

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

December 2011



Holiday Happenings

Hanging of the Greens -

Wednesday, December 7th at 6:30 pm

Sunday School Children's Program -

Sunday, December 18th at 4:00 pm

Holiday Dinner to follow at 5:00 pm

Christmas Eve Communion Services -

Saturday, December 24th

4:00 pm Traditional Service

6:00 pm Family Service

9:00 pm Contemporary Service

Christmas Day service -

Carols Communion at 10:00 am

New Years Day Communion -

Welcome the New Year at 10:00 am

Town Hall Meeting -

Sunday, January 8th, 2012 at 3:30 pm

New Years Day Communion -



Annual Meeting

Sunday, December 11th at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
The agenda for the meeting will include the following:
Approval of the Minutes from the 2009, and 2010

Annual Meetings:

1. Election of Vision Team President;
2. Election of the Vision Team Vice President;
3. Election of Vision Team Secretary;
4. Election of 4 members-at-large to the Vision Team;
5. Election of two Endowment Board Members;
6. Vote on the proposed Mission Plan for 2012;
7. In addition we will need to appoint an Audit Committee.

Town Hall Meeting

Sunday, January 8th, 2012 3:30 pm

Our first Missional Leadership Academy event, a great way to broaden our ministry. We plan to share and gain some insights and to take the first steps to broadening our relationships.



The Spirit of God Come to Dwell in You

Dear Partners in the Advent Journey,

Before the preparations for the holidays overwhelms you, I want to remind you of this simple reality:



God wants to dwell with you, within you. Before the pressures of shopping, baking, decorating, mailing cards, and all that comes with this time of the year, at the

heart of the matter is this gentle truth: God's Spirit wants to give your heart the peace of the season. The Spirit wants to give your troubled mind the assurance that no worry, no trouble, is big enough to push God off, somewhere.

Some of you already know this. You approach this season of Advent with prayers calling for the coming child of the Bethlehem stable. You know the calm of the Spirit's presence to settle even the worst anxiety.

Some of you look at these hectic weeks with a certain excitement, while building a level of stress that can easily be upset by the littlest of things. For you, the candlelight of the Christmas Eve service will be the "sign of peace on earth." You will breathe deeply, and look forward to the Christmas family traditions that you have developed over the years. God's Spirit will nestle inside your heart only after all the little things are in place.

Some of you will travel. It will be a pilgrimage to draw family members together. Conversations will be gilded with warm laughter and remembrances. And there, the Spirit of reconciliation and peace will enable hearts to take the steps of mercy and forgiveness. God will want to dwell within you, there.

Some of you may face an empty scene. Memories may help you revisit Christmases past. Some of you may feel the reality of the blue Christmas, isolated, yes, but not alone. For unto you is born the Savior of the

world. A baby whose cries were muffled by straw and lamb's wool. A baby who will grow to be the merciful one. He will forgive the sins of the past. He will forgive the past hurts and disappointments that can become so poignant at this time of the year.

God wants to dwell with you, wherever you may be. May the Spirit of God dwelling in you, lift up the blessings that others are for you. May the Spirit of peace sing of truth to your longing heart. May the Spirit of clarity help you to see the reason for this season, a baby, warm and mild, born to a trembling young mother in a musty stable. The Spirit of God has come to dwell in you.

I pray that you will be ready for that moment, when you experience the power and might of Almighty God dwelling within you...in warmth and peace, in compassion and hope, in gentleness and truth. This will be my prayer for you. This will be God's gift to you. Dwelling within you...whispering peace and truth, grace and hope. Woven. Breathed. Blessed.

Pastor Alan



From the President ...

Friends at New Spirit -

I am calling attention to the fact that this is my last article as your Vision Team president as I complete my term in December. I will continue on the Vision Team as president-emeritus. It has been an honor to serve you all and New Spirit.

It has been a good year from my perspective. You have now read about each member of the team through their little bio in the newsletter this past year and I hope you all have recognized how approachable we all are. Some of us are better at that than others. But we were hoping that you would see that increased communication was a goal for us.

To continue in that vein, I invite you all now to come to a Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, January 8th, 2012 at 3:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Its focus will be to extend beyond the greeting during the sharing of the peace time during service; to know each other by name; where we live; and perhaps some of our dreams and hopes for ourselves and our family.

You all come now!

In Christ's love,
Brigitte



Missional Leadership Academy

The Missional Leadership Academy held its orientation retreat at Spirit in the Desert, Carefree. Seven churches from the Grand Canyon Synod have begun their 18 month journey together and the journey we have taken on to look at how we can go beyond our gates and become and make God's disciples as God has commanded us to do.

