

# 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

February 2012

# MARDI GRAS

Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

Plan on joining us for good old New Orleans cuisine: Jambalaya, dirty beans & rice, Jezebel Sauce, and King Cake!!! A suggested donation of \$5 per person or \$10 per family will be gratefully accepted. Proceeds from Mardi Gras will be used to benefit the growing YOUTH MINISTRY programs here at New Spirit.

Get out those masks and beads.... It's time to party!!!! Music will be provided by "**Plan B**" Blues Band featuring Jamie and Mark Buglewicz! WOO-HOO!!!

Costumes are encouraged! Invite the neighbors, friends, co-workers, cashiers at your favorite grocery store, your car mechanic, your paper-delivery person, your mail-person, everybody needs to enter the Season of Lent on a full stomach and with a joyful heart!!!!



## Free Income Tax Preparation

Our tax site opens Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>. Don't pay someone to do your taxes! Instead, come to our New Spirit Tax Site. All of our preparers are trained and certified and all returns are double-checked before e-filing them.

This year Terry Mysak and John Lukecart will be doing some returns on an appointment basis on Sunday afternoons for members of our church. They will only be able to do one or two returns each so get an appointment made soon! You can also come during the regular hours they are open.

Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-6:00 pm

Saturdays 9:00 am—1:00 pm

Most refunds are received in less than two weeks.

### WHAT TO BRING:

- Picture I.D. for taxpayer and spouse (if applicable)
- Social Security cards or documents for all
- Proof of income including W2's and 1099 forms
- Documentation of deductible expenses
- Account and routing numbers of bank account (for refund direct deposit)

# Our Lenten Journey...

Dear Partners in the Gospel,

February is a month of quiet celebrations, subtle new beginnings, and a time for re-addressing visions and purposes.

The birthday of note is not Presidents' Day that once won for us a day off from work or school. No, this month's birthday strikes very close at home, on February 12<sup>th</sup>. It is Lincoln's birthday, Louise Lincoln that is, and Louise will be 100 years young! If you know Louise you know that she is a poet, a critical thinker, a natural questioner, a Bible student, and a person with an inquisitive attention to detail. Although Louise is not able to "come out" on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, please remember her milestone with a card, a hand-written note, and or a call. It is difficult for her to hear some folks on the phone, so the card idea may be the best way to offer well wishes. St. Paul had Louise in mind when he wrote in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians that though this tent is wasting away, the treasure we bear is inside. If you have spent any time at all with Louise, you may very well have seen the treasure that lives within her. Happy Birthday, Louise!

February offers the subtle beginning to the Season of Lent. We have reached back a few years to end our Epiphany run with our **Mardi Gras Festival**. Mardi Gras has deep, deep roots in the church and contrary to late-night infomercials, the celebration is solely focused upon Lent. "Fat Tuesday" for bayou residents is closely related to "Shrove Tuesday" for Midwestern farmers and the like. Both celebrations are meant to prepare the home for the season of Lent. Cupboards were emptied of things like sugar, flour, eggs, molasses, shrimp, rice, sausage, and beans. In the Bayou the dish prepared was jambalaya. In the Midwest farm towns it was pancakes.

The "fast of Lent" would be a season when family attention would be focused upon preparing for the Easter Vigil, on the Saturday before Easter. It was at the vigil that new Christians would be baptized. You could say the season of Lent was the season where evangelism and church outreach were at their height. The story of Jesus' resurrection is surely more central to the story of our salvation than is that of Jesus' birth at Bethlehem.

So for the next 40 days, church members reflect upon their own faith in study, in prayer groups, and of course in worship. The homework for Lent was very clear: prepare the new members to enter into a faithful relationship with

Jesus Christ as they will be baptized Easter Eve.

To begin our 40 day journey through Lent, Mardi Gras enables us to enter through a celebration of good food (Jambalaya, dirty beans & rice, cornbread, pancakes, and King Cake.) You are encouraged to dress in festive dress in colors: purple, green, and gold. Masks serve as reminders of the ways we seek to disguise ourselves as children of God as being children of the world. We will dance to the music of "da blues" with Plan B Blues Band. At the end of the evening we will gather on the patio to burn prayers of confession with palm leaves from last Palm Sunday. We end the celebration to enter Lent with a whispering of the Lord's Prayer, holding hands and un-masked.

Lent begins the next day with a service of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes.

During February the MLA team is continuing to address issues of Church life, and will be asking the congregation to look with us outside of our comfort-place to the direction we sense God is calling us.

Our Lenten midweek services will focus on the vision God has given to people of the scripture, and how they adapted to accomplish God's will. As we journey the season of Lent, I need all of you to accompany me. When the people come to understand or recognize the mission ahead, there is nothing that can make that mission fail. But if people expect one or two to set the direction and do the work the mission will utterly fail. I do not want to approach the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord surrounded by a spirit of failure because people have not accompanied us on the way.

I am asking for a personal investment from every adult, youth, and child of New Spirit. Invest your Wednesday early evening in the Scripture and witness. Invest yourself in reflection about God's role in your life, and your role in Christ's church.

