

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 NOVEMBER 23, 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, Becky Brandt & Julie Raatz*

Prelude

Welcome Song

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: People of God, we gather in a world that feels scattered and uncertain—yet the Holy One meets us even here.

All: God calls us to plant hope, to seek peace, to look for promise in unexpected places.

One: Though we may dwell in seasons that feel like exile, God speaks a word of presence: "I am with you."

All: Though we may long for what was, God leads us toward what will be.

One: Come with your questions, your waiting, your wondering. Come with your dreams, your burdens, your prayers.

All: We come trusting the God who holds our future with love. We come to worship, to listen, and to hope.

Light the Candle

Opening Prayer

***Opening Song** Great is Thy Faithfulness (Hymn #39)

Prayer of Reconciliation

Assurance of Grace

***Passing of Peace**

***Song** Be Thou My Vision (Hymn #450)

Prayer of Illumination

Intro to Scripture

Scripture Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

Children's sermon

Sermon Song

Sermon (Rev. Rob Smith) Light in the Shadows: Hope for the Future

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 Goodness of God (by Jenn Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, Ben Fielding, & Brian Johnson) (CCLI #7117726) (Odosa Amadasun, singer)

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.

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 worshiping 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:

- **Children's Sunday School** class starts at 9:30am and goes until 10:15, then the kids will join adults in sanctuary for the Children's sermon.
- **Confirmation Class** for your 6th, 7th, or 8th grader! We'll meet the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month. **Next class is today, Nov. 23rd.** If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Rob.
- **Membership Class:** Remaining classes are today, Nov 23, and Dec 7 at 11:15am at the church. We'll be receiving the new members in worship on Sunday, Dec 14.

- Hey everybody! We'll be **decorating for Advent** after services today, Nov 23rd. Many hands make light work so we'd like to have as many people as possible stay and help!

Weekday Events:

- **(Tuesday) COFFEE and CONVERSATION with Pastor Rob meets Tuesdays, 9:00-10:00 am.** so join us Tuesday and come as you are. This week we meet 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>.

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

Nov 23: Barb Ostlund
Nov 30: Dan and Yuko Kurtti
Dec 7: (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

Nov 23: (VOLUNTEER NEEDED)
Nov 30: (VOLUNTEER NEEDED)
Dec 7: (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



Listening Circles – December 7 & 14 following worship. As Spirit of Life shapes a renewed **mission and vision**, we're inviting every voice to be heard. Join a **Listening Circle after worship** to share your hopes and insights for our church's future. Sign up at the information table or email spirit@spiritoflifeav.org.

Would you like to join the Deacons and Community service teams in preparing **Christmas cookie trays**? Sign up at the info table to bring 3-4 dozen cookies on Sunday, December 14th, and following worship, we'll enjoy fellowship while we prep trays in the conference room! See Rose McMurray with questions.

The Community Service team thanks you for your donations to our Armful of Love project, assisting those in our community in need of help this Christmas. We collected \$1025 in cash and gift cards!! Many will be able to provide food and gifts for their families because of your generosity!! **We are now again sponsoring The Giving Tree project.** Gift cards to Target, Walmart, Cub, Aldi, Kwik Trip, and Holiday are requested in \$25 increments. Cash/check donations would also be appreciated payable to Spirit of Life with Pastors Discretionary Fund in memo line. This is another way of supporting those in our church family and community who are struggling with job loss - buying groceries, having gas for cars to get to work, paying for housing, etc throughout the year. Our goal is \$1000 but the need is even greater. Let's show how much we care during this season of giving. Please see the display in back of the sanctuary. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Registration for the **Montreat Fall Craft Week** opened November 19th. Check out [Montreat.org](https://montreat.org) and see all the available classes. I hope you consider joining me this year.
Becky Brandt

SoL Trip to the Westminster Town Hall Forum featuring The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde is Thursday, December 4. We will leave Spirit of Life by 10:30 am. There is live music by Ann Reed at 11:30 and the forum is from 12- 1 pm. We should be back to church by 1:30 pm. How Much Can a Human Heart Hold? To Persevere in Hope in Fearful Times "Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde is the first woman elected spiritual leader for the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, which includes the Washington National Cathedral. Previously, Bishop Budde served as rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Minneapolis for 18 years. Join us as Bishop Budde shares her thoughts on the intersection of faith and politics and speaking truth to power. She will offer insight on how we can support one another and keep hope alive." Sign up in the back of the sanctuary or by texting Christine at 952-210-6412.

Merry Old SoLs, our senior fellowship group, will meet Wednesday, Dec. 10, 9:30-11:30, at the home of Bob & Rebecca Shepard in Dundas.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY meets Wednesdays at the church!! Men's Bible study group meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. The next meeting is Wednesday, December 10th, at 6:00 PM. NOTE: We will not meet November 26th, the day before Thanksgiving.

The Christian Education committee is again putting together **treat bags** for the children after their program on December 21. If you would like to contribute wrapped candy or small holiday favors, please put them in the basket in the front hall by Sunday, December 14. Thanks!!

SoL Call
Protect the Boundary Waters

You can click the link to easily send a message to your elected representatives about pending legislation. <https://www.savetheboundarywaters.org/action-borderbill2025>

Funds raised with the **Poinsettia youth fundraiser** will go toward the youth Montreat trip next summer. Orders due to church office by end of business December 8. Bachman's delivery will be the week of Dec 15-19 (TBD)

Available for purchase:

Red Poinsettia: 6.5" for \$15/each OR Red Poinsettia: 8" for \$22/each

White Poinsettia: 6.5" for \$15/each OR White Poinsettia: 8" for \$22/each

Pink Poinsettia: 6.5" for \$15/each OR Pink Poinsettia: 8" for \$22/each

...Pots will be wrapped with gold foil.

...Please indicate whether you are

ordering for your home or for the sanctuary adornment. Reach Becky Brandt at thebrandtfam@gmail.com with questions.

We remember Mark Devin and Vasanth Sivan and Maya Sivan in our prayers as Mark's sister, Melissa, passed away Nov. 9th. A Celebration of Life will be Wed., Nov. 26th, at Faith Covenant Church, 12921 Nicollet Ave, Burnsville. 10 am visitation, 11am service followed by a luncheon.

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
Children's Director: Christine Kolb

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