



09 DECEMBER 2018 AD

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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WELCOME to Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church!

If this is your first time here we want to say a special thank you for worshipping with us today. Whether you're visiting, seeking a new spiritual direction in your life, or simply looking for a church home, we pray that *SPIRIT OF LIFE* might be the place for you to grow. Living a life of faith is no easy matter—until we try living life without faith. We're glad you worshiped here today and want you to know that your presence is always welcome! **NOTE:** Large print bulletins & Children's activity bags are available at the usher station. We also offer nursery upstairs during worship and Sunday school.

***Thank you for silencing/turning off your electronic devices during rehearsals and worship. This helps everyone stay focused.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Rev. Rob Smith

ADVENT CANDLE READING

Kubé family

CONGREGATION SING "Prepare The Way of the Lord"

All: Prepare the way of the Lord, Prepare the way of the Lord, All people shall sing the salvation of our God.

READING

One: People of God, Esther was a heroic woman who took a great risk to bring peace for her people.

All: We want peace to overcome struggle, violence, and cruelty.

One: It can be dangerous to call for peace.

All: This might be the job God needs us to do.

One: Today we light a candle to symbolize God's peace. We hope in the One who will come. We pray for God's peace to prevail.

(Light the candles of Hope and Peace.)

One: People of God, take courage.

All: We take courage from the light of God's peace.

CONGREGATION SING "Prepare The Way of the Lord"

All: Prepare the way of the Lord, Prepare the way of the Lord, All people shall sing the salvation of our God.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Duane Sweep

One: God's call is to all bringing hope and change when all around despair and chaos reigns.

All: God's call is to speak, God's call is to act, God's call is to us.

One: For such a time as this,

All: God's call is to all.

One: For such a time as this,

All: God's call is to speak out.

One: For such a time as this,

All: God's call is to act justly.

One: For such a time as this,

All: God's call is to bring change.

One: For such a time as this,

All: God's call is to me.

One: Let us worship God

OPENING HYMN

"The First Noel" (#56, v 1 & 2)

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Nikki Harves

"Change for Change" bucket offering

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

Duane Sweep

One: God of time and eternity, you have time to wait with us. To wait with us as we worry and fret, to wait with us as we linger, to wait with us as we waken up to your precious gift of time, given to us.

All: We confess that often we do not honor time as it deserves. When it drags, we become impatient. When it races, we become anxious. When it is full we long for space.

One: When it is empty we long for activity.

All: God, in our Advent waiting, help us to view time as the gift that it is.

May we find ways to sit with you, to acknowledge you present with us.

When days seem endless and lonely and when hours seem to race by, help us to carve out space to check in with you as time rushes on. And, as we recognize you in every moment, may we take time to reveal your presence to others.

One: God of time and eternity, you have time to wait with us. May we make time to wait with you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Rev. Rob Smith

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Rob Smith

RESPONSE

"Wait for the Lord"

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near,

Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart!

ANTHEM

"Carol of the Little Angel" by Don Besig **Choir**

Flute accompaniment by Haley Harves

HEARING

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Duane Sweep

SCRIPTURE

Esther 4: 1-17

Duane Sweep

SERMON

"About Time: Time For Action"

Rev. Rob Smith

RESPONDING

SERMON RESPONSE HYMN

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" (#5, v1 & 2)

CALL TO OFFERING

Duane Sweep

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

"Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow" #591

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Rob Smith

All: 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.

SENDING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING SONG

"The King of Glory"

CHARGE & BLESSING

Rev. Rob Smith

Volunteers for today, December 9, 2018:

Lay Leader: Duane Sweep

Advent Readers: Kube family

Audio Visual: Alfred Hicks

Children's Sermon: Nikki Harves

Ushers: Denise Lewis, Mary and Duane Brause

DECEMBER CAREGIVER - Rosellen Fairall

SpiritCare Prayer Team:

1.507.263.5975 or 952.423.2212-Office

*"First, I tell you to pray for all people, asking God for what they need and being thankful to Him. This is good, and it pleases God our Savior."
1 Timothy 2:1, 3*

Volunteers for next Sunday, December 16, 2018:

Adult Christmas Contata

Lay Leader: Duane Brause

Advent Readers: Bueno family

Audio Visual: Eric Scott

Usher: Duane Brause

Announcements ...

For Advent, we're keeping announcements to minimum. Please be sure to submit your announcement to the church office so we may include them in the printed bulletin. All announcements received by noon Wednesday will be included in the Sunday bulletin. Those received later than, will be included the following Sunday. ~Thank you.

