering to help us take this next step regarding our online ministry so that we can embrace this new day!

I want to be fully transparent with you all, in the coming months you will also see that we will be purchasing some theater style lighting for the sanctuary. This purchase will be made utilizing funds already budgeted for community events, equipment, and possibly the Gearhart Fund.

The time is now! We have come a long way the last 3 years. As I have said previously, I am excited about where we are going. The future of New Spirit Lutheran Church is now and with the help of God it is ours for the glory of God to proclaim the gospel.

Pastor Hartman



September Prayer

God, our provider, we give you thanks for the many blessings you have given us. You have blessed us as individuals and as a congregation in countless ways. We pray that you continue to guide us so that we may be your presence here. Let us be part of the in-breaking of your kingdom's love grace, peace and mercy for all people. Amen.

Why New Spirit Lutheran Church Matters to Me

I have been a church-going Lutheran all my life. When I moved back to Tucson in 1985, I found what was then Spanish Trail Lutheran Church. Those early days at Spanish Trail fortified my foundational understanding of the Bible. But it was Pastor Alan Field and now Pastor Greg Hartman who brought me back to grace. You see, I believe that Spanish Trail Lutheran Church indeed, got a New Spirit! Over the years, I've observed this body of believers, New Spirit Lutheran Church, and myself evolve and transform. Beyond following "rules," traditions and rituals, I believe we truly seek the heart of Jesus and the bidding of the Holy Spirit. New Spirit people are Red Letter people, and we are revolutionary! The caring, love, positive regard and compassion we share with one another and the community are genuine.

New Spirit members are the most generous people I know! We live our faith – not only by loving and including everyone, but also through our caring ministries. Our Blessings in a Backpack and Homeless Blessings serve hundreds of children and adults *every month*. And you know what? Despite our modest numbers and budget, we continuously seek **to do more!** This year we will start having boxes of food on hand with ingredients for a couple of meals for hungry families who come to our door. We regularly partner with the City of Tucson, Community Food Bank and others to expand our services across the city. We have generously provided hundreds of jars of peanut butter to Interfaith Community Services, pallets of toilet paper to six under-funded schools, school supplies to these schools, cleaning and hygiene products to immigrants through Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest, and the list goes on. And over the years, through our Endowment Board, we have gifted hundreds of organizations modest grants to facilitate their valuable work. Where there's need, New Spirit always finds a way to step up to meet it, in faith and love.

Even though it's a blessing to be able to leave the Arizona heat for the summer, I miss my family at New Spirit while I'm away. I treasure all of you! I know this is the place where I can find welcome, acceptance, love and comfort. The spirit of New Spirit emboldens and encourages me to do more. It stretches me beyond my self-made limitations. I am so proud to be a part of this loving, faithful community! As a member, I get to be a part of the work and impact New Spirit is making. I get to be a part of something bigger than myself. I am grateful to be doing God's work through New Spirit.



Cathy Cermak



Women of
His Word

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

A reminder that the Women in Ministry group will meet on Wednesday, September 10, at 1:30 pm in the library .

We welcome back continuing members and a Welcome to all the women at New Spirit to come and study with us.

Fellowship Dinner

September 17th will be our first Wednesday night dinner. We will do a pot luck for this first dinner and see if there are any volunteers that are willing to take on the task of organizing this monthly dinner. We will be posting a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex for this first event. If you are interested volunteering to help continue these dinners, please let Nancy in the office know. Thanks.



Our Discovery of New Spirit

Vicky and I moved to Arizona from Missoula, Montana in 2019, about six months after we got married. We spent five years in Casa Grande before moving to Tucson last year. We never found a church in CG that felt like a good fit.

Since both of us were baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith we knew that would be the focus of our search. It started simply enough and ended quickly. We googled Lutheran and identified a few possibilities to sample. New Spirit was first on our list. Maybe that was divine intervention because our search ended right there!

We were immediately swept away by the welcoming atmosphere we encountered. The greeter at the front door was so nice and really took us under her wing. She introduced us to members of the congregation and we quickly felt comfortable. After listening to Pastor Hartman's very uplifting, thoughtful and timely sermon that first Sunday, we were introduced to the idea of joining the volunteer team for "Blessings in a Backpack". We embraced the idea and six months later we're still at it.

