

# *SPIRIT OF LIFE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH* FAITH FLIGHT

January 2015

## Resolutions

Be it resolved, this is the year for perfection. As I strive this year to be the perfect husband and father, the model of fitness and health, all while perfectly managing my finances. The images of what perfection looks like surround us with a world selling the message, “If only you have this—then you will find perfection,” only leading to greater disappointment and a diminished self esteem. If only leads to feeling inadequate and not good enough.

For this year’s resolution, I would like to challenge us to consider trying a different messenger. Not the messenger that is flooding our airwaves trying to sell us something, but a messenger that we just experienced new again this Christmas season. One who enters our lives to say that you are already good enough as you are, made in the image of God. As we will explore again soon this upcoming Lenten season, good enough even to die (and rise) for. This messenger comes to us through the Word. Rather than self-help, may we turn to God and one another through community seeking an improved life through transformation in Christ.

I declare 2015 as our Year of the Bible. For those that wish to join, we will be reading through all 66 books over the next year. This will be a chronological reading that includes each day a reading from the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalm, and Proverb. The goal is to read this and share together. Just as we make new resolutions for working out, or weight loss, I encourage grace if you happen to miss a day of reading. This is okay. Do not try to make up missed readings or the challenge can be overwhelming. Just as you wouldn’t run double if you missed a day working out, pick it back up with a new day based on that day’s readings.



If you want to join in, but the four readings seem too much in our busy lives, consider following along with the Old Testament, or New Testament, and make this a two year plan. We will begin a new blog on our website for the year 2015 that shares a reflection based upon each day. I look forward to joining you on this journey for a new year. Happy New Year and happy reading.

Shalom,

Pastor Rob

\*See **2015 Year of the Bible ~ Readings for January** insert page in the middle of the newsletter.

Pictures from Cookies and Carols on December 13, 2014  
and Children's Christmas Pageant December 14, 2014







## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

01/03 Rob Smith  
01/04 Leslie Hohmann  
01/05 Kishana Ambe  
01/07 Denise Lewis  
01/10 Rita Ryan  
01/14 Shayne Mortimer  
01/15 Steve Raatz  
01/17 Barb Ostlund  
Pat Skelly  
01/21 Bruce Jacobson  
Merry Close  
01/25 Will Massey  
Anthony Le

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



Have an item of note to share  
with the congregation? Send  
items of interest to  
[spirit@spiritoflifeav.org](mailto:spirit@spiritoflifeav.org)

### **CARD CARE LIST REMINDER :**

If you had someone on Loving Community Ministry Team's Card Care List in December 2014 and wish them to remain on in January 2015, please resubmit them with an update to Ruth Shepard at: [rshepard2@frontier.com](mailto: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.

### **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](mailto:spirit@spiritoflifeav.org).

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ALICE GRACEK

# VITAL SIGNS

...for November

WEEK	ATTENDANCE		(+/-)	CONTRIBUTIONS		(+/-)
	2014	2013		2014	2013	
Week 1	53	46	+7	\$1,909.00	\$2,911.85	(\$1,002.85)
Week 2	67	52	+15	\$8,624.00	\$5,885.00	\$2,740.00
Week 3	59	60	-1	\$3,318.00	\$2,682.17	\$635.83
Week 4	49	68	-19	\$1,267.00	\$3,369.00	(\$2,102.00)
Week 5	41+		+	\$1,026.00		
<b>AVERAGE ATTENDANCE / TOTALS</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>57</b>		<b>\$16,144.00</b>	<b>\$14,848.02</b>	<b>\$1,295.98</b>

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

## A note from Spirit Care Team

“All I can do is pray.” Have you ever spoken or even thought these words? Many of us have. That very statement “all I can do”..... brings helplessness and hopelessness. It trivializes the power of prayer. If our hope is in Jesus Christ, praying to God our Father should become as natural as breathing in and out.

Do not underestimate the power of prayer and worship.

If your heart aches, pray and worship God.

If you feel joy, pray and worship God.

If you feel fear, pray and worship God.

If you feel lost, pray and worship God.