Kathy Vaclavek, Laurie Bernard, Brigitte Stuetze, Jenny Kwapich and Pastor Alan attended a 2 day retreat to launch this journey. To prepare us we have read [A Field Guide for the Missional Congregation](#).

At the retreat we were led by the chairs of that movement in our synod, Rick Rouse and Stewart McDonald as well as an extensive bible study by a professor from the Chicago Lutheran Seminary. It was most inspiring and thought provoking. We began with a service which included communion and ended with a commissioning service.

It is an awesome task for us all to discover "what is God's mission?" and then to decide how we can carry it out in the world.

We will be reading seven books that look at the various aspects of congregational ministry. Our next assignment is to read [Insider or Outsider](#), a different view of congregations to be discussed via Facebook in December. We have begun to think in terms of becoming disciples, and bringing the Good News of Jesus to our neighbors.

How can you support this mission? By attending gatherings that are called, talking to us and keeping this mission in your prayers.

We are excited about what the Holy Spirit is going to be stirring up here at New Spirit. Are you ready for a good shakin' up???

—Brigitte Stuetze



Youth Nooz ...

Bree and the girls had a good meeting on November 27th...they will be meeting in **January** in the Youth Room. Bree has lots planned with games, snacks, and time for “girl bonding.” If you haven’t met Bree, yet, you need to!!! She is simply **AWESOME!!!**

Da’ Boyz....(that’s what the Middle School/High School Group is these days) will meet **January 8th**. We’re goin’ **BOWLING** before Pastor’s knee surgery.....we’ll meet at church at **3:00 p.m.** and head to the Bowling Alley for bowling and pizza!!!

Da’ Boyz could use an adult male to take them under his wing until Pastor’s rehab lets him come back to full strength. Of course, Pastor’s probably already talked with you about it.

Affirmation of Baptism - On **Sunday, December 18th** three young men will affirm the promises made at their Baptism. **Tyler Arlig, Chris Arlig, and Marcus Eibl** will have completed their instruction in the faith. They will be leading a portion of the services that day, sharing a portion of the statement of faith they have been developing throughout their study.

December Menu

Wednesday the 7th—Shredded Pork on Buns, Chips, Pickles, Baked Beans, and Chocolate Pudding Pies

Wednesday the 14th—Spaghetti Bake, Bread, Salad, and a Christmas Cookie Potluck (make sure to bring your favorite!)

December 21st/December 28th—No dinner



Wednesdays After the New Year

We are planning classes to be held in January and February until Ash Wednesday. If you would like to lead a book-study or a video discussion series, or outright teach a class, we’d love to have you “give it a go!” Contact Shelley Colwell, Spiritual Growth & Faith Formation Team leader.



Thank you...Colleen Busboom-Green!!! Thank you, Colleen, for all the years of loyal service you have given to New Spirit. It will be hard to find someone to fill your shoes.

Colleen not only did the newsletter and bulletins, but also helped out with many more of the duties in the office, helping to meet deadlines and making last minute changes to our Sunday worship services.

Even during stress filled days, she always had time to help anyone who came through our door. Colleen always treated everyone who came into the office with dignity and respect and that’s always a good first impression for the Church.

Thanks, Colleen, for the work you did and for being our friend. Maybe now you will have more time to do

some things you love doing. Like more singing...hint, hint.

—John and Carol Lukecart

Your sweet spirit and friendship will be missed in the office. Thanks so very much for all that you have done for us!

—Tracy Miller and Pastor Alan Field

To New Spirit Friends:

Thank you so much for your prayers when I had cataract surgery on my eyes. It was painless and I’m able to see much better now so I am very happy. I appreciate your friendship and support.

—Chieko Casey

K-Hall Happenings

It was another busy month in October. We distributed 229 Community Food boxes and 29 New Spirit supplemental bags.

Unfortunately, we were unable to give out Thanksgiving bags this year due to the low turnout, but each client did receive a \$10.00 gift certificate to Fry's toward their holiday turkey. All bags will be distributed starting Dec. 1st for Christmas, but we will continue to accept bags through mid December. Thanks to all of you for your generosity to help others have a filling holiday.



Hospitallity Booklets:

Please watch for your 2012 Hospitallity Booklet that will be mailed this month. This is the last one that I will make. I am looking for someone to do this booklet after 2012. I am willing to mail them, but need someone to make up the lists. Our Fellowship Hour has been so wonderful and we want to continue. I will be happy to help someone do it. Thank you everyone for doing such a great job in making the Fellowship Hour so successful.

Love you all, Dolores Syverson

Prison Cookie Ministry

Prison Cookie time is here!! Cookies will be accepted through December 13th. Please mark the packages as Prison Cookies and leave them in the kitchen. The cookies can be homemade or bakery type – but every cookie counts!!

If you need more information, see or call Joyce Dow.