Our **nursery** (2nd floor) is open during worship for children ages 1-6 years.

Throughout the month, we collect our change and then we bring it, on the second Sunday of the month, to give in the **"Change for change" bucket offering**. Some are familiar with this, others may have questions. With the help of our children, we continue collecting change in our metal buckets on a monthly basis. This is a great teaching tool to help us show each other and the younger generation how fun it is to give when we hear the change drop in the buckets! Today, Sunday, December 9, we will collect the bucket offering.

There are several **congregational cards to sign** (birthdays, illness, new members). Everyone please be sure to see Ruth Shepard to share a blessing with several in our own community!

Your printed directory is available at the back. It is not available digitally so be sure to grab your copy! Thank you, everyone, for assisting with providing your updated information and updated pictures.

This year, *Spirit of Life* will be presenting...

...**Choir Cantata, December 16**, during our morning worship beginning at 10am. Our adult choir has been practicing every week in preparation for this very special Christmas worship.

...**Children's Christmas Pageant, "Twas the Night before Christmas" at 6:30pm, Sunday, evening December 16**. Join us for Cocoa, Cookies and Kids! The youth will be performing along with our children's program. After the performances, please stay for cocoa, cookies and Santa!

...**Blue Christmas Service on Friday, December 21, 7pm**. For those experiencing loss or struggling to find the Christmas joy this year, a Blue Christmas is a service that is more contemplative than traditional Christmas worship. The readings, music, and message focus on God's comfort in hard times.

...**Annual Christmas Eve Service on Monday, December 24, 5pm**, will be a one hour family worship including Communion.

Pastor Rob has set a scheduled time to be available for anyone who might wish to connect with him. **Regular "office hours" are at the Dunn Bros., 15265 Galaxie Ave, Apple Valley, on Tuesdays, 10am-12noon**. If you need to talk regarding life issues, church, or other things, please feel free to drop by or set up an appointment to meet with him.

Please sign up to be Cookie hostess for Sunday fellowship. Go to www.signupgenius.com/go/508044cadab2da5ff2-spirit. We need cookie hostess for Dec. 23, Dec. 30, Jan. 13, 20, and 27. Thank you!

Everyone is welcome to join us for the weekly study on Wednesdays, 10-11:30am, with Pastor Rob leading. Our current study is covering the book of Mark. Anyone can join at any time. Class meets at the new Orchard Path Presbyterian Homes located just down the road at 5400 157th St. W., Apple

Valley (South on Pilot Knob and turn left onto 157th St W. Orchard Path to the right after the traffic circle.)

Meet In The Middle is in full swing! Kids can be dropped off at 4:30pm. At 6pm, parents can then join their kids for dinner provided by the church. From 4:30-6, kids will be: playing games, making arts and crafts, eating snacks, singing to the residents of Orchard Path Presbyterian Homes, Bible lessons and more!! No need to register ahead. Please contact Nikki Harves with any questions at nikkiharves@gmail.com.

Spirit of Life Youth Choir meets every other Sunday. Next rehearsal is Sunday, December 9, 2018 from 11:10 am to 12:00pm. All Middle and High School Youths are welcome to join us any time. For more information, Please contact Alvine Laure Ekame at alvinelaure_cm@yahoo.fr.

Is anyone interested in a 100-year-old upright piano? I don't have room for it in my apartment, and I would like to donate it to someone who would love it as much as I have. It needs some work on the outside, but it plays! See Peggy Roeske or call 952-270-7389.

Looking for cookie donations for our Kids, Cocoa, and Cookies Night on Sunday, December 16th. Please see sign up in the back of the sanctuary. Questions? Contact Nikki Harves

Beard Baubles: Youth leaders are having a beard contest to help support paying for our adult leaders going on the youth mission trip. Our leaders take a week of vacation from work to support our youth and serve with the additional sacrifice of hundreds of dollars out of pocket to fund the trip while also helping fund many of the incidentals on the trip. Our long term goal is to fully fund our volunteers. The youth leader who raises the most money in their jar on the Mission Trip table in the back of the sanctuary will decorate their beard for our December 16th Christmas Program. We thank you for your support.

From Community Service: a huge thank you to all who donated gifts for Armful of Love! We successfully collected and delivered gifts in support of two families this year, making Christmas a little brighter for them! Your generosity is much appreciated!

