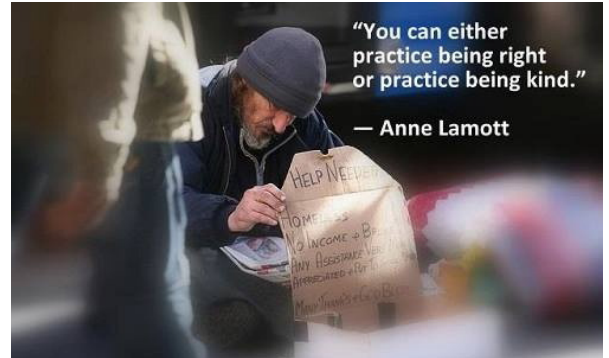


FAITH FLIGHT

April 2014



Meet in the Middle

John 13: 34-35 *“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

Matthew 22:36-39 *“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

If we were to summarize what Jesus said is most important, we are to love God, neighbor (even our enemy neighbor), and love one another. Yet the headlines from the Christian blogosphere this last month included: 1. The death of Fred Phelps—the founder of Westboro Baptist Church known for displaying who God hates. 2. Division and intolerance within the universal Christian church was on full display in the response to World Vision’s initial decision of becoming more inclusive in it’s hiring practices proceeded by the immediate backlash from much of the evangelical church that led the charge resulting in withdrawing it’s support of 10,000 innocent children, and the immediate retraction from World Vision that went back to it’s original discriminatory hiring practices. The messaging from inside Christianity has been anything but loving God, neighbor, and each other. To those outside who we are called to share good news, they have instead witnessed name calling, division, and hypocrisy. The public relations problem continues that Christians are known more for what they are against than who they are for.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, I am thankful to be walking alongside a body of Christ who have witnessed what it means to love one another. In a week that I was enjoying some time away with family, our community back home was visiting our friends in the hospital, supporting families in a time of need, helping plan memorial service details, and baking lots of cookies to share. The providing, visiting, and sharing came from a genuine love of one another. Not once was there a litmus test for providing. No one asked first of another’s politics. Questions did not measure another’s worth. I am proud and thankful of our community at Spirit of Life that comes together from all walks of life to celebrate what we share in common—a love of our Triune God, our support of our neighbor, and our love for one another. Whenever our disagreements begin to lead to division, may we find ourselves joining together at the foot of the cross. This Easter season, may we be reminded of God’s ultimate display of love of dying and rising to restore with us a relationship. May this relationship continue to guide us in how we meet one another as our dear friend, Clarnell Holtz shared in the life she lived. In a life where faith was central in guiding her love of God, family, church, and neighbor. Even in our differences—may we constantly employ kindness.

Cont’d on page 2



"Kindness"

Kindness is a warm sensation you feel,
 It's a loving warmth that is totally real.
 It's a gift that makes you happy.
 You might even feel a bit sappy.
 You may become so very tender,
 That radiating joy to others you render.
 This joy comes as a growing flood,
 It cheers your spirit and warms your blood.
 To be a kind person and to succeed,
 You must value friends and fulfill their needs.
 In short, kindness is triggered by love,
 And all of the qualities listed above.
 It causes our feelings to be intense,
 Against which we have no defense.
 Kindness is often a forerunner of passion,
 And not something we should ever ration.
 It also is an accompaniment of joy.
 Remember, Kindness we must constantly employ.

By Clarnell Holtz

M&M has been a wonderful energetic ministry for *Spirit of Life*. The kids arrived right after school, hungry and ready for a snack. Many have provided support for this ministry by cooking, setting up tables & chairs, or helping with the re-set for the sanctuary. **Blessings to all those who have and are participating in M&M. The last Wednesday for M&M is April 9, 2014.**

VITAL SIGNS...for February

WEEK	ATTENDANCE		(+/-)	CONTRIBUTIONS		(+/-)
	2013	2014		2013	2014	
Week 1	54	75	+21	\$2,241.00	\$2,723.00	\$482.00
Week 2	47	61	+14	\$1,398.00	\$1,690.00	\$292.00
Week 3	47	62	+15	\$3,073.93	\$2,979.96	(\$93.97)
Week 4	47	60	+13	\$1,555.00	\$1,401.00	(\$154.00)
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE / TOTALS	49	65		\$8,267.93	\$8,793.96	\$526.03

For questions in regard to the church finances or your personal giving statement, please contact our financial team: Barb Ostlund—Treasurer or Steve Raatz—Financial Secretary



April 2014

4/08 Luke Scott
 4/08 Prince Jordan
 Cornormia
 4/11 Penny Zdrubek
 4/14 Donald Roeske
 4/15 Vila English
 4/18 Kate Olaf
 4/24 Nick Wilkowske
 4/25 Cole Smith

**Spiritcare
 Prayer Team
 call 1.507.263.5975
 952.423.2212 (office)**



A Memorial Service for Clarnell Holtz will be held on Wednesday April 2 at 11:00 a.m. at Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church. A lunch will be served after the service. Please come and remember this wonderful, creative lady.

