

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 14, 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, Ruth Ewule, Steve Raatz
Advent Candle readers: Kyle, Kate, Anwyn and Oliver Frost*

Light the Candle

Prelude

Welcome

Advent Candle / Congregational Song: He Came Down

Call to Worship: The Promise of More Grace

One: Before we begin, let us breathe together.

One: Breathing in, we receive grace. Breathing out, we release worry. (pause)

Breathing in, we receive mercy. Breathing out, we release fear. (pause)

One: Come, all who are thirsty.

All: We come to the waters of grace.

One: Come, all who are weary of striving and earning.

All: We come to receive what cannot be bought.

One: Come, people of God. The feast is already prepared.

All: We come trusting the promise of more grace.

***Opening Song** Angels We Have Heard on High (Hymn #113)

Prayer of Reconciliation

Assurance of Grace

***Passing of Peace**

Special Music A Little Child Will Come To Lead Us (by Nancy Price & Don Besig)
(Spirit of Life Choir with Kristen Ehlert, flute)

Prayer of Illumination

Intro to Scripture

Scripture Isaiah 55:1–13

Children's sermon

Sermon (Rev. Rob Smith) The Promise of Grace

Receive New Members: Diane Albright, Audrey Buss, Emmitt Clark, Pat Ekstrom, Kate Frost, Kyle Frost, Teri Larson, Will Larson, Karen Miller, Mike Samara, and Cathy Satriano

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.

Today we will receive the *Christmas Joy offering*. Special envelopes are in the bulletins to designate accordingly. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we celebrate God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of leaders among us—past, present and future—who point us to God.

Offertory Light of the World (by Lauren Daigle, Paul Duncan, & Paul Mabury) (CCLI #7023299) (Lisa Smith, Mary Brause, Odosa Amadasun, Ruth Ewule, Denise Lewis, Deon Ford, singers)

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.

Special Music Glory Hallelujah! (By Lloyd Larson) (Spirit of Life Choir)

Announcements

Reading

***Closing Song** O Come All Ye Faithful

***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 6th, 7th, or 8th graders will meet today, then resuming in January 2026, meeting the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month.

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 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>.
- Join us Wednesdays for our **Meet in the Middle** family night schedule:
4:30-6:30pm children 6:00PM Family Dinner
6-8pm youth 6-8pm Men's group (2nd & 4th weeks)
7pm choir & small music group rehearsal
Join us Dec 17. We'll take a break then and resume February 11.

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

Dec 14: Elders (We welcome new members!)
Dec 21: Christian Ed Committee
Dec 28: *(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

Dec 14: Patrick Keohane and Becky Brandt
Dec 21: *(VOLUNTEER NEEDED)*
Dec 28: *(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 the **Listening Circle after worship** to share your hopes and insights for our church's future.

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 also 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, gas for cars to get to work, 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!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at the church!! The next meeting is Wednesday, January 14th, at 6:00 PM.

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 leave them in the basket in the front hall today, December 14. Thanks!!

Mark your calendars! Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church will expand its **Martin Luther King Jr. Day Commemoration** to include most of the month of January 2026, and the whole congregation is invited to participate! Our 2026 activities will focus on education, storytelling, and community service, honoring Dr. King's legacy in meaningful and intergenerational ways. During worship services, we will hear youth perspectives, and migration stories, and there will be educational offerings following worship. A soul food potluck is planned following worship on Sunday, January 18. Planning is underway, so watch for more details. Questions can be directed to Alvine Siaka or Karen Johnson. Please **SAVE THE DATE:** Monday, January 19, 2026, is Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and is designated by Congress as a National Day of Service. We are planning a family-friendly service project **AT CHURCH** on that day. We will be packing emergency grocery bags for Rosemount Resource Center food shelf, creating "birthday kits" (also for the food shelf), and will share a light lunch together in fellowship, after the work is completed. Watch for details next week on how you can participate! Questions can be directed to Denise Lewis or Christine Kolb.

SoL Call

Antidote for contempt is dignity

Tip from the Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde: We are living in a national atmosphere of contempt, and the antidote is treating others with dignity. Explore this tool: <https://www.dignity.us/index>

Music lessons in 2026! For those of you who may not be aware of it, Spirit of Life offers music lessons at the church at no cost, as a ministry focussed on equity and inclusion. We have had several families participate, and it is open to children, youth, and adults who are interested in introductory lessons in piano or / and guitar. Church membership is **NOT** required. Lessons are currently on holiday break, but a new schedule will be created to begin sometime in January. If you are interested in participating, or have questions, please reach out to Denise Lewis, dlewis9476@comcast.net.

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.

2026 Per Capita is \$43.75

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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