



Aliveness

This last Sunday we explored floods, rising water, and the many ways we can relate that we are in over our heads. As many of you helped share in the conversation, we are in over our heads in our overscheduled lives (a common theme shared by many.) We are in over our heads as we become mercenaries to a world narrative that keeps telling us that we have not done enough, that we have not produced enough, and so we try to do more. We are in over our heads in our parenting as we add into our busy lives the needs and wants of our children and their schedules. We are in over our heads when we seek answers that lead to addiction. We are in over our heads when we struggle to do what is right for our aging parents. We are in over our heads when we try to live up to others expectations.

In our attempt to tread water harder or seek a bigger snorkel, how do we instead manage a better way to stay afloat? Or should we be asking even a better question? Isn't there more to it than a better life raft or ark? Because what we really want is to be alive. We want to be less scheduled, less exhausted, less lonely, less afraid. We want to be more connected, more purposeful, more awake, more energetic, and we want to thrive.

This is the journey and the challenge that we share together. This is why we do what we do as a church. It is why we pray, give, gather, eat, sing, read, worship, work, garden, and play. Our relationship with God and one another is about fullness of life. A fullness that is not limited to a future hope one day, but an understanding of the eternal that is connected with life in the present.

We have a shared experience of what it means to be alive in the recent baptism of Shanelle Grace. The beauty of people that kept streaming into worship, of ushers scrambling to find every chair they could throughout the building, the joy of song sung from deep within our soul, dancing our offerings up to the table, the splendor of sharing as a community in Shanelle's baptism, and the promise of a whole church. The smile from that Sunday had a shelflife that carried well through the next week. **The good news is that the source of this life is with us all of the time.** It is the source of this that touches us to our soul; that leads us to dance and sing from the mountaintops. As Jesus shared with one who felt in over her head, *"Those who drink of the water*



that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life” (John 4:14).

To be alive is to see that God is our choice; a choice better than the world is demanding. To choose this is to choose love, a better world, and a better relationship with our neighbor. Mary Brause helped frame it as this: “‘Being happy with 'enough.' How do we stop over-accumulating, stop the unreasonable time commitments and expectations we set for ourselves?’ May we seek together to choose God’s ways, to be alive, and to know the hope that is life giving to our community, and can help make the world be better, too.



WE WERE MADE TO THRIVE!



Wow, what was I thinking? Did I really agree to chair the Stewardship Committee? I was asked “You really are not going to ask people to give more money are you!” Well, I guess that depends on your point of view.

Do you see asking people to state an estimate of giving to the church as a chore or as a blessing for them? Or are we merely giving people an opportunity to serve the God they worship? Giving of time or money is a very personal decision. We each give of both time and money as we think is appropriate for our own situation.

What I am encouraging the mission team to do, including the Session Elders, is to ask people to carefully consider what they can commit to our church. We have seen a new level of excitement, an increased level of attendance at our Sunday worship services, a new level of number of young children, an increased level of Christian study and prayer. We can keep it growing, if we just make sure we are giving back the gifts that make us strong and at peace with what we know is right.

Julie Raatz, shared this comment with me a few days ago. “I heard a song on the radio recently that I've heard many times before. But this time I heard it in a different way. The song is by Casting Crowns. It says we were made to do more than just survive, we were made to thrive. I was struck by how this could be the way *Spirit of Life* should be thinking as we enter our stewardship season. God didn't plant our congregation in the middle of Apple Valley to merely survive. We need to use our talents and give of our time so we thrive as we live into our true purpose. God has been patient with us these past 18 years waiting for us to fulfill His promise in our community. We need to feel the passion He has put into each of our hearts and help be what He meant us to be.”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQ71RWJhS_M

Think about it – “WE were made to do more than just survive, we were made to THRIVE!” What will it take for your spiritual wellbeing to thrive? What will it take for *Spirit of Life* to continue our quest to thrive? The fire has started, can we keep it burning?



