

FAITH FLIGHT



Thankful ...

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9: 11-15

We are truly rich and blessed. We are enriched through all that each person contributes to form this body at Spirit of Life. It is your generosity of vision, faithfulness, hard work, and your commitment to support God's calling in ministry that produces thanksgiving to God.

I am tremendously grateful for your hospitality. I am thankful as we reminisce on this past year of our church family's willingness to risk and try new things, while always keeping our eye on the importance of relationships. Busy children, small babies, active parents, engaged grandparents, community—all meeting together in the middle to welcome each person where they are in their life journey. All with a different story, yet uniting to be faithful as one. Your willingness to sow bountifully has also reaped a bountiful harvest. The fruits of this harvest are evident in our growth, both spiritually and as a community. I am so thankful for the new families God has provided. I am thankful for your willingness to make room for new leaders that have shared gifts for a new website, life experience of Christian Education, pastoral leadership, new Sunday School teachers, community gardeners, musical gifts, and all contributing to better seeing, hearing, knowing, and experiencing God together. God



is at work with the amazing gifts of eleven new members along with the thirteen new children that are part of our church family.

I am thankful for the faithful saints that have worked so hard through many transitions and continue to serve with creativity and energy in ministry. You are a strong, resilient, and gifted group of individuals that know what it means to share as community. I am thankful for your courage to dream, try new things, take risks, and to not lose focus on what really counts in sharing what is real with each other. I am thankful to be working alongside amazing leaders who live out what it means to wear the clothes of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, and most of all love. (Col. 3: 12). I am thankful for all of your leadership that makes ministry happen including our community garden, the first annual South of the River Crop Walk, our mission trip to Ohio, a carnival that helped welcome many new people to Spirit of Life, sharing in a joyful noise at the fourth of July parade, our first annual kids camp, expanding our children's Sunday School from one class to three, adding a youth Sunday School class, the gift of music with an wonderful choir and congregation that loves to sing, Cocoa and Carols, and for all of you that enjoy sharing around table with one another while always making room for someone new.

I am thankful for the talented team that God has assembled as our staff. Can you believe that this was a completely new team just a little over a year ago? I am grateful for the commitment, hard work, energy, creativity, and vision that form a team where our whole is greater than the sum of the individual parts.

I am thankful for your open doors that always welcome me to stop in to share in your lives, as well as you welcoming my family as your family. We are a very active congregation, but I am reminded that no matter what the day has planned, that true ministry happens in the unplanned distractions that happen in our lives. It is a pleasure to be serving as your pastor and I look forward to what God has in store for us in 2014. Most of all, may our thanks be to our Triune God for the indescribable gift and purpose in our lives.

VITAL SIGNS...for December

WEEK	ATTENDANCE		(+/-)	CONTRIBUTIONS		(+/-)
	2012	2013		2012	2013	
Week 1	62	50	-12	\$4,874.33	\$2,686.05	(\$2,188.28)
Week 2	46	62	+20	\$5,660.00	\$3,738.00	(\$1,922.00)
Week 3	64	60	-4	\$8,688.00	\$4,453.00	(\$4,235.00)
Week 4	58	42	-16	\$3,043.00	\$1,344.00	(\$1,699.00)
*December 22: Choir sang at First Presbyterian Church in Farmington.						
Week 5	37	48	+11	\$2,507.35	\$1,219.00	(\$1,288.35)
Special Service				\$660.00	\$4,605.00	\$3,945.00
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE / TOTALS	53	52		\$25,432.68	\$18,045.05	(\$7,387.63)

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



February 2014

02 Rebecca Brandt
02 Trevor Swaim
05 Chris Sachs
06 Ray Gracek
07 Flo Clark
09 Mary Hope
09 Duane Brause
15 Jeff Mortimer
19 Loretta Hunt
23 Karen Johnson
27 Wilbur McGinnis
28 Lyle Johnson

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



CARD CARE LIST REMINDER :

If you had someone on Loving Community Ministry Team's Card Care List in January 2014 and wish them to remain on in February 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 **February Spirit of Life Men's Breakfast** will be **Saturday, February 8th at 7:15 a.m. at the Perkins in Apple Valley**. It will be a chance to trade our war stories about dealing with this winter weather. We hope that each of you can attend and bring a guest. Please let Bob Shepard (shepardspairie@gmail.com) or Pastor Rob (pastorrob@spiritoflifeav.org) know if you're able to attend so they may reserve the appropriate size table.