If you feel blessed, pray and worship God.

If a loved one or someone you know is in need, pray and worship God.

If asked to pray for someone, pray and worship God.

I am in need of much practice, but my desire is for prayer and worship to become an ongoing conversation with God throughout each and every day, 24/7, without exception. “All I can do is pray” must become most vital thing I can do.

Our Spirit Care Team has responded with prayers for 119 prayer requests in 2014.

Ruth Shepard, Spirit Care Team Leader

December 29, 2014

**Men's Group** will meet at church at 7:30 AM on Saturday, Jan 10. Note the new time. Josh Ullom will be making pancakes from his special recipe. Thanks to Pastor Rob for the Swedish pancakes in December and, of course, a big helping of bacon. Our discussion will be centered around "Respect for our enemies." We will have a discussion topic in February from The Wired Word Once again.



## Pizza-burgers

from Sayra Maberry



1 lb ground beef  
1 tsp oregano  
1 tsp salt

1 onion, chopped  
1 tsp basil  
1 tsp pepper

Cook above together. Cool.

When cool add:

1 can tomato soup

1 cup grated mozzarella cheese

Spoon on hamburger buns and heat in broiler until warm. Serve.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**"Meet in the Middle" (M&M)** starts up again Wednesdays, January 7, 2015, 4:30-6:30 pm. \*We need volunteers to bring desserts and volunteers to help with cleanup after the meal. Sign-up on the chart by the kitchen window.

Join us in taking **Christmas decorations down** Sunday, January 11, after worship

**Valentine Cabaret** meeting Sunday, January 11, after worship. This is mandatory for parents of youth going on the Mission Trip!

**Annual Meeting** is Sunday, February 1, 2015 following Sunday morning worship.

Sunday, February 8 is **Scout Sunday**

You are invited to the *Spirit of Life*

# Valentine Cabaret

*Saturday, February 7, 2015. 6-9pm*  
(5:30pm for early Silent Auction viewing)

**Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church, 14401 Pilot Knob Road, Apple Valley**

Tickets are \$15 for age 11 and above, \$10 for ages 6-10, FREE for children 5 and under.  
(Purchase tickets after church 1/18, 1/25, 2/1, at the church office 952.423.2212, or at the door...vegetarian meal should be requested in advance)

MENU: Chicken Marsala, potatoes, bread, salad, dessert bar & beverages

ENTERTAINMENT: Provided by members & friends of *Spirit of Life*. We'll also have a presentation on 2014 Mission Trip!

## Silent Auction

This is a fundraiser for the youth mission trip to Springfield, IL, July 12-18, 2015.

Support us by: buying tickets for yourself & family; inviting neighbors & friends to attend; sponsor a table of 8; participate in the entertainment by singing, playing an instrument (be sure to contact Kate if you need accompaniment), reading a poem, etc; provide a dessert; provide a donation for the Silent Auction (contact Karen J or Alicia M).

# **Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church Simplified Session Minutes**

## **December 9, 2014**

A quorum was present as the Session meeting was called to order by the moderator, Reverend Rob Smith on December 9, 2014 for the combined November and December meetings.

Pastor Smith offered an opening prayer. He led a devotion based on Isaiah 40, the message of comfort to the Jews in exile in Babylon. We also watched a DVD called "Trees".

The financial report for October and November of 2014 was sent by Barb Ostlund. It was discussed that the budget is up by \$8890 (\$5109 of this from the Garage Sale) and expenses were down \$12,294 so net for the year we are up \$21,184. It was noted that the primary mortgage was down to \$13,767 and being paid off at \$1000 per month so it will be paid off in one year.

Pastor Rob gave his report concerning attendance, pastor visits, calendar of events, and outreach. It was noted to hold a special Session meeting on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 to meet the new member class. It was also voted to spend \$550 from 2014 and \$550 from 2015 professional expense budget to purchase a new laptop for Pastor Smith. Bill Davnie will speak January 18 after worship service concerning the General Assembly's divestiture vote.

Minutes of the Stated Session meeting on October 23, 2014 were approved as read. Correspondence was read from First United Presbyterian church of Baldwin, WI that was a greeting and prayer for our church. Attendance was discussed.

