



New Website, The Table, and Twitter, oh my!



As the words echo from the great prophet, Bob Dylan, *"The times they are a-changin'."* Meanwhile, in my other ear I hear the great wisdom of the Beatles, *"Don't pass me by."* This is the quandary...the struggle, the tension. It is right here that I am thankful for great mentors that have lived and taught, that this is right where we are to enter and live.

The pace of change around us is happening at warp speed. As a community, we have lived through many great advances and changes. Case in point, a pastor makes a point about societal change while referencing songs from the 60's.

Yet arguably, the pace of change is unlike any of our prior experience. So as we live in the tension of change and participation, consider the Millennial generation (30 and younger). For Millennials, technology and social media are part of the indigenous language in the world they know. I compare this to the concept of truly knowing another language is when you think, or dream in that language.

As we think about community, living as missionaries right here at home, hospitality that welcomes the unchurched, and our relevance with our own young adults and youth—learning the language of the indigenous culture around us is important.

Two weeks ago, I was at a conference that shared the importance of embracing social media in reference to our relevance to younger generations. The speaker referenced his initial thought of smart-phones from a couple years ago with the necessity his smart-phone has become in his daily ministry. He posted, in real time, a picture of the conference with comments already posting live on the screen. He commented that from his initial resistance, the smart-phone had become a tool he couldn't live without. Immediately, a voice from the crowd rang out, "You wanna bet, I still am just fine with the phone hanging on the wall." Right here was the tension—the resistance. His point was made exactly right here...

It is a reality that our front door to the church—our curbside appeal—has become our website. The vast number of those seeking to visit a church begin with searching the web. In a fast changing technological world, it is necessary that this be a good first impression. It is with great thanks that we acknowledge Josh Ullom and our technology committee have given our website a full makeover. Please take a moment and

It is through embracing change that relationships happen.



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visit www.spiritoflifeav.org. This is the hub for sharing news about our church, our calendar, a new blog, our mission, and our ministries.

Additionally, we are now active on Twitter. If you are adventurous, check us out at <https://twitter.com/SpiritOfLifeAV>, or follow the twitter link on the upper right hand corner of our website. We continue to be active on Facebook which can be found in the same location.

With the idea that we are living as missionaries in an indigenous culture, I am excited to welcome many of these changes as good news. Throughout history, the gospel has flourished in the mission field when it is accessible to the people in their language.

In closing, I share with you how grateful I am for the connection my children share with my mom. Their primary form of communication is through texting. While my mom could have been the voice in the

assembly that hollered, "wanna bet—I do just fine with my phone on the wall," it is through embracing change that relationships happen. And it is relationships with our relational Triune God that we find that this is what it is all about.



WEDNESDAY CLUB

Wednesday Club starts its 16th season on **September 11!** For our first meeting of this season, Tedd Bradley, Financial Advisor, Lpl Financial LLC, will speak on the stock market that has puzzled Wall Street over the past few years. **We'll meet at 12:00pm at Spirit of Life.** Everyone is welcome. Bring a dish to share and bring a friend!



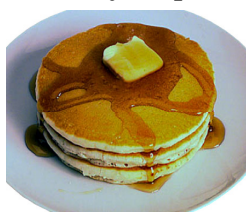
From Worship and Music Committee:

Circle **Sunday, September 8** on your calendar! *Spirit of Life* will be launching the program year with a special worship service recognizing all those who are volunteering to provide our Christian Education programming for the year, and kick-off Sunday School. We are also planning a little friendly competition to help our ministry teams and leadership teams to reach out to the congregation. We will be having a **CHILI COOK-OFF** after worship, where each ministry and leadership team will be providing their favorite chili recipe for sampling. You can stop by each table, get some chili, meet some of the folks on the various teams, and learn more about what they do. You can also SIGN-UP to join teams that you would like to work with. AND you can vote for your favorite chili! Rumor has it that there may be a trophy awarded to the winning ministry or leadership team! It should be a lot of fun, and great time of fellowship.



ATTENTION MEN ONLY

Several of you have asked about the church's **Men's Breakfast**, so we have set the date for **Saturday, September 7, at 7:00 a.m.** We will



plan to meet at **Panera**, 5052 Gleason Path, Apple Valley. **Please let me know** if you will be able to attend. Email or home phone [507-263-5975](tel:507-263-5975). Hope to see you there! Bob Shepard

Calling all musicians!!

