

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 JANUARY 25, 2026

**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 and Loretta Hunt*

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: From water turned to wine— where joy overflowed and abundance surprised us,

All: We have seen the glory of God revealed among ordinary people.

One: From tables overturned—where injustice was named and holy anger broke the silence,

All: We have seen the courage of love that will not look away.

One: And now, from the darkness of night, a teacher comes quietly, cautiously, searching for truth.

All: We know this night. We know this searching.

One: He comes with knowledge, with status, with power— and still, with questions he cannot answer alone.

All: We come the same way— carrying what we know, and what we fear to let go.

One: And into the night, Jesus speaks not condemnation, but promise.

All: Not exclusion, but love.

One: For God so loved the world— not just the faithful, not just the brave, not just the righteous—

All: But the whole world.

One: Come, then. Whether you arrive in daylight or darkness, certainty or doubt, confidence or caution—

All: We come to worship the God who meets us in the night and loves us into the light.

Light the Candle

Opening Prayer

Opening Song This Little Light of Mine

Prayer of Reconciliation

Assurance of Grace

***Passing of Peace**

***Song** I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (Hymnal #377)

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture John 3: 1-21

Children's sermon

Sermon

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 Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly (by Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, & Pat Barrett CCLI#7168697) (Karen Johnson, singer)

Doxology

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 Shine Jesus Shine (CCLI #30426)

***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.

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.

Join us immediately following worship today:

- Plan to stay after worship a little longer on **Sunday, January 25th, for the Annual Business Meeting** to receive the annual reports and remember the blessings of 2025.
- **Confirmation class** for 6th, 7th, or 8th graders will meet **February 8th**, and continue meeting the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month. No class today due to Annual Meeting.

Weekday Events:

- **(Tuesday) COFFEE and CONVERSATION with Pastor Rob meets Tuesdays, 9:00-10:00 am.** We meet at Spirit of Life, in person or online, this coming Tuesday, January 20th. 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>.
- **Merry Old SoLs**, our senior fellowship group, will gather on Wednesday, January 28, 9:30-11:30am, at the home of Marge & Steve Braden in Rosemount. All are welcome. Please RSVP to Steve or Marge.
- **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at the church!! The next meeting is Wednesday, January 28th, at 6:00 PM.

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

Jan 25: Dan and Yuko Kurrti
Feb 1: Pat Ekstrom
Feb 8: (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 - Refreshments/Treats](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CAFA92FAAFCC34-50066232-spirit-Refreshments/Treats)

Usher/Greeter

Jan 25: Patrick Keohane & Barb Ostlund
Feb 1: (VOLUNTEER NEEDED)
Feb 8: (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



Civil Rights Class in February: Starting February 1, Steve Braden will lead an after-worship adult class on Civil Rights in 2026. We'll start with a look at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights movement of the 1960's, and move on to current issues such as voting rights, immigrant rights, religious freedom, and others.

M&M meals will be starting Feb 11th. We will be serving meals at 6p.m.e and we need people to prepare meals. If you would like to prepare and serve a meal, please sign up on signup sheet at the back of the sanctuary or contact Loretta Hunt at lorettahunt5678@gmail.com to let her know which of the following Wednesday work best for you: Wednesdays, March 4, April 15, or April 29. Thank you!

Plan now to join us for our **Ash Wednesday family evening on Wednesday, February 18th.**

4:30pm Meet in the Middle

6:00pm Pancake Family Meal

6:30pm Ash Wednesday Family service for children, youth & adults

Post Meal Cleanup

Our expanded focus honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the month of January this year was impactful, and captured more of his broad legacy than what we have done in previous years. We heard powerful, heartfelt testimonies from Odosere Amadasun and Alvine Laure Siaka during worship on January 11 and 18, reflecting on their journeys and lived experiences. We sang some of the songs reflecting the civil rights struggle. Following worship on January 18, we shared a meal together with a wonderful Soul Food Potluck and viewed "Eyes on the Prize" (Episode 1): [Eyes on the Prize - S01E01 - Awakenings, 1954-1956 - video Dailymotion](#). (The first episode of the landmark Civil Rights documentary series). This was followed by a lively cross-generational conversation on civil rights, justice, hope, and Dr. King's vision for the beloved community. On Monday, 25 volunteers, including 4 families with young children, gathered at church to honor Dr. King's legacy for service by packing 20 emergency grocery bags and 17 birthday cake kits, to be delivered to Rosemount Resource Center supporting their food shelf. We were able to complete that service project because we collected over \$1000 worth of food to fill the bags and kits. Many thanks to all who organized, participated in, and supported all these activities!

SoL Call: A New Year of Resistance!

Women's March MN keeps a calendar of protest opportunities, covering several issues. Find something that you feel passionate about!

<https://www.womensmarchmn.com/google-calendar>

SoL Kids' Corner:

-Meet in the Middle will resume February 11.

-"Save the Date! **SoL Kids' Camp will be August 10-14!** Open to kids going into K-6th grade and to middle/high schoolers that want to help! More info will be shared later this spring. Contact Christine, 952-210-6412 or christine@christinesfloraltouch.com with any questions."

Winter Chrysalis Women's Retreat: Clearwater Presbyterian Forest: Feb 20-22 (starts 4pm, Feb 20th). Theme is Our Daily Bread: What Do You Knead? Speaker: Reverend Elaine Boyd. Fee of \$300 covers 2 nights lodging in a double room, speaker presentations, entertainment, programming & 5 meals. (\$75 deposit required, first time attendees are eligible for a \$50 discount.) Scholarships available. Register at [Retreats | Clearwater Forest Camp & Retreat Center "Women's Chrysalis"](#). Questions, contact Karen Johnson, she has gone many years. You can carpool with Karen to Clearwater Forest.

Join us for a south of the river joint event of Living Joy Lutheran Community (Prior Lake), Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church (Apple Valley), New Spirit UCC Church (Savage) and Presbyterian Church of the Apostles (Burnsville) on the critical topic of Christian Nationalism. Author of "Red State Christians" and "Disciples of White Jesus" to talk about how we as Christians can recognize and fight Christian Nationalism, **Rev. Angela Denker, will speak at Spirit of Life Church in Apple Valley February 24, 2026 at 6:30pm** at Spirit of Life Church in Apple Valley.

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