

WELCOME TO SPIRIT OF LIFE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

14401 Pilot Knob Road / Apple Valley, MN 55124
www.spiritoflifeav.org / spirit@spiritoflifeav.org / 952.423.2212

Thank you for joining us!



We hope you experience the joy of God's love in our diverse, inclusive, and compassionate community. Come as you are; all are welcome!

◇ Worship is at 10:00 am Sunday mornings, and can be live-streamed or watched later on YouTube or Facebook.

◇ Restrooms are in the first hallway to the left on exiting the sanctuary.

ORDER OF WORSHIP SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

**All who are able are invited to stand. Regular attenders, visitors, & members, please complete & return Connect/Prayer cards in offering plate or to the Welcome Table at the back of the sanctuary.*

Today's worship leaders: Rev. Rob Smith, Deon Ford, and Merry Close

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Deon Ford: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

All: *And it was good!* 🔔

Merry Close: God spoke light into being, separated day from night, and gave us time — for work and for rest.

All: *And it was good!* 🔔

Children and Youth-(from their seats): God made the land and the sea, planted gardens and forests, and gave us the joy of growing things.

All: *And it was good!* 🔔

Deon Ford: God filled the skies with birds, the seas with fish, and the earth with wild and wonderful creatures.

All: *And it was good!* 🔔

Adults (from their seats): God created people — of every kind, every color, every story — in the image of love.

All: *And it was good!* 🔔

Youth and Children: God gave us one another — families and friends, neighbors and strangers, old and young — a community to grow with.

All: *And it was good!* 🔔

Merry Close: God gave us a place to belong — a church to sing, serve, play, and worship together.

All: *And it was good!* 🔔

Pastor Rob: Today we begin again. A new season. A new year. A new invitation to walk in God's love.

All: *And all of this is good!* 🔔 🔔

Light the Candle

Opening Prayer

***Opening Songs** Come As You Are (CCLI #7017790) & Joy (CCLI #7014646)

Prayer of Reconciliation

Assurance of Grace

***Passing of Peace**

***Song** Surely the Presence of the Lord (CCLI #7909)

Prayer of Illumination

Introduction to New Sermon Series: The God Who Calls

Scripture Genesis 1:1–2:4a

Children's sermon "Creation in a Bag" / Blessing of the Backpacks

Sermon The God Who Calls: In The Beginning

Generosity: CROP Hunger Walk

Call To Offering

Ushers will circulate offering plates for those who wish to give in this way. Online giving is also available on our website.

Offertory Shalom (by Anna Krentz Organ) (Vicky Hoang, flute)

Communion: Welcome to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving / Prayers of the People

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Holy Communion

Communion Song and Prayer

Announcements

***Closing Song** This Little Light of Mine

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Please join us for coffee and refreshments after worship.

Announcements

Visitors: Welcome to Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church! Thank you for worshipping with us. Visitors, regular attenders and members, please complete the Connect/Prayer card and indicate if you wish to receive our weekly emails. If you don't have a card, please pick one up from our Information Table at the back of the sanctuary. Please return completed Connect/Prayer card in offering plate or in box labeled accordingly at the back. If you have any questions, please ask at the Information Table or Pastor Rob.

Sunday Events:

- **Today, Sept 7th, is Celebration Sunday**, kicking off our fall schedule!
- **How the New Testament Was Formed:** This adult class explores the formation of the New Testament. Steve Braden will lead following worship, also available via Zoom.

Weekday Events:

- **(Tuesday) COFFEE and CONVERSATION with Pastor Rob meets Tuesdays, 9:00-10:00 am.** Plan to join us Tuesday and come as you are. This coming week we return to meeting at Spirit of Life in person, or online. It is open for you to pop in and out any time so feel free to drop in and say hello. *Note, same time and same login, recurring meeting each week. Join Zoom Meeting at <https://zoom.us/j/286584190>.
- **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP** Our Men's Bible study group will meet the 2nd & 4th Wednesday with our next meeting Wednesday, Sept. 10th, at 6PM, at *Spirit of Life*.

It takes all of us to be the church. Leadership has worked diligently to organize the opportunities and share many of these through the following Sign-Up Genius links. Would you please take a few minutes and help make a commitment to help pick up a part. Please click on the link and select a date you could serve:

Fellowship Time

Sept 7: Pat Buchholz
Sept 14: (VOLUNTEER NEEDED)
Sept 21: (VOLUNTEER NEEDED)

Please use this link to sign up to prepare and serve coffee and treats for the fellowship time: Spirit of Life Congregation: Spirit of Life Sunday Fellowship - Coffees/Treats (signupgenius.com)

Usher/Greeter

Sept 7: (VOLUNTEER NEEDED)
Sept 14: (VOLUNTEER NEEDED)
Sept 21: (VOLUNTEER NEEDED)

Please use this link to sign up to serve as an Usher/Greeter—<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CAFA92FAAFCC34-50066232-spirit>
Thank You, Pastor Rob



From Community Service: If you would like to help with weeding, or harvesting vegetables for delivery to the food shelf, we work on Mondays and usually Wednesdays, weather permitting. Reach out to Denise.

Mendota Mdewakanton Pow Wow will be September 12-14, 2025 at the St. Peters Church Grounds, 1405 Sibley Memorial Hwy, Mendota, MN 55120. Please sign up at the back of the sanctuary if you are interested in going. We will meet at the church and car pool on Saturday, September 13th, 1 pm. Plan on returning by 4 pm. Please dress appropriately for this outside activity. See Karen Johnson for questions.

South of the River CROP Hunger Walk, Oct. 5! Hosted here at Spirit of Life.

- * 11:45 am- 1:00 pm: Pre-walk meal, bake sale, and food drive.
- * 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm: Walk, to Farquar Park and back, total of 3 miles.
- * Look for more information and sign up sheets on the back table.
- * Join the team, or donate: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/spirit-of-life-presbyterian-church-2>
- * Contact Denise Lewis for questions: dlewis9476@comcast.net
- * **Fundraiser** for South of the River CROP Walk at Smashburger in Burnsville, September 21. Pick up a flyer at the info table for details.

From Community Service/Justice Works:

We will be offering free music lessons again in the fall. The schedule will be based on how many students sign up, and will likely start in late September. Lessons available for piano, guitar (individual), and guitar (group). Contact Denise Lewis if you are interested or have questions: dlewis9476@comcast.net. Denise will be reaching out to past participating families directly.

SoL Call

Countering Vaccine Disinformation

An initiative dedicated to safeguarding vaccine use in the U.S. so that it remains grounded in the best available science, and focused on optimizing protection of individuals, families, and communities against vaccine-preventable diseases. <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/vaccine-integrity-project>

If you are missing a jacket or other items, please check for lost and found in the church entry. We will be donating items soon so look for yours after church!

Prayer requests to share with our Spirit Care Prayer Team may be emailed to Barb at bostlund@charter.net. Word it as you wish it to be submitted, and we will post it for our prayer team.

2025 Per Capita is \$40.00

Usual Church Office Hours: Monday & Thursday 10-3. Call ahead to make sure as we work remotely some days.

Staff: Pastor: Rev. Robert (Rob) Smith (pastorrob@spiritoflifeav.org)
Music Director: Martha Davis (davis.martha@live.com)
Office Administrator: Shari Shaw (spirit@spiritoflifeav.org)
Nursery Director: Trista Hansen
Tech Director: Joe Cornormia
AV Intern: Emma Meyer

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