The 2013-2014 BELL CHOIR and CHOIR season has begun!

If you're interested in participating, it's not too late.

Contact Kate at kolaf32@gmail.com with any questions or concerns. We would love new members in both choirs—even if you can only attend rehearsals/performance some of the time.

Choir rehearsals are Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. Bell rehearsals—TBA.



"Here Ye Here Ye" ...

We're kicking off a new Kid's Program and we need a name! The **COMPETITION** to name our upcoming (Wednesday Night) Kid's Program begins now and goes through September 15. Please submit your suggestions to the church office to be considered.

⇒ Our Kid's Program will begin October 23.

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Alice Gracek



Church Family News



i love my church



Happy Birthday



September

09/01	Julie Raatz
09/02	Trista Hanson
09/03	Phyllis Monitor
09/03	Alice Gracek
09/08	Pat Buchholz
09/10	Ethan Grimm
09/21	Lance Ullom
09/25	Esther Neba
09/26	Bobbi McCluskey
09/26	Henry Milbradt

Have an item of note to share with the congregation? Send items of interest to spirit@spiritoflifeav.org.

Everyone has enjoyed our Outdoor Worship—picnic & devotions—on Wednesdays nights. If you missed them, be sure to join us next summer!

New Sociables... will meet on Monday, September 9, from 9:30-11:30 AM in the *Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church* sanctuary. Jackie, a flower consultant from PAHL'S MARKET will show us how to put together fall flowers in decorative pots for the front of our homes. She will also share with us the best way to winterize our bushes and shrubbery.

CARD CARE LIST REMINDER :

If you had someone on Loving Community Ministry Team's Card Care List in August 2013 and wish them to remain on in September, 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.

**CAREGIVER
SEPTEMBER
Sue Mayers**

**Spiritcare
Prayer Team
call 1.507.263.5975
952.423.2212 [office]**

Matsiko World Orphans Choir

Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church was lucky enough to play host to this group of 16 kids and 7 adults at our church on Tuesday, August 6. Members gathered to provide a meal and get the worship space ready for this group to roll out their sleeping bags. We were again able to host the group in homes of our members on August 8 and 9. The choir also performed at our Kid's Kamp. We hope to have the choir back next year and involve more of our church members with a little more notice next time.

The choir is called World "orphans" choir. Most of the kids actually have parents. But due to the family financial situation, their parents aren't able to provide for even their most basic needs. The choir, which started touring the United States in 2008, is part of a larger organization called the International Children's Network (ICN). ICN was founded by Don Windham and is based in the Seattle area. Don tours with the choir and also serves as president of ICN. The choir is made up of children, ages 7-14 from Peru, India and Liberia.

The thing that struck me initially was the joy in the faces of these children. Kids who have so little and are so thankful for everything they are given. I immediately fell in love with each of them. The thing they talked about often was their strong desire to go to school. Unlike in the US, where our kids' education is paid for by the government, families in Liberia, Peru and India must pay for their children to go to school.

Spirit of Life has a mission opportunity! We may sponsor 1 or more of the choir members when they get back to their home country. Our cost is \$35/month per child. We are considering sponsoring one or more of the



kids as a congregation and are interested in your thoughts.

You can research the choir and ICN by going to www.icnchildren.net.

Please contact Julie Raatz at rats82@charter.net for more information and to offer your thoughts about this mission opportunity.

SUMMER POTATO SALAD

From the kitchen of: **Ruth Shepard**

1½ pounds small to medium size red skinned potatoes

½ pound fresh green beans cut into 1" to 1½" pieces (or canned)

Wash and cut the potatoes into quarters. Put into a large pot, cover with water and add some salt. Bring to a boil, lower heat and cook at a low boil for six minutes. If using **fresh** green bean add them to the boiling potatoes now and continue to boil for 2 minutes. If using canned green beans add them at the end of the 2 minute boil.

While potatoes and beans cool a bit, mix together well;

3 T light olive oil

1 T + ¾ t white wine vinegar

1½ t Dijon mustard

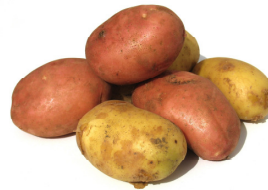
1 T fresh dill, chopped or ¼ t dried dill

¼ t salt (or less)

¼ t black pepper

2 to 3 T finely chopped red onion

Pour over still warm potatoes. Toss well. Cover and chill.