WEDNESDAY CLUB

Wednesday Club will meet at **12noon on Wednesday, February 12** for a potluck lunch. The guest speaker will be Colonel Pat Skelly, Denis Lewis' husband (retired from the U.S. Army). Colonel Skelly will explain an accurate point of view of the US Military's role in the Middle East wars vs the slanted view provided by the news media. Colonel Skelly was on active duty with the Minnesota Army National guard as a military legal office. Question & answer session will follow.

***Everyone please bring a dish to share!**

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Alice Gracek



MEET IN THE MIDDLE

Spirit of Life's mid-week ministry

Meeting in the middle of the week; meeting between generations; meeting to share our faith!

*Wednesdays are filled with excitement, spiritual highs, companionship,
and a warm meal to keep the spirit moving at Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church.*

- ⇒ **School Age children** are welcome to come after school (3:30pm).
- ⇒ They will find: Snacks, activities, time to complete homework, a community building time and at 6pm a family style meal will be served.
- ⇒ **Youth** are also welcome after school (3:30pm). Youth programs (youth group & confirmation class) will begin after the 6pm meal.
 - ◇ 6:30-7pm community building together
 - ◇ 7-8pm Confirmation & youth group break out
- ⇒ **Adults** are welcome to come and participate in any of the children's / youth activities.
- ⇒ **Adults** are welcome to come for the meal (6pm) and be a mentor for our children.

Remaining 2014 dates include Feb 5, 12, 19, 26, Mar 12, 19, 26. April 2, & 9.

M&M is a wonderful energetic ministry for *Spirit of Life*. The kids arrive right after school so they are "always" hungry and need a snack. If you are unable to help support this ministry by cooking, setting up tables & chairs, or helping with the re-set for the sanctuary, YOU can make a snack for the kids! The only requirements: delicious, enough for 24 people & have them in the kitchen by 3pm on Wednesday. If you are interested in helping make snacks, please let Carol Osweiler know at 952.237.5894 or caosweiler@comcast.net. "It takes a village" to make a ministry flourish. **Blessings to all those who are participating in M&M.**

YOUTH NEWS

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

February 2: **Super bowl Party** 3pm at Brauses

February 5: 4-6pm **Cabaret planning** at Spirit of Life

February 9: **Youth Group** meeting 11am Spirit of Life

February 12: 4-6pm **Cabaret planning** at Spirit of Life

February 14: 3pm **Valentine Cabaret set up** followed by movie

February 15: **Valentine Cabaret** (required of all youth)! You will need to wear black bottoms and white shirts.

March 9: **Youth Sunday** (participating in Morning Worship Service) at Spirit of Life followed by lunch and filling out Mission trip paperwork. Pizza and soft drinks provided.

April 5: **Girls night/ Boys night**. Girls dress up dinner, shopping at MOA and slumber party at Johnson's! Boys paintball and gaming/movies, sleepover at Eric Scott's.

April 6: **Youth Group** meeting 11am Spirit of Life

April 26: **Rollerskating** at Skateville 7-10pm \$10 plus any food.

May 4: **Youth Group** meeting 11 am Spirit of Life 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.**

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE *SPIRIT OF LIFE*



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2014 ~ 6:00-9:00 P.M.
(5:30-early Silent Auction viewing, 6:00-seating, 6:30-dinner, 7:30- entertainment)

Spirit of Life / 14401 Pilot Knob Rd. / Apple Valley, MN 55124

*Tickets are \$12
for age 6 and up, \$10 for children age 5 and under*

*Menu: **Chicken Picatta** (Italian Lemon Chicken),
bread, salad, dessert bar, beverages*

*Servers: Youth Group**

*Entertainment:
provided by members and friends of Spirit of Life.*

*Please contact church office (952.423.2212) to buy tickets, sign up for
entertainment or volunteer to provide silent auction items or a dessert.*

WE'LL ALSO HAVE FLOWERS FOR SALE

**The Valentine Cabaret is a youth fund raiser
with all proceeds going the summer youth Mission Trip
to Chandler, Oklahoma.*

Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church Session Minutes – December 19, 2013

A quorum was present (7 of 9 Session members) for the Session meeting on December 19, 2013. Pastor Smith offered an opening prayer and devotion based on John 1: 1-9 on where do we seek new birth? The discussion included seeking new birth in children, older people, college kids, new homes and new jobs.