BIRTHDAYS

10/02 Camille Burin
 10/02 Cassie Dufon
 10/03 Gwen Martin
 10/05 Steve Lewis
 10/08 Michaela Brause
 10/09 Matt Hope
 10/11 Marie Robinson
 10/11 Harriet Pederson
 10/17 Mark Gulbrandson
 10/21 Darrion Brandt
 10/31 Sayra Maberry

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



Men's Breakfast for October

The October Men's Breakfast will be held on October 11 at 7:15 AM at the church. Bill Fisher will be bringing breakfast. Please come and enjoy a time to visit and contemplate God's blessings.



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ALICE GRACEK



It is time to order **Poinsettias** for the holidays. We will again be ordering from Gerten's, and plants will be available the first Sunday in Advent, November 30. Order forms will be in the bulletin on October 5, 12, and 19. Proceeds will go to support our mission garden. For anyone who doesn't order their holiday greens from the Boy Scouts, there will also be an option to order holiday greens from Gerten's, with proceeds going to support the mission Garden. For questions, contact Denise Lewis.

CARD CARE LIST REMINDER :

If you had someone on Loving Community Ministry Team's Card Care List in September 2014 and wish them to remain on in October 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.



Howard's Pumpkin Bars

2 cups flour
2 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
2 tsp baking soda
2 tsp cinnamon
2 C. pumpkin
2 cups sugar
4 eggs
1 C. oil
1 C. chopped nuts
1 C. raisins (optional)

Directions

Mix eggs, pumpkin, sugar, and oil. BEAT.

Sift dry ingredients, stir into egg mixture. Add nuts and raisins.

Bake in a 10X15 jelly roll pan.

Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes. Frost with Cream Cheese frosting.

Thank you Howard Mayers for this wonderful recipe!

2014 South of the River CROP Hunger Walk

Save the date! October 12, 2014, St. James Lutheran Church in Burnsville will once again host the CROP Walk. The event last year was very successful, with about 230 walkers, and funds raised totaling just under \$15,000, with everyone gathering in a festive atmosphere on a gorgeous fall day.

This year, the planning committee has set a goal for 300 walkers, and fundraising total of \$20,000. Three local agencies are designated this to receive a share of the funds raised: 360 Communities, Open Door Pantry (formerly Eagan/Lakeville Resource Center) in Dakota County, and the CAP Agency of Scott County. They will share 25% of the proceeds from the walk; the remaining 75% supports Church World Service in their global efforts to end hunger in a long-term, sustainable way. More information can be found at www.cwsglobal.org, and search for the South of the River CROP walk, or on Face book at Twin Cities South of the River CROP Hunger Walk.

The route has been shortened somewhat, and the direction reversed, AND there will be wonderful pre-walk activities again, including live music, children's games, and samples of homemade apple pie; frozen pies will be available for purchase, with proceeds going to the CROP walk. There will also be a food drive again to benefit our local agencies even more, and representatives from these agencies will be on hand to talk about the work they do to support food security in our communities.

You have several options for supporting this wonderful effort:

You can sign up to be a walker, and raise funds for CWS

You can sponsor one of our walkers

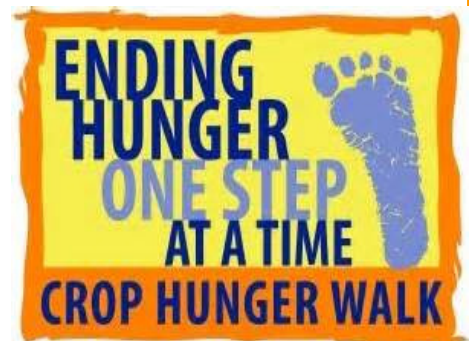
You can volunteer to help with registration or route logistics on the day of the walk

You can bring non-perishable food items to church for the food drive

You can buy a South of the River CROP Walk shirt—Denise has two extra

You can volunteer to help at the Sunset Pond rest stop

Contact Denise Lewis at 651-686-9476, or dlewis9476@comcast.net, for more information or for any questions.



Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church Session Minutes – August 7, 2014

A quorum was present (7 of 9 Session members) for the Session meeting on August 7. Pastor Smith offered an opening prayer and devotion based on Matthew 14: 22-33 – the story of Jesus walking on water and Peter joining him but sinking. Will Casey reported on his proposed Eagle Scout Project to landscape the south side of the church lot with a shrub garden of hydrangeas and hostas. Estimated cost is \$825. Session voted to donate \$500 to this Eagle Scout project and allow Will to ask for donations from church members for memorials. Duane Brause reported on HUB projects and prioritizing them. HUB installed a changing table in the men's bathroom, fixed the outside water faucet and a file drawer in the office. The financial report was prepared by Barb Ostlund. Contributions year to date are \$63,966 up \$2371. Total income year to date is \$75,145 up \$4,075.

Pastor Rob gave his report. He discussed receiving new members Charles and Glory Assah and hosting a cake reception for the 70th wedding anniversary for Lois and Vern Hauser. Pastor Rob also discussed 2 important decisions from the General assembly. Pastors have permission to perform marriages between 2 people and the General Assembly voted to divest from companies providing equipment used by Israel for occupying Palestinian territory. Pastor Rob will look into getting an expert on this to discuss it with our congregation. Stewardship committee will be preparing a survey for our members and is planning a garage sale and stewardship campaign.

Clerk's report was given by Clerk of the Session Karen Johnson. The minutes for the June 19, 2014 were approved as read. Attendance report was reviewed.

Team Reports were given. Welcoming Guests committee had no report. Youth and Children's Programming committee report was given by Karen Johnson, no action was required. Public relations report was submitted by Peggy Roeske, no action required. Worship and Music committee had no report. Community Service committee had no report. HUB report was given earlier by Duane Brause. Personnel committee reported that staff reviews are done. Adult Ed. committee had no report. Audit and Finance committee reported on the successful audit and thanked those who helped including Rebecca Brandt, Jeff Mortimer, Jerry Johnson, Steve Raatz, and Barb Ostlund. Deacon's minutes were not available.

Old Business

The usher/greeter schedule was discussed. Brian Gracek will be the lead for September. Session retreat will be September 20, Saturday at Bob Shepard's. Deon Ford volunteered her lake place for next year's retreat.

New Business

Discussion was held concerning the New Sociables contract for meeting space for 2014-2015 and was approved to continue the same as last year. Sandy Scheibe's memorial will be August 29th at 11:00 a.m., Friday with lunch to follow provided by the Deacons.

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

Clerk of Session, Karen Johnson

Lectionary Texts and Service Highlights

Sunday, October 5

Genesis 12: 1-9
Galatians 3: 6-9, Mark 11: 15-19

Sunday, October 12

Genesis 18: 9-33; 22: 1-14
Micah 6: 6-8, Acts 17:19-34

Sunday, October 19

Genesis 32: 22-33; 50:15-21
Matthew 25: 31-40, Luke 10: 25-37

Sunday, October 26

Exodus 1: 1-14; 3:1-15
John 8: 1-11, Galatians 5:1, 13-15

Disavowing the Doctrine of Discovery: Acknowledgment, Dialogue & Response

This fall, Grace Lutheran Church is hosting a two-part dialogue to take a hard look at difficult truths about the tragic treatment of indigenous people by our state, nation and religious institutions. We start with the Doctrine of Discovery—the 15th Century papal edicts that gave explorers the legal and religious justifications to seize lands occupied by non-baptized “heathens” and to use force to convert or enslave them. We finish by looking at how the Doctrine of Discovery’s legacy is still present today.

The series will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, 7800 150th St W., St Paul

Wednesday, October 15, 6:30-8pm

We will host a public screening of the documentary film *Doctrine of Discovery*, presented by filmmaker Sheldon Wolfchild of the Lower Sioux Indian Community. The film will be followed by small group dialogues.