So much
excitement!
So many God
sightings!



19 happy faces filled our sanctuary to worship God with song, praise, and study. The 1st Kid's Camp for *Spirit of Life* was a success thanks to all the volunteers who spent the week with us.



KID'S
CAMP



YOUTH

Youth Group Meeting Dates for Fall 2013:

September 8

October 13

November 10

December 8

Youth Group will meet in the youth room right after church on these dates. We will plan some fun outings as well!

Mission Trip 2014

July 19-27 to Port Huron, Michigan for ages 12 and up

Theme: REPAIR, Be a Story of Confirmation

COST: \$449 plus travel expenses

* (Commitment forms and \$50 deposit due 9/30/13)

Please consider attending/being an adult leader in 2014!

Contact Karen Johnson or Sayra Maberry for information .

SPIRIT OF LIFE SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

Sunday School classes begin September 15th

following Morning Worship service. The time for Sunday School will be **11:10 a.m. to 12 noon**. We will again be using the *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum until December. We hope to move to a fun new rotation curriculum in January.

- ⇒ Pre-K class will be taught by Randy Besse and Sara Gracek.
- ⇒ The elementary age class, K-5th grade will be taught by Karen Johnson and Carol Osweiler.
- ⇒ New this year will be a Middle School/High School class that will be taught by Eric Scott. They will meet in the Youth Room.



The second Sunday of the month we will hold a Mission Trip/Youth group meeting instead of the Middle School/High School Sunday School class.

- ⇒ The Adult Sunday School class will be lead by Leslie Hohmann.

We would like to invite volunteers to join our team of teachers, or become a substitute teacher. Our goal is to grow our Sunday School so that we could eventually add a separate Middle School class. Please contact Karen Johnson, Sunday School Superintendent, or Brian Gracek, Session Liaison, if you are interested in joining the team or have questions.

VITAL SIGNS

...for July

WEEK	ATTENDANCE		(+/-)	CONTRIBUTIONS		(+/-)
	2012	2013		2012	2013	
Week 1	42	35	-7	\$2,139.00	\$1,560.85	(\$578.15)
Week 2	39	41	+2	\$4,999.00	\$2,363.00	(\$2,636.00)
Week 3	27	54	+27	\$1,238.00	\$1,616.00	\$378.00
Week 4	30	49	+19	\$1,762.00	\$3,170.00	\$1,408.00
Week 5	30			\$1,211.25		(\$1,211.25)
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE / TOTALS	33.6	44.75		\$11,349.25	\$8,709.85	(\$2639.40)

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

2012-2013

Officers

Session

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

Board of Deacons

Duane Brouse
Pat Buchholz
Alice Gracek
Loretta Hunt
Jerry Johnson
Janna Warren-Perry

Treasurer

Barb Ostlund

Financial Secretary

Steve Raatz

Session News

Watch for the latest report next month!

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

NEXT LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

SESSION MEETING/

6:30 p.m. on
Thursday,
September
19, 2013

DEACON MEETING

7:30 p.m. on
Thursday,
September
26, 2013



Morning Coffee for Grandma...

One morning, a grandmother was surprised to find that her 7-year old grandson had made her coffee. Smiling, she choked down the worst cup of her life. When she finished, she found three little green Army men at the bottom. Puzzled, she asked, "Honey, what are these Army men doing in my coffee?"

Her grandson answered, "Like it says on TV, Grandma. 'The best part of waking up is soldiers in your cup.'"



CROP Hunger Walk alert!!

Now organizing South of the River!!

The Community Service/Mission committee at *Spirit of Life* is participating with a group of churches in an exciting process—organizing an inaugural south metro CROP Walk! You may recall that over the past two years, we have recruited a team to raise funds and walk in the St. Paul event, sponsored by the St. Paul Area Council of Churches. Some of us wondered why there wasn't something closer to home in Dakota County. Apparently, members of other congregations wondered the same thing, and with the assistance of Perri Graham, our Church World Services Regional Director, these congregations were brought together to organize a CROP walk. A name has been chosen: ***South of the River CROP Hunger Walk***. Date: **Sunday, October 13; registration begins at 1:00pm, and the walk will start at 2:00pm.** St. James Lutheran Church in Burnsville is taking the lead in organizing this walk, and the route will be through their neighborhood connecting several of the churches participating in this organizational process. The other churches involved are: Open Circle Church and River Hills Methodist Church in Burnsville, Glendale United Methodist Church and New Spirit United Church of Christ in Savage, Spirit of Joy Christian Church in Lakeville, and Spirit of Life. Each member church of the organizational team will be responsible for some aspect of organizing this walk; Denise Lewis has volunteered to be the recruitment leader, and Peggy Roeske has volunteered to handle publicity and media. The goal is to make this an annual event, with organizational leadership and determination of the route to rotate among the planning congregations. So, in the future, the South of the River CROP Walk could move further east. REMEMBER, 75% of the funds raised are used globally to create sustainable solutions to hunger; 25% of the funds are used locally, and 360 Communities in Dakota County and the CAP agency in Scott County will be the designated recipients of our CROP Walk's local funds.