That's something to emphasize here. The community outreach of New Spirit is phenomenal! It's amazing to us how giving the church and its members are. It's contagious too. You really feel motivated to get involved in the many efforts to help the less fortunate. Do what Jesus would do!

Steve & Vicky Harris



God's Work Our Hands

Over the previous years we have done several events here at NSLC and around our community. This year we will be working with Lutheran Church of the Foothills and San Juan Bautista Lutheran Church! Through our connection with the City of Tucson's Housing First Program, we will be packing kits that they will use to reach out to our homeless siblings. On Saturday, September 6th, at 9:00 am we will gather at El Pueblo Center 195 W Irvington Rd Bldg. 15.

After we spend time working on these kits, we will gather for a time of fellowship and food. Members of New Spirit Lutheran Church are asked to bring side dishes for the potluck. LCF and NSLC will be splitting the cost of providing the main dish which will be chicken tenders from Raising Canes. Please wear your yellow God's Work, Our Hands shirt, if you have one. Be sure to mark your calendars to join us for this time of service and fellowship!



Fall Ministry Kick-off

Something big is coming on September 7th! It is the kick-off for our fall ministry efforts. After taking the summer off, many ministries are making their come back. Of course, Sunday School is returning once again led by the Colwells. Our outreach efforts will ramp up and will include events like Tucson Pride, Jazz Nativity and Trunk or Treat. Pastor's Book Study will resume. Blessings in a Backpack is back in full swing. These are just a few of the ministries that will be celebrated on September 7th.

This fall ministry kick-off is also why it is vital for you to have filled out your Stewardship of Talents form. Without active participation from all members of NSLC many of these ministries and others simply will not happen. Join us on September 7th to see how you can be an active part of the many ministries here at NSLC!



Jazz Nativity 2.0

New Spirit Lutheran Church will once again host the exclusive Arizona production of **Bending Towards the Light - a Jazz Nativity** by Anne Phillips on December 13th and 14th. Sponsorships for this production are available as follows:

Fan - \$100 includes name in Playbill, Name on digital screens for each performance and Social Media shout out.

Chorus - \$250 includes Social Media shout out, Half page ad in Playbill, Name on digital screens for each performance and 2 tickets to performance of choice.

Leading Role - \$500 includes Social Media shout out, Full page ad in Playbill, Name on digital screens for each performance and 4 tickets to performance of choice. **The deadline is 10-01-25.**

You can make a payment by cash or check directly to New Spirit Lutheran church or you can purchase online at www.newspiritluthertucson.org and click on the donate button. Choose Jazz Nativity. Information to follow regarding ticket purchases.



TUCSON PRIDE:



New Spirit will be participating in the event Saturday, November 22nd. Witness and Welcome Team is working on details to show our LGBTQIA+ brothers and sisters that they are loved, no strings attached. We are participating as part of A LOT (Affirming Lutherans of Tucson) composed of 8 different Lutheran ministries in Tucson.

Contact Carol Johnston at syracacarl@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer.

TRUNK OR TREAT:

New Spirit will be hosting Trunk or Treat this year on Saturday, Oct 25, from 5-7 pm and we will be making hotdogs for the families that come. There will be signup sheets soon for participating and for helping with the cooking and games. We are collecting candy and give away items. Our wish is to collect 100,000 pieces. You can make your donation by dropping it off on Sunday or taking it to the office Monday through Thursday between 8 and 3. Any questions contact me via email or in person.

For more information contact Karen Colwell at klcolwell76@gmail.com.



September & October Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

09/03 Bruce & Sarah Drath
(Anniversary)

09/05 John Lukecart
Lynda Grochowski

09/11 Archie Burke
Fran Gale

09/21 Rose Thatcher

09/26 Barbara Wadler
Patti Mueller

09/27 Barbara Verthein

09/30 Carol Lukecart
Wayne Stephens



10/02 Jakob Rettig

10/03 Chip Green

10/04 Robert & Nancy Daliege
(Anniversary)

10/05 Marjorie Smith

10/07 Sue Trumbull

10/15 Mary Henkel

10/19 Sharon Dobbs
Nicholas Thayse

10/24 Judy McFarland
Torrey Thatcher

10/25 Tobias Hartman

10/30 Lily Thatcher

10/31 Lorrie Firth

Shout-Outs

SHOUT OUT - To Paul Koster for regularly bringing baked goods to Fellowship hour.

