

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 4, 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: Ryan Currens, Bob and Rebecca Shepard

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather this morning hearing the first question Jesus asked: "What are you looking for?" Are you seeking hope in a fractured world? Are you seeking peace in the midst of the noise?

Congregation: Like the first disciples, we are searching. We ask the Lord, "Teacher, where are you staying?"

Leader: He is staying in the places we least expect. In the "Nazareths" of our lives—the margins, the messy places, and the forgotten corners—God's glory is revealed. Can anything good come out of our struggles?

Congregation: We set aside our doubt to hear the invitation: Come and see.

Leader: Before you entered this space, you were known. Just as Jesus saw Nathanael under the fig tree, the eyes of Grace were upon you before you ever sought Him. You are not a stranger here; you are beloved.

Congregation: We set aside our fear to hear the invitation: Come and see.

Leader: Then let us look up! The heavens are opened. The ladder between earth and heaven is lowered in the person of Jesus Christ. He calls us not just to watch from a distance, but to follow.

All: We come to leave our old names behind. We come to be found by Love. We come to worship the Lord. Amen.

Light the Candle

Opening Song Come, Now is the Time to Worship (CCLI #2430948)

Call and Prayer of Reconciliation

One:

All: (Unison) All-Seeing God, we confess that like Nathanael, we are often

skeptics. We look at the brokenness of our world, and the brokenness within our own hearts, and we ask, "Can anything good come out of this?" We doubt that You can work in the messy margins of our lives.

We confess that we hide under the fig trees of our own making. We hide our shame, our fears, and our failures, hoping to stay out of Your sight. We cling to our old names and our old habits, afraid to accept the new identity You offer us.

Forgive us, O Lord. Look upon us not with the eyes of judgment, but with the gaze of grace. Remind us that we do not have to make ourselves beautiful to be loved by You; but that Your love is what makes us beautiful. Call us out of the shadows and into Your marvelous light. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

***Passing of Peace**

***Song** I Need Thee Every Hour (Hymn #735)

Prayer of Illumination

Introduction to Scripture

Scripture John 1:35–51 and

Children's sermon

Sermon (Ryan Currens)

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 Come and See (by Matt Redman, Jason Ingram, Matt Maher, & Chris Tomlin) (Odosa Amadasun & Beauty Amadasun, singers)

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 The Table (by Jonathan Traylor & Jeff Pardo) (Odosa Amadasun, singer)

Announcements

Closing Song I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

***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.

Weekday Events:

- **(Tuesday) COFFEE and CONVERSATION with Pastor Rob meets Tuesdays, 9:00 -10:00 am.** We will resume Jan 6, 2026 at Cracker Barrel, Lakeville so plan to join us then and come as you are. Next week, Jan 13, we meet at Spirit of Life, in person and 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

Jan 4: Patrick Keohane and Loretta Hunt

Jan 11: **(VOLUNTEER NEEDED)**

Jan 18: **(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

Jan 4: **(VOLUNTEER NEEDED)**

Jan 11: **(VOLUNTEER NEEDED)**

Jan 18: **(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



Confirmation class for 6th, 7th, or 8th graders will resume meeting January 11, 2026, and meeting the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month.

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

Mark your calendars: IMPORTANT AND TIME SENSITIVE! Let's clear the bulletin board of PLEDGE POST-ITS!! As part of our expanded effort to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., on Monday January 19, 2026 we are planning a family-friendly service project AT CHURCH. We will be packing emergency grocery bags for Rosemount Resource Center food shelf and creating "birthday kits" (also for the food shelf). **We will collect all the specified food items for this project. There are pledge Post-Its on the bulletin board by the sound booth -- please take one or**

two, or several, and plan to bring in your pledged items on JANUARY 11 or JANUARY 18. IF ALL THE PLEDGE POST-ITS ARE TAKEN, AND THE DESIGNATED ITEMS RETURNED, WE WILL MEET OUR GOAL OF PACKING 20 BAGS, AND CREATING 12 BIRTHDAY KITS, BUT WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOUR HELP!! Check out the bulletin board for details. Questions can be directed to Denise Lewis or Christine Kolb.

Our other 2026 activities will focus on education, storytelling, and gathering in community, honoring Dr. King's legacy in meaningful and intergenerational ways. During worship services, we will hear youth perspectives, and migration stories. 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.

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.

SoL Kids' Corner:

-Sunday School is on Winter Break! We will resume on Sunday, January 11.

-Meet in the Middle is on Winter Break, too! We will resume February 11.

Winter Chrysalis Women's Retreat at Clearwater Presbyterian Forest is Feb 20-22, 2026 (starts at 4pm Feb 20th). Theme is Our Daily Bread: What Do You Knead? Speaker is the Reverend Elaine Boyd. Fee is \$300, covers 2 nights of lodging in a double room, speaker presentations, entertainment, programming and 5 meals. A \$75 deposit is required, first time attendees are eligible for a \$50 discount. Scholarships are 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.

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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