In Christ you have been made free. I am asking you to invest a portion of that freedom to renew and revive your relationship with the Living Lord and the Risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

That is the order for the 40-day journey ahead. Of one thing we can be assured: to be about the Word of the Lord life will be experienced in abundance. Are you with me, or against me? See you at worship! -*Pastor Alan*

## From the President ...

# JOURNEY OF *Faith*

### Every Journey Starts With a New Beginning

An old saying goes “every journey begins with but a single step.” After January’s Town Hall Meeting and my first meeting as president with our new Vision Team, this saying kept coming to mind. As New Spirit begins to look at who we are, what we do well, where we need to do better and where we might be going as a church, the feeling of the journey continues.

As we are baptized and we commune during worship, we are all blessed with what Pastor Alan calls that “powerful presence of God within us, right now.” It is truly that presence that accompanies us on our journey and gives us all the strength to carry on God’s work in this place.

For many of us, that work is a much focused calling based on our own gifts and talents. For others

of us, it is a routine calling that keeps us participating just as we always have done in our “church life.” Others of us are still struggling with how we might “fit in” to God’s plan. And if you’re like me, it may be all of the above.

All of the new Vision Team members identified the reason they accepted the calling to be on the Vision Team as simply a leap of faith. Not knowing exactly what God may be calling them to do; they felt the need to participate in the elected governing of the church’s business as well as planning for what lies ahead. In the months ahead, you will be reading articles written by these members and I hope you begin to feel comfortable with them as your church leaders.

What lies ahead of us will require that all of us give not only financially, but also our time and talents towards the growth and operations of our church. It’s a challenge for sure, but it begins with these few new steps knowing that we are not alone, for we carry within us that “powerful presence of God within us, right now.”

~ **Tom Bartels**

## Have You Made Your Plans?



Over the past months we have experienced the deaths of a number of faithful New Spirit women. Each of them had talked about needing to complete their funeral service plan. With the plan, members get to choose the readings and hymns that will help us celebrate their lives. You will get to choose if Holy Communion will be celebrated. You will tell us what your plans for burial or disposition are to be.

Although all three of the women talked about it, none of them completed the form. This forced grieving family members to wade through the pain of their grief to make decisions about things they had no real understanding of. If you have not completed your funeral plan form, please pick one up from the Narthex or church office, complete it, and return it to the office. There we will give you three copies: one for your important papers box, one for your closest relative, and one for the funeral home you choose to handle your affairs. Please help us make your celebration as much about you as you possibly can.

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## Youth Nooz ...

### ***Super Group is gathering February***

**12<sup>th</sup>.** It will be our Annual Bowling Gathering (a real benefit since our January trip was a bust). 50 – 80 middle School and high school students will gather on Speedway and Alvernon for amazing bowling, food, and the fellowship of dozens of your closest friends!!! Watch for times and costs.



### ***Youth Group Easter Breakfast*** will be

the final fund-raiser for this summer's ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. We will serve from 7:15-10:00 a.m. Menu will be announced.

Any additional funds raised will be applied to the 2015 ELCA National Youth Gathering, site to be announced.



### **SALCA Camp, June 3-10, "The Never Ending Story"**

is the theme of this year's camp. The Bible study will explore lots of the stories of Scripture. Music will weave around the theme as well as introducing some new kickin' songs that you'll love. Interspersed will be games, activities, pretty good food, and making tons of friends. Elementary and Middle School Camp will be Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Thursday June 7<sup>th</sup> and the High School Camp is Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup> – Sunday June 10<sup>th</sup>.



SALCA Camp is open to students who have completed 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. L.I.T.'s (leaders in training) need to have completed 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and will be interviewed for very limited spaces. Cabin Leaders need to have completed L.I.T. Training and the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade. 12<sup>th</sup> graders may be considered through an interview process. High School Cabin leaders are to be over 21 years of age and will serve from noon June 8<sup>th</sup> until 5:30 p.m. June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Cost per camper is \$120, but New Spirit will pay a 50% campership for member campers.

## K-Hall Happenings

Our branch of the Community Food Bank provided food boxes for 248 families in December. We also gave out 245 Holiday bags and 46 supplemental New Spirit bags. The Food Bank supplied frozen chicken, so we were able to give each client some meat, something they rarely receive. We also had plenty of socks, underwear, Christmas books and stuffed animals to give to each child. It was a busy, but rewarding, time to work the food bank.

Because of the large amount of donations given by all the various churches and individuals, we actually have a surplus of food, temporarily! It won't last long, so we're still accepting donations. We have almost enough holiday food to make up Easter bags, so I'll be keeping you informed of any "extras" we might need as the time draws closer.

Thank you to all of those who donated blankets and jackets. They were so appreciated by many families.