CARD CARE LIST REMINDER :

If you had someone on Loving Community Ministry Team's Card Care List in March 2014 and wish them to remain on in April 2014, please resubmit them with an update to Ruth Shepard at:

rshepard2@frontier.com or 507.263.5975 or by filling out a blue Prayer Request card during worship.

***BE SURE TO CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX(S) ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE CARD.**

***NOTE:** Each month our Card Care List starts with new and updated submissions only.

ATTENTION MEN ONLY

The **March Spirit of Life Men's Breakfast** will be **Saturday, April 12 at 7:15 a.m. at the Panera in Apple Valley.** Bring a friend. Please let Bob Shepard (shepardsprairie@gmail.com) or Pastor Rob (pastorrob@spiritoflifeav.org) know if you're able to attend so they may reserve the appropriate size table.



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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Alice Gracek



Our exciting **2014 Lent Season** continues as each Sunday we explore the various aspects of “**Cross Training**”. Wednesdays we will add to our regular “M&M” meeting-in-the-middle/midweek program by inviting the entire *Spirit of Life* church family and friends to join us for the 6-7pm kid-friendly **Meal and Devotions**.

Wednesday, April 2: 6-7 meal with devotion

Sunday, April 6: “Plateau” John 11: 1-45

Wednesday, April 9: 6-7 meal with devotion

Palm Sunday, April 13: Matthew 21: 1-11

Thursday, April 17: 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Potluck and Communion Worship. We will experience the Last Supper, serving each other.

Wednesday activities are suspended for April 16

Easter Sunday, April 20: Our choir will present their Easter Cantata in morning worship, with Communion served in the seats.

PINEAPPLE ORANGE CAKE

By Carol Osweiler

1 package yellow cake mix
1 can (11 Oz) mandarin oranges, undrained
4 egg whites
½ cup unsweetened applesauce

Topping:

1 can (20 oz) crushed pineapple, undrained
1 package (1 oz) sugar-free instant vanilla pudding mix
1 carton (8oz) reduced-fat whipped topping

In a large bowl, beat the cake mix, oranges, egg whites and applesauce on low speed for 2 minutes.

Spray a 9x13 pan with cooking spray

Pour cake mixture into the 13x9 baking pan.

Bake at 350 for 25-30” or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack.

In a bowl, combine the pineapple and pudding mix.

Fold in whipped topping just until blended. Spread over cake. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour before serving.



It seems like only yesterday that Lora M. Ulrich, a true angel, left us five years ago on April 10 (Good Friday) 2009.

Lora, your kindness, energy, and passion for life were contagious to everyone who was fortunate enough to be touched by you, and is felt and remembered today by family, friends, and myself.

Our loss of you in this world became Heaven's gain!

We miss you so very much but know that you are living a wonderful new life.

With all of my love, Walt Ullrich



COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOTS AVAILABLE!

SIZE: 8' x 8' raised beds

AT: Spirit of Life Church

14401 Pilot Knob Road

Email: spirit@spiritoflifeav.org

Ph: 952-423-2212

TERMS:

Rental from May 1 - October 31.

Fee: \$35, with a \$20 refund at season end if plot is maintained and cleared after freeze.

Water available from the church outside faucet.

Spring prep of the beds provided with the assistance of our charter Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts.

If you don't have much experience with gardening, coaching (and even some extra plants and seeds!) will be available from the garden crew here at Spirit of Life! Contact Denise Lewis, 651-686-9476, or dlewis9476@comcast.net for more information.

WEDNESDAY CLUB

Wednesday Club is pleased to present **Kyle Unzicker** in **CONCERT** for our April 9, 2014 meeting. His performance will begin at 12:30 p.m. Bring your friends and neighbors to enjoy this wonderfully talented musician. **There will be a potluck at 12:00 noon, bring your favorite dish to share.**



YOUTH NEWS

Wednesday nights we share in a meal at 6:00 p.m. followed by youth gathering and confirmation.

April 2: **M&M/Deeper in our Faith**

April 5: **Girls Night / Boys Night**

Girls dress up dinner, shopping at MOA & slumber party at Johnson's!

Boys paintball & gaming/movies, sleepover at Eric's.

April 6: **Youth Meeting**, 11am

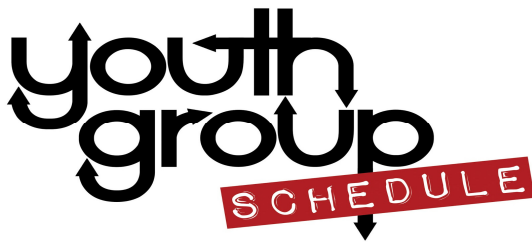
April 9: **M&M/Deeper in our Faith**

April 26: **Rollerskating**
at Skateville, 7-10 p.m. Cost; \$10 plus food

April 27: **Confirmation Sunday**

May 4: **Baccalaureate Sunday!**

Youth Meeting, 11am
Followed by tool training



Information about our Mission Trip for 2014 to Chandler Oklahoma:

****The second Mission Trip payment of \$171.00 is due March 1.**

Final payment of \$171 (less fundraising) is due May 1. After this date there are no cancellations and no return of any fees. If financial assistance is needed please contact Pastor Rob Smith. Watch for more Youth News in the Sunday Bulletin.