Welcoming Guests committee had no report. Youth and Children's Programming committee had a report from Chris Sachs. It was approved to allow the youth to fundraise at the Valentine Cabaret for the Mission Trip. It was requested that Hub get a bid for an industrial size dishwasher for the kitchen and a bid to fix the Dove room bathroom. It was approved to refer to the Personnel committee to hire a child care attendant for Wed. nights from 6:30-8:30pm. Public Relations report was written by Peggy Roeske but there was no action needed. Worship and Music report was written by Karen Johnson. The Communion schedule for 2015 was approved. Stewardship report was given by Bob Shepard. 33 units pledged donations to the church. Pledges were up \$15,000 over 2014. Bob Shepard and his committee were thanked. HUB committee report was written by Walt Ullrich. There was no action needed. Personnel committee had no action items. Adult Ed. report was submitted by Brian Gracek. No action was needed. Nomination committee will be formed. It will consist of 2 Elders, 1 Deacon and 2 members at large. Audit committee had no report.

Deacon meeting minutes for November were submitted by Loretta Hunt.

Old Business: Visioning discussion was postponed until January. Each committee submitted a list of activities for the year so that we can do a calendar of activities. Karen Johnson will combine all of these into one calendar and e-mail it to the Session members. The draft version of the pictorial directory was viewed. We are still waiting for more pictures to be submitted.

New Business: The Annual Congregational meeting will be February 1, 2014. All committees should submit their reports to Shari by January 15, 2015. Clerk Karen Johnson will review the rolls and reports for Presbytery at the January meeting.

Concerns and joys of individuals were expressed and prayers were offered. The meeting was closed with a prayer.

Karen Johnson, Clerk of Session



## Wednesday Club: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 @ 1pm

First open your eyes. Okay, Second, Coffee is perking. Ahh. Life is good. Smell the aroma of fresh brewed coffee on a cold winter's day. Wednesday Club is happy to present Marco Arana, who is the master coffee roster at Dunn Brothers Coffee in Apple Valley. He will show us a slide presentation on how his magic is created. He even has some samples for us. Did you know your Pastor is often inspired to write his sermons while drinking Dunn Brothers Coffee?

Stay tuned- in February we have an ecumenical speaker who has been published in the local newspaper! In March, our own Denise Lewis will educate us on acupuncture. Join us.

### 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

#### SESSION MEETING

6:30 p.m. on Thursday,  
January 15, 2015

#### DEACON MEETING

7:00 p.m. on Tuesday,  
January 27, 2015 (**NOTE:** special night!)



10 PM ~January 18  
For the February Newsletter

#### 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 EMERGENCES  
PLEASE CALL 952.807.4413

## SPIRIT OF LIFE STAFF

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**OFFICE** spirit@spiritoflifeav.org  
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952.423.2212

## Sunday Texts and Service Highlights

**January 4: Jesus Coming of Age**  
1 Kings 3: 1-28, Luke 2: 39-3: 14; 3: 21-22  
1 Timothy 4: 6-16

**January 18: Jesus the Teacher**  
Proverbs 3: 1-26, Jeremiah 31: 31-34,  
Mark 4: 1-34

**January 11: Significant and Wonderful**  
2 Samuel 11: 26-12: 15, John 2: 1-12  
Mark 1: 21-18

**January 25: Jesus and the Multitude**  
Ezekiel 34: 1-31,  
Luke 5: 17-32, 18: 15-19: 9



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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**

<b>JANUARY 7</b>	<b>M&amp;M BEGINS AGAIN!</b>
<b>JANUARY 8</b>	<b>WORSHIP &amp; MUSIC COMMITTEE MTG 4:15PM</b>
<b>JANUARY 10</b>	<b>MEN'S BREAKFAST 7:15AM</b>
<b>JANUARY 11</b>	<b>FOLLOWING WORSHIP: CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS DOWN &amp; VALENTINE CABARET MANDATORY MEETING</b>
<b>JANUARY 14</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY CLUB 1:00PM</b>
<b>JANUARY 15</b>	<b>SESSION MEETING 6:30PM</b>
<b>JANUARY 27</b>	<b>DEACON MEETING 7:00PM</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 1</b>	<b>ANNUAL MEETING</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 7</b>	<b>VALENTINE CABARET</b>