*- Carol Lukehart*

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

We had six ladies come to our meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup>. We blessed one shawl and were pleased to receive 244 caps for the babies in Africa. Thanks everyone who has contributed to this wonderful project that we started in early November. We also gave out five shawls: one to Margaret Benson for the loss of two sisters in four days, one to Liz Durkin as a remembrance of New Spirit, and one each to our newest confirmands: Chris Arlig, Tyler Arlig, and Marcus Eibl.

We are so pleased to be able to do these wonderful things. Please come to our next meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup> and join in on the fun. —Dolores Sy—

**More people are needed for the 11 a.m. service to serve communion, read the lessons and do the prayers. Training will be given to make you feel at ease doing this service. —Gloria Burke**

## A Call to Prayer

The apostle Paul reminds us that we are to pray without ceasing. In an effort to increase our praying, we created a space in our newsletter where we will list prayers. These can be long term such as pray for our leaders, or a country in need or your neighbor for next week's surgery. By adding this column we're hoping to add more community and global prayers to New Spirit.

- Teachers in Arizona as they work with limited funds
- Local leaders
- Our soldiers everywhere

## Deborah's Gathering

At the January meeting it was decided to become part of the ELCA Missionary Sponsorship at the "Hand in Hand" level of the Global Mission of the ELCA. In this program we are able to pledge what we can faithfully contribute towards financial assistance in this mission field.

The covenant that will be signed is a promise of prayer, communication and financial support for at least one year. The director, Reverend Twila Schock, introduced the group to a team in Japan comprising Reverend Nathan Bowman and Sharonette Bowman. We have voted to make our commitment to these missionaries.

## Wednesday Nights

**Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup>**—Turkey and Gravy, Biscuits, Salad, Green Beans, and Cake

**Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup>**—Pork Roast, Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes, Peas and Carrots, and Ice Cream and Cookies

**Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup>**—Sloppy Joes, Buns, Chips, Pickles, and Pumpkin Bars

**Wednesday the 22<sup>th</sup>**—Baked Chicken, Carrots, Baked Potatoes, and Pudding Pies

**Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup>**—Potluck



Currently we are running three classes on Wednesday nights through Lent. Pastor Alan will be conducting services throughout Lent. If you have ideas for classes you'd like to participate in or lead after Lent please contact Shelley Colwell or leave a note in the Sunday School box. All ideas are appreciated!

The Sunday School department will soon begin work on an Easter program to be held between services on Palm Sunday in Fellowship Hall. Also in February we will be sponsoring a reading contest for "Love of Reading" month. Details will be distributed to parents during Sunday School.

## February Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

1<sup>st</sup> – Lori Bolin

2<sup>nd</sup> – Donna Bartels

Margaret Benson

Ellie Thompson

5<sup>th</sup> – Brian Sullivan

Harold Thompson

6<sup>th</sup> – Abbey Drath

10<sup>th</sup> – Ken & Sharon Dobbs

12<sup>th</sup> – Louise Lincoln (100<sup>th</sup>)

Laurelai Ryan

13<sup>th</sup> – Carl Arlig

15<sup>th</sup> – Ron White

17<sup>th</sup> – Barbara Hughes

18<sup>th</sup> – Harry Bolin

Brenda Feller

Julie Shamburg

20<sup>th</sup> – Richard & Lois Siegel

20<sup>th</sup> – Sarah Drath

Toni Nemetz

Kathy Vaclavek

21<sup>st</sup> – Kathleen Jones

24<sup>th</sup> – Sandra Colwell

25<sup>th</sup> – Sandra Cooper

26<sup>th</sup> – Christopher Arlig

26<sup>th</sup> – John Stoeckig

27<sup>th</sup> – Robert Short



# New Spirit Lutheran Church

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail  
Tucson, AZ 85710

## Shout-Outs

**Shout—Out to** Ellie Thompson for the wonderful care she has provided to many members of our congregation

**Shout—Out to** Jamie and Colleen for forming such a great new group of singers

**Shout—Out to** the musicians and singers involved in the January 15th service for the awesome music

**Shout—Out to** the Prayer Shawl ministry for making over 250 hats for babies in Africa

**Shout—Out to** John Lukecart, Shelley Colwell, and Edna Walton for teaching classes on Wednesday nights

**Shout—Out to** Terry Mysak, Harry Bolin, the Operations Team, and all others who spent so much time, effort, and money on repairing the marquee sign

**Shout—Out to** Steve Lamb and Don Austin for putting up with late schedules from the office

**Shout—Out to** Laurie Bernard for great foresight in planning the Mardi Gras celebration

**Shout—Out to** Carol Lowe & Karen Robinson for scheduling volunteers for the office

**Shout—Out to** Maureen Hunter, Ginny Gearhart, Darlene Paape, Sharon Dobbs, Jamie Buglewicz, Carol Lowe, Karen Robinson, and Judy McFarland for answering the office phones



### Sundays:

9:00 am Arise to Praise

(Spirited Contemporary Worship)

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

11:00 am Traditions

(Classic Hymns & Liturgies)

**Wednesdays:** 5:30 pm Dinner, 6:15 pm Classes

### *How to contact us:*

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