



22 SEPTEMBER 2019

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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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:** Hymnals, large print bulletins & children's activity bags are available at the usher station, or you may ask an usher. We also offer nursery upstairs during worship and Sunday school.

***We would like to draw your attention to an important housekeeping note:** Should your phone ring during rehearsals or worship, you will be asked to pet sit for Lucy (Pastor Rob & Lisa's dog).

GATHERING

PRELUDE "We Will Dance" by David Ruis, arr by Garrett Parker
Martha Davis

WELCOME Rev. Rob Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP Austin Ambe

One: Welcome to worship, fellow strugglers on the way!
**All: You are invited to this service, fellow wrestlers on the journey!
Welcome to you, who get tired along faith's rocky road!**

One: Together we gather, Together we seek God's face,
**All: Together we help one another in being strong, in being
courageous, in being attentive to the very presence of the Divine.**
One: Welcome! Let us worship God.

OPENING SONG "My Lighthouse" (ccli #7002032)

TIME WITH CHILDREN Vickie Fischer

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION Austin Ambe

One: God of the struggle, may we struggle with love. May we never take it for granted, but wrestle with it, discern its cause and let it change our very being: the way we walk, the way we worship, the way we create community, the way we journey.
All: May we have strength for the struggle to reshape the faith that

makes hope for the future possible: in our faith communities, in our personal lives, in the neighborhood we live, places where struggle is the faithful life, never accepting what is given but reshaped