Wednesday, October 22, 6:30-8pm

We will have a panel discussion a deeper exploration of the modern-day impacts of the Doctrine of Discovery. Representatives from the Native American and Roman Catholic communities will be present to share in the discussion.

2014-2015

Officers

Session

Rebecca Brandt
Deon Ford
Brian Gracek
Karen Johnson
Julie Raatz
Peggy Roeske
Chris Sachs
Bob Shepard
Walt Ullrich

Board of Deacons

Alice Gracek
Loretta Hunt
Jerry Johnson
Sayra Maberry
Don Roeske

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

7:00 p.m. on Tuesday,
October 14, 2014

SESSION MEETING/

6:30 p.m. on Thursday,
October 23, 2014

M&M Wednesdays ~ 4:30-6:30 pm

We are so excited to start our 2nd year of **M&M** (Meet in the Middle) at *Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church*. This year we began on Wed., September 17, at 4:30 pm. The program is 9 weeks in the fall, Sept. 17—Nov. 19 (no M&M on Oct. 15). It will be 13 weeks during the Winter and Spring, Jan. 7– April 15 (no M&M on March 25 or April 1). The program is:

4:30-5:00 – Recreation time (Karen Johnson will lead). This will be afterschool snack and recreation time (outdoor play, inside play, relay races, balloon volley ball, and more)

5:00-5:30 – Worship skills (Pastor Rob will lead). This will include singing, scripture reading, instruments, and more.

5:30 – 6:00 – Bible study (Chris Sachs, Carol Osweiler, Rob Smith, Karen Johnson will teach). This will be curriculum based with a craft activity and will be split into two age groups.

6:00- 6:30 – Dinner time. This will be family style with table parents and may include singing, games, or an activity after dinner.

Children who are preschool through 5th grade are invited to join us for M&M at 4:30. Middle school age youth may join us at this time to be helpers or to do their homework but they will not be supervised.

Youth, parents, and all adults are invited to join us at 6:00 for dinner. A free will offering will be taken for dinner. Loretta Hunt will be organizing the kitchen. She is looking for volunteers to set up, cook, and clean-up. Merry Close is organizing the table parents and is looking for volunteers. We also could use drivers and helpers for the 4:30-6:00 time periods too. Please contact Loretta, Merry, or Karen Johnson if you can volunteer. You can help once a month, 1 or 2 months at a time or whatever your schedule allows. Thanks in advance for participating. We are excited to have an even bigger and better M&M than last year!! Please invite your children, grandchildren, neighborhood children and friends. All are welcome at Spirit of Life.

6:30-7:30 – Bell choir practice / 6:30-8:00 – Youth group will be meeting with Eric Scott / 7:30-8:30 – Choir practice

Successful Garage and Bake Sale

A successful garage sale was held September 25, 26, and 27. The church was packed with donated items and there were lots of shoppers. Bob Shepard sends out a big **“Thank You”** to all who donated the thousands of items and to those who organized those items and helped the days of the sale. The sale was a great success raising over \$5000. We praise God for the wonderful weather, generous donors, hard working volunteers and generous purchasers.” The bake sale raised \$440 for the Crop Walk. Good work everyone!



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

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pastorrob@spiritoflifeav.org - 952.807.4413

PARISH ASSOCIATE Rev. Tony Winter
tonypwinter@gmail.com - 507.360.3343

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR Shari Shaw:
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NURSERY CAREGIVER Trista Hansen:
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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 ~ October 12
 for the November issue.



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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 worshiping the God made known in Jesus Christ.

DATES TO REMEMBER

WED, OCT 1	M & M
SAT, OCT 4	FALL CLEAN-UP DAY
SUN, OCT 5	WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
WED, OCT 8	WEDNESDAY CLUB
	M & M
SAT, OCT 11	MEN'S BREAKFAST @ 7:15AM
SUN, OCT 12	CROP HUNGER WALK
TUES, OCT 14	DEACON MEETING @ 7:00PM
WED, OCT 22	M & M
THURS, OCT 23	SESSION MEETING @ 6:30
WED, OCT 29	M & M

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

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