The Loan Chest has been busy, still needed are shower chairs and bedside commodes. The Clothes Closet is also very busy. Warm clothing for children would be welcome, along with adult coats for the coming winter season.

Thank you for all your support of these outreach programs. The hugs and tears we receive from people who are desperately in need of help are indications to us that it is so very much appreciated and I pass all those hugs on to you.

- Carol Lukecart



Ring! Ring! Grace Notes Calling

DID YOU KNOW? Lee Horley from New Spirit made our beautiful blue stoles. Former members Ruth Myrvold made the table and pad covers and Richard Kratz made the music book stands.

Only three foundries in the world make English Handbells: White Chapel in London and Schulmerick and Malmark outside of Philadelphia. The bells are 77% copper and 23% tin and can't be used if the mix is not EXACT! China is credited for casting the oldest bell 4,000 years ago. The largest cast in Russia is a 200 ton bell seen in the Kremlin today. Paul revere made bells, some of which are still rung.

We have 3 octaves of handbells and 2 octaves of hand chimes. They are very expensive and can crack if bumped together so if you see them on the bell tables, please just look. If you want to try a ring to see how they work, just ask me and learn how to hold them and ring.

Ringin' off for this month! Listen for Christmas bells of all sizes and shapes.

- Gloria Burke

Petal Pushers head to Pasadena!

Early in the morning of December 26th, this year's intrepid travelers will be heading westward. Breakfast will be had in Gila Bend, and then on to Pasadena. We'll arrive in time to check into our motel, change into work clothes, and head to the Rose Palace to be assigned to a Rose Parade float. We'll work the 3:00-11:00 p.m. shift. We will work with dry ingredients: beans, peas, seeds, bark, seaweed, dry flower petals, grasses, and grains.



Our trip will include a morning trek to the beach to find breakfast, and some site seeing. Then, a second night of work. The next day may include day-trips, visiting friends, or riding roller-coasters.....woo-hoo! Then, home-ward bound.

The Tournament of Roses Parade is never on Sunday so this year it will be on Monday, January 2nd. We'll have picture to share on screens on Sunday for those who come to the **New Year's Day service at 10:00 a.m.**

Women of the ELCA News

Deborah's Gathering:

This month's gathering will be held on December 14th at 9:30 here at the church. There will be a Christmas carol sing-along and Christmas cookies. Bring your favorite cookies to share!



Entertainment Books:

Thanks to all who purchased Entertainment books. Check your index once a month and see where you can save money on 2 for 1 purchases. WELCA (Women of the ELCA) have used project funds for the diaper bank, a new language program in the Katy fund, Lutheran Campus Ministry and the New Spirit Food Pantry. We were able to keep the full \$30 for the last 2 books sold.



Grand Canyon WELCA Convention Report:

New Spirit "stole the show" at the Grand Canyon WELCA Convention held at the Sheriton Hotel here in Tucson last month, or rather two members of New Spirit did. Joyce Dow was emcee at the banquet and did a great job, until she was upstaged by Sue Gilmore doing a take-off on Minnie Pearl. Sue was so convincing, many of us didn't recognize her until she took off her wig!

Sue also did a great job organizing the diaper drive, which resulted in thousands of diapers for the Diaper Bank of Southern Arizona.

Carol Brennan participated in a skit about apron pockets and was unanimously reelected to the state board (probably not a cause and effect). In all about ten representatives from New Spirit were in attendance, a high percentage of the total synod-wide attendance of 119 women.

The delegates considered two resolutions. One resolution involved encouraging units to address the problems of bullying, intimidation, and other forms of violence. The second resolution concerned changing the annual convention to a biennial convention beginning in 2013. Both resolutions passed.

It was an enjoyable and inspiring convention, and thanks are due to all who participated.

—Barbara Rebok

ThankOffering Results:

The ThankOffering we had the Sunday before Thanksgiving was a great success. You gave \$715.00 to fund the various good works we participate in!

Prayer Shawl Ministry:

We had five ladies at our meeting on October 15th. We enjoyed the fellowship and blessed seven new shawls. We also received eleven baby hats for Project 24.

We have 21 shawls to give out, so if you know of someone who could use one please call me at 731-3359 and I will see that they get one. We hope more of you join us in our next meeting on January 14th, 2012. We really do have fun, so join us!



—Dolores Syverson

Meet Your Vision Team—Tom Vaclavek

Hello. My name is Tom Vaclavek and I am a member of your Vision Team. As my wife Kathy and I are newer members of our congregation, I am very proud to be a member of the Vision Team and all the wonderful people that comprise it.

Now a little about me (HO-HUM). I was born in Berwyn, Illinois way back when. I grew up in a “Bohemian Castle” (small brick bungalow). Berwyn borders Cicero, Illinois, a gangster type of town known for Al Capone and Bugs Moran. Most all of my friends were Italian.