### **Weekly Events**

<b>MON</b>	Cubs @ 6pm	<b>TUES</b>	Scouts @ 6:30pm
<b>WED</b>	6:30pm BELLS, Scouts	<b>THURS</b>	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

14401 Pilot Knob Road  
Apple Valley, MN 55124-6610





Jan	Jan	Jan
1 Gen 1: 1-2:25 Matthew 1:1-2:12 Psalm 1:1-6 Proverbs 1: 1-6	13 Gen 28:1-29:35 Matt 9:18-38 Psalm 11:1-7 Prov 3:11-12	25 Gen 50:1-Exod 2:10 Matt 16:13-17:9 Psalm 21:1-13 Prov 5:1-6
2 Gen 3:1-4:26 Matt. 2:13-3:6 Psalm 2:1-12 Prov. 1:7-9	14 Gen 30:1-31:16 Matt 10:1-23 Psalm 12:1-8 Prov 3:13-15	26 Exod 2:11-3:22 Matt 17:10-27 Psalm 22:1-18 Prov 5:7-14
3 Gen 5:1-7:24 Matt. 3:7-4:11 Psalm 3:1-8 Proverbs 1:10-19	15 Gen 31:17-32:12 Matt 10:24-11:6 Psalm 13:1-6 Prov 3:16-18	27 Exod 4:1-5:21 Matt 18:1-20 Psalm 22:19-31 Prov 5:15-21
4 Gen 8:1-10:32 Matt. 4:12-25 Psalm 4:1-8 Prov. 1:20-23	16 Gen 32:13-34:31 Matt 11:7-30 Psalm 14:1-7 Prov 3:19-20	28 Exod 5:22-7:24 Matt 18:21-19:12 Psalm 23:1-6 Prov 5:22-23
5 Gen 11:1-13:4 Matt. 5:1-26 Psalm 5:1-12 Prov. 1:24-27	17 Gen 35:1-36:43 Matt 12:1-21 Psalm 15:1-5 Prov 3:21-26	29 Exod 7:25-9:35 Matt 19:13-30 Psalm 24:1-10 Prov 6:1-5
6 Gen 13:5-15:21 Matt 5: 27-48 Psalm 6:1-10 Prov. 1:28-33	18 Gen 37:1-38:30 Matt 12:22-45 Psalm 16:1-11 Prov 3:27-32	30 Exod 10:1-12:13 Matt 20:1-28 Psalm 25:1-15 Prov 6:6-11
7 Gen 16:1-18:15 Matt 6:1-24 Psalm 7:1-17 Prov. 2:1-15	19 Gen 39:1-41:16 Matt 12:46-13:23 Psalm 17:1-15 Prov 3:33-35	31 Exod 12:14-13:16 Matt 20:29-21:22 Psalm 25:16-22 Prov 6:12-15
8 Gen 18:16-19:38 Matt 6:25-7:14 Psalm 8:1-9 Prov. 2:6-15	20 Gen 41:17-42:17 Matt. 13:24-46 Psalm 18:1-15 Prov 4:1-6	
9 Gen 20:1-22:24 Matt. 7:15-29 Psalm 9:1-12 Prov. 2:16-22	21 Gen 42:18-43:34 Matt 13:47-14:12 Psalm 18:16-36 Prov 4:7-10	
10 Gen 23:1-24:51 Matt. 8:1-17 Psalm 9:13-20 Prov. 3:1-6	22 Gen 44:1-45:28 Matt 14:13-36 Psalm 18:37-50 Prov. 4:11-13	
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12 Gen 26:17-27:46 Matt. 9:1-17 Psalm 10:16-18 Prov. 3:9-10	24 Gen 48:1-49:33 Matt 15:29-16:12 Psalm 20:1-9 Prov 4:20-27	