Like us on Facebook ([SpiritofLifePresbyterianChurch](https://www.facebook.com/SpiritofLifePresbyterianChurch))
AND
Twitter ([SpiritOfLife@SpiritOfLifeAV](https://twitter.com/SpiritOfLifeAV))

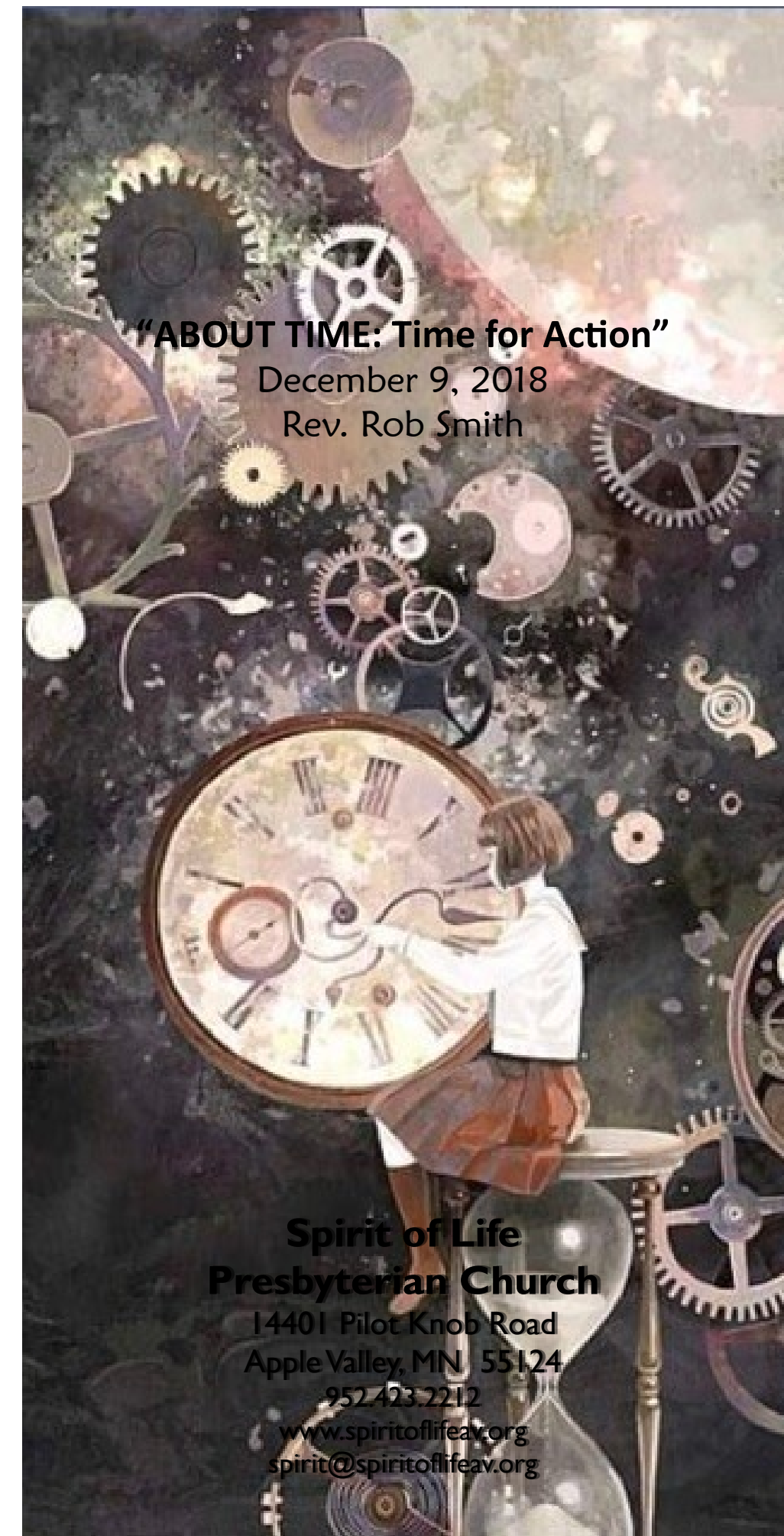
Per Capita for 2019 is \$35.70.

SPIRIT OF LIFE STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Rob Smith Email: pastorrob@spiritoflifeav.org
Parish Lay Pastor: Loretta Hunt
Clerk of Session: Denise Lewis
Nursery Caregiver: Trista Hansen
Office Administrator: Shari Shaw

OFFICE

10:00 AM—3:00 PM MON-THURS
FOR PASTORAL EMERGENCIES PLEASE CALL ROB @ 952.807.4413



"ABOUT TIME: Time for Action"

December 9, 2018

Rev. Rob Smith

**Spirit of Life
Presbyterian Church**

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