Lectionary Texts and Service Highlights

Sunday, April 6

Ezek 37:1-14; Ps. 130;
Rom. 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

Sunday, April 13 Palm Sunday

Palms Matt. 21:1-11; Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29
Passion: Isa. 50:4-9a Ps. 31:9-16 Phil. 2:5-11; Matt. 26:14-27:66 or Matt. 27:11-54

Sunday, April 20 Easter

Acts 10:34-43 or Jer. 31: 1-6 Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24;
Col. 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or
Matt. 28:1-10
Easter Evening Isa. 25:6-9; Ps. 114; 1 Cor. 5:6b-8;
Luke 24: 13-49

Sunday, April 27

Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Ps. 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

2013-2014

Officers

Session

Rebecca Brandt
Brian Gracek
Leslie Hohmann
Karen Johnson
Marge Lewis
Denise Lewis
Julie Raatz
Peggy Roeske
Chris Sachs

Board of Deacons

Duane Brause
Pat Buchholz
Alice Gracek
Loretta Hunt
Jerry Johnson
Janna Warren-Perry
Treasurer
Barb Ostlund
Financial Secretary
Steve Raatz

Please contact the
**Clerk of
Session,
Karen Johnson,**
in regard to
membership
changes and any
Session member
with questions or
concerns.

NEXT LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

DEACON MEETING

8:00 p.m. on
Thursday,
April 10, 2014

SESSION MEETING/

6:30 p.m. on
Thursday,
April 10, 2014

Pastor Rob Did the Cannon Ball!

On March 8, 2014, 795 brave souls jumped into Lake Riley in Eden Prairie to raise money for Special Olympics. Pastor Rob and 14 others were part of the Farmington Tiger Team of jumpers. This team raised \$3320.00 and the Farmington Tigers Special Olympic Team will receive \$1660.00 of that sum. Nicole Fisher said, "It was awesome having Rob, Mary, and Eric jumping with us!" Pastor Rob said he was going to jump again next year and he wants more jumpers from *Spirit of Life* to join the team.



Communications Policy Statement

It is Spirit of Life's policy to...

- ▶ list names, and place photos of members associated with church events, in the newsletter and on the website.
- ▶ Spirit of Life also acknowledges birthdays (month & day) in the newsletter, during the member's birthday month.
- ▶ Finally, Spirit of Life plans to put a copy of the monthly newsletter on its website.

Any member who does not want his/her name, likeness, or birth month listed in these, or any other church publications, is requested to contact the church office with a formal request to keep their personal information confidential.

Send newsletter announcements to: spirit@spiritoflifeav.org.

SPIRIT OF LIFE STAFF

PASTOR Rev. Rob Smith:

pastorrob@spiritoflifeav.org - 952.807.4413

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR Shari Shaw:

spirit@spiritoflifeav.org - 952.423.2212

MUSIC DIRECTOR Kate Olaf:

music@spiritoflifeav.org - 952.423.2212

NURSERY CAREGIVER Trista Hansen:

spirit@spiritoflifeav.org - 952.423.2212

OFFICE spirit@spiritoflifeav.org / www.spiritoflifeav.org

14401 Pilot Knob Road / Apple Valley, MN 55124

952.423.2212

Office Hours

10:00 AM—3:00 PM M

10:00 AM—3:00 PM TU

10:00 AM—3:00 PM W

10:00 AM—3:00 PM TH

FOR PASTORAL EMERGENICES
PLEASE CALL 952.807.4413



10 PM ~ SUNDAY, APRIL 20
for the May issue.



14401 Pilot Knob Road
Apple Valley, MN 55124

Office 952.423.2212

spirit@spiritoflifeav.org
www.spiritoflifeav.org

Mission Statement

Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church, created by the Holy Spirit, seeks to be a loving community where all can grow in faith while serving and worshipping the God made known in Jesus Christ.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 2** **Memorial Service for Clarnell Holtz 11:00 AM**
April 2 6:00 p.m. Family meal with devotions
April 6 **Communion Sunday**
April 7 New Sociables 8:30 AM
April 9 **Wednesday Club Potluck & concert 12:00 noon**
April 9 6:00 Family Meal with devotions
April 10 **Session Meeting 6:30 PM**
April 10 Deacon Meeting 8:00 PM
April 12 **Men's Breakfast 7:15 AM at Panera**
April 13 Palm Sunday
April 17 Maundy Thursday Potluck & Communion Worship 7:00 PM
April 20 **Easter Sunday**
April 27 Confirmation Sunday

Weekly Events

MON	Cubs @ 6PM	TUES	Scouts @ 6:30PM
WED	6:30PM BELLS, Scouts	THURS	Cubs @ 6PM

Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

Sunday School/Youth Group/Adult Ed 11:10 AM (September thru May)
* Nursery provided during Worship & Education time