What does CROP stand for?

When CROP began in 1947 (under the wing of Church World Service, which was founded in 1946), CROP was an acronym for the CHRISTIAN RURAL OVERSEAS PROGRAM. Its primary mission was to help Midwest farm families to share their grain with hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe and Asia. Today, the acronym is retained as the historic name of the program. CROP HUNGER WALKS ARE INTERFAITH HUNGER EDUCATION AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS sponsored by Church World Service and organized by CWS regional offices across the U.S.

Watch for more information to come! For questions about this event, contact Denise Lewis or Peggy Roeske. And let's move towards

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME!!



FROM THE COMMUNITY SERVICE/MISSION TEAM:

... over 150 pounds of produce has been delivered to Rosemount Family Resource Center food shelf so far, including over 50# of raspberries, about 10# of Swiss chard, over 25# of summer squash and zucchini, over 10# of tomatoes and cherry tomatoes, and more! Thanks to Karen Johnson, Loretta Hunt, Denise Lewis, and Chris Sachs for all their efforts.



Lectionary Texts and Service Highlights

Sunday, Sept. 1, 2013 Jer. 2:4-13; Ps. 81:1, 10-16 Heb. 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14	Sunday, Sept 22, 2013 Jer. 8:18-9:1; Ps 79:1-9 1 Tim. 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13
Sunday, Sept. 8, 2013 Jer. 18:1-11; Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18 Philem. 1-21; Luke 14:25-33	Sunday, Sept 29, 2013 Jer.32:1-3a, 6-15; Ps 91:1-6, 14-16 1 Tim. 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31
Sunday, Sept. 15, 2013 Jer. 4:11-12, 22-28; Ps 14 1 Tim. 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10	

MEET OUR STAFF		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	14401 Pilot Knob Road / Apple Valley, MN 55124 / 952.423.2212 spirit@spiritoflifeav.org / www.spiritoflifeav.org

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 articles, announcements, or info to: spirit@spiritoflifeav.org or drop them in the Faith Flight mailbox in the office.

WHEREAS:

*Mr. Arthur Itis and Ms. Goute' Right-Hand
have declared permanent house guest status.*

THEREFORE:

*Irene Jacobson declares her resignation as Faith
Flight Editor henceforth.*

~Thank you, Irene, for your dedication!

~Thank you, Alice Gracek, for joining the newsletter team!

Office Hours
10:00am-3:00pm M-Th
Pastor
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

 **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
10 PM ~ SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH
for the October issue.


spirit of life
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 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

SEPT 2 **LABOR DAY**
SEPT 4 4PM Worship & Music Committee meeting
SEPT 7 7AM Men's Breakfast @ Panera, Apple Valley
SEPT 8 **CHILI COOK-OFF**, 1PM Personnel Committee meeting
SEPT 9 8:30AM *New Sociables*
SEPT 11 12NOON—Wednesday Club potluck—Fall kickoff back at the church!
SEPT 15 **Guest Classical Guitarist, James Falbo, in Morning Worship**
 Newsletter Deadline @ 10PM
SEPT 16 Diamond Path Place meeting
SEPT 19 6:30PM—Session meeting
SEPT 26 Presbyterian Pastor's meeting (SOLPC)
 7:30PM—Deacon meeting
 7:30PM—Tech Team meeting
SEPT 30 **2014 Missions Trip commitment forms / \$50 deposit DUE**

Weekly Events

MON	Cubs @ 6PM	TUES	Scouts @ 7PM
WED	6:30PM Scouts, 7:30PM CHOIR	THURS	Cubs @ 6PM

Our new Kid's Program will begin October 23

Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

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