The financial report was prepared by Barb Ostlund. It was moved, seconded and carried that we accept the financial report. Discussion was held on planning the 2014 budget. Discussion was also held concerning the Letter of Intent from Farmington church for *Spirit of Life* to hold a Deacon's fund and a Dakota County Fair Church Service fund. The motion carried to authorize Pastor Rob to work with the Farmington special commission on these forms and add our requisition form with 2 signatures. They would also add wording "as designated by the Session".

Pastor Rob gave his report. There was discussion concerning items that the Farmington church might donate to us. The Session will accept these items.

Minutes of the November 21, 2013 stated Session meeting were read and approved. Attendance was reviewed. Correspondence was reviewed. Membership rolls were updated.

Team Reports were given. Christian Ed committee report was submitted by Brian Gracek. No Session action was required. Outreach committee report was submitted by Peggy Roeske. No Session action was required. Worship and Music committee report was submitted by Marge Lewis. No Session action was required. Community Service had no report. Stewardship committee had no report. HUB will meet in January. There was no Session action required. Personnel committee had no report. Deacon's report was submitted by Loretta Hunt, recording secretary for the Deacons. There was no Session action required.

Old Business

Camp in a Van and the mentoring project will be delayed until next month. Worship and Music committee developed a spreadsheet assigning Session members to be monthly coordinators for Ushers and Greeters. Denise Lewis will announce the plan to the congregation and there will be an article in the January newsletter.

New Business

A group has rented the church for Friday night, January 3, 2014. Karen Johnson will unlock the church for them. Tables and chairs will be set for them on December 29, after the church service. Committee chairs were reminded to prepare a committee report for the Annual meeting and submit them to the office by the third week in January. Annual meeting will be February 9, 2014.

Concerns and joys of individuals were expressed and prayers were offered to close the meeting.

Clerk of Session, Karen Johnson

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

7:30 p.m. on
Thursday,
February 13,
2014

SESSION MEETING/

6:30 p.m. on
Thursday,
February 20,
2014

Lectionary Texts and Service Highlights

Sunday, February 2 Micah 6: 1-8; Ps. 15: 1 Cor. 1: 18-31 Matt. 5: 1-12	Sunday, February 9 Isa. 58: 1-9a (9b-12); Ps. 112: 1-9 (10) 1 Cor. 2: 1-12 (13-16); Matt. 5: 13-20
Sunday, February 16 Deut. 30: 15-20; Ps. 119: 1-8: 1 Cor. 3: 1-9 Matt. 5: 21-37	Sunday, February 23 Lev. 19: 1-2, 9-18; Ps. 119: 33-40 1 Cor. 3: 10-11, 16-23; Matt. 5: 38-48

Brats 'n' Sauerkraut by Sue Mayers

2 servings: One Pan meal...

2 Tablespoons Butter
2 Brats, skin taken off and cut into slices
3 left over boiled potatoes, sliced
2-3 heaping Tablespoons brown sugar
1 can sauerkraut, rinsed very well

Melt butter in frying pan. Add the Brats and fry until almost done. Add the sliced potatoes and stir until almost heated through. Add the can of rinsed kraut with brown sugar and stir fry until all is heated through. Enjoy for a quick meal after work.

*** can use any style of Italian sausage...

*** This is great if someone dislikes kraut, and or Brats...

*** Can be increased very easily, or if only one person just decrease...



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, FEBRUARY 16
for the March 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

Feb 2	Scout Sunday / Souper Bowl Sunday / Super Bowl Sunday
Feb 3	8:30AM <i>New Sociables</i>
Feb 5	M & M /6PM Family Style Dinner / Youth
Feb 8	Men's Breakfast 7:15AM
Feb 9	Annual Business Meeting
Feb 12	Wednesday Club
	M & M /6PM Family Style Dinner / Youth
Feb 13	Deacon Meeting 7:30PM
Feb 15	Valentine Cabaret
Feb 16	Small Group 6PM—location TBD
	Newsletter Deadline
Feb 19	M & M /6PM Family Style Dinner / Youth
Feb 20	Session 6:30PM
Feb 26	M & M /Family Style Dinner / Youth

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