I attended Morton East High School. After graduating, I was lucky to be the recipient of scholarship offers from about 14 colleges for football and baseball. I chose Iowa State University and lettered in both sports three years in a row.

After graduating, I had a brief try-out with Sid Gilman and the San Diego Chargers. I made it to just before the first pre-season game. I often wonder “WHAT IF” I made the team.

So after getting over the disappointment, I returned back to Iowa, spoke with my former coach (Johnny Majors) and he said to me, “Tom, stay in Iowa and apply for a teaching job”, which I did. I landed a job in Dyersville (Field of Dreams). For 3 ½ years I taught 9th and 10th grades in American History and was also assistant coach in both football and baseball. As I was on a teaching deferment (Vietnam era), I quit teaching and joined the Navy; I was in for two years until my father became ill and then passed away.

After the service, I became an insurance broker for The Prudential Insurance Company. I left Prudential and became an independent broker (37 years). In between all of the above, I was married and divorced 7 years and 2 children later.

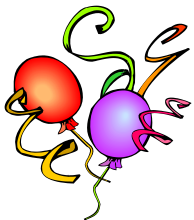
I continued in insurance and then one day a friend of mine said, “You gotta get out and start dating again, and it so happens I know someone who is single and she is a knockout.” I took the bait and low and behold it was the luckiest day of my life that June 1978. I met a gorgeous brunette named Kathy. The rest is history!

In July of 1987 we moved to Tucson. We had family ties here; my mom and two sisters lived here. Kathy’s son moved here to attend the University of Arizona. My brother-in-law was half owner of Baja Spas. Three years ago we came to New Spirit. Kathy and I grew up Catholic but did not attend church for many years. We were looking for a different form of spirituality and we knew we had found our House of Worship in New Spirit Lutheran Church.

Finally, I now tutor at various TUSD schools. My areas are English, Math and Reading for grammar school age kids. I LOVE IT!! And we love our Church and its members. I am a husband, father, grandfather and a proud member of New Spirit and our Vision Team.

With Grace to all
Tom

Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations



December 4 th – Carol Brennan	December 12 th – Joyce Dow	December 21 st – Jeanne Moeller
December 4 th – Robert Friend	December 13 th – Carol Schmidt	December 23 rd – Roger Jensen
December 4 th – Allan Wedemeier	December 14 th – Luana Frost	December 26 th – Linda Lamb
December 6 th – Joel & Barbara Carty	December 14 th – Muriel Nasby	December 27 th – Laurie Bernard
December 6 th – Thelma Osterloh	December 14 th – Tom Vaclavek	December 27 th – Gabby Delgado
December 6 th – Christine Santos	December 15 th – Amber Uidenich	December 28 th – Kjetil Ryan
December 6 th – Scott & Jennifer Williams	December 16 th – Joan Bonura	December 29 th – Mark Keasey
December 8 th – Sallie Hartnett	December 18 th – Lillian Harjala	December 30 th – Don Austin
December 9 th – Sandra Johnsen	December 19 th – Lyle & Verola Halvorson	December 30 th – Sarah Elmquist
December 10 th – Evelyn Baliya	December 19 th – Carol Morales	December 30 th – Ethan Rettig
	December 20 th – Marilyn Carter	
	December 20 th – Shirley Potter	



New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
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Shout-Outs

Shout—Out to the MLA team: Kathy Vaclavek, Laurie Bernard, Jenny Kwapich, Brigitte Stuetze and Pastor Alan for their dedication to this cause

Shout—Out to Tracy for running the office single handed following Colleen's resignation

Shout—Out to Colleen for her dedicated service here the last five years

Shout—Out to All Food bank contributors; it makes a difference!

Shout—Out to the Nominating committee: Paul Stuetze, Barb Carty, and Robin Hughes who have worked hard procuring candidates

Shout—Out to all who are helping in the office

Shout—Out to all who said “yes” to the nominating committee and those of you who thought about it

Shout—Out to Gloria Burke for continuing to nurture the Grace Bell Choir

Shout—Out to Tom Bartels for our web site management

Shout—Out to Immanuel Presbyterian for contributing over 150 holiday bags and groceries in November

Shout—Out to Don Austin, Steve Lamb, and Tom Bartels who figured out how to get Pastor's sermon to be heard by the Joslins in Colorado via website.



Sundays:

9:00 am Arise to Praise (a Spirited Contemporary Worship Service)

10:15 – 11:00 am Sunday School for all ages

11:00 am Traditions (A Worship Service Using the Classic Hymns & Liturgies of the Lutheran Church)

Wednesdays:

5:30 pm Dinner

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