SHOUT OUT - To the Praise Band for their continued commitment and playing on Sundays.

SHOUT OUT - To Sarah Drath for her consistency in helping out with Fellowship hour.

SHOUT OUT - To Bible study members for attending all summer.

SHOUT OUT - To Rick Firth for cleaning out the pencil holders in the pews.



SHOUT OUT - To Barbara Wadler for her presence and willingness to step up where and when needed.

SHOUT OUT - To all the servers (greeters, ushers communion assistants, readers, media techs for helping monthly.

SHOUT OUT - To Ed Glanz for providing the lunches for the Monday quilting ministry.

SHOUT OUT - To Pastor Hartman for his courageous and challenging sermons every Sunday.

SHOUT OUT - To Nancy DiFebbo for helping with more than just office duties.

Please submit words of thanks and praise to Nancy at nancy@newspiritlutherantucson.org by the 15th of each month to be placed in the newsletter. Thank you!



BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Who will feed the kids this weekend?

Steele	70
ERICKSON	140
SOLENGTOM	33
HENRY	55
FORD	65
	<hr/>
	363



WE WILL!

Being well nourished vs. hunger can have a profound impact on a child's academic performance, school attendance, behavior and health. This is the vision of Blessings in a Backpack and New Spirit – happy, healthy children who can focus on school performance, attend regularly, and demonstrate academic success because of having full bellies. New Spirit provides snack packs to those who might not have enough to eat on the weekend.

Our weekly packing for the new school year began on August 19th. New Spirit's collection of school supplies over the summer has been delivered to all 5 schools and 1 after-school program.

The 363 children we currently serve are from five east side elementary schools: Steele at 700 S. Sarnoff Drive; Erickson at 6750 E. Stella Road; Henry at 650 N. Igo Way; Ford at 8001 E. Stella Road; and Soleng Tom at 10520 E. Camino Quince.

Want to volunteer to be a member of our team? Contact Laurie Bernard at lbernard2008@hotmail.com with questions. For regular contributions, please make your tax-deductible check to Blessings in a Backpack. You can contribute on New Spirit's website, drop in the offering plate, drop off at the church office, or drop directly in to the mail to BIB Lockbox, PO Box 950291, Louisville, KY 40295. You can also donate online through the New Spirit Lutheran Church website. Just click on the donate button. **Remember to put Steele Elementary on the memo line.**

HOMELESS BLESSINGS

NEXT EVENT SEPTEMBER 13th

9AM TO 11AM



We've been busy this summer. Sorting clothing, accepting donations of shirts, underwear, socks and shoes, delivering donations to San Juan Baptista for the Nogales, Mexico mission, setting up Manny and Ali with baby items and household supplies from our friends at Tanque Verde Lutheran Church, and feeding our neighbors are just a part of our outreach at New Spirit.

On the 2nd Saturday of each month, we share hygiene products, tarps, backpacks, blankets, socks, underwear, shade hats, umbrellas, cool cloths, clothing, shoes, and haircuts, along with hot home-cooked meals for 50 to 70 unhoused/financially insecure brothers and sisters. We partner with local care providers to offer housing, mental health support, HIV/Hepatitis C testing, and even liaison with the Office of the Police Examiner.

Church members are provided with bags of essential items to share out of their cars with people on the street reaching another 100 unhoused neighbors per month.

This vital ministry has grown to impact/serve/care for over 2,000 people annually. Want to volunteer and make a difference in someone's life? Contact Laurie Bernard at lbernard2008@hotmail.com with questions.

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.

New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85710

Sundays:

10:00 am Worship Service

Wednesdays

9:00 am Pray Without Ceasing Service

You can currently watch each week's message on
YouTube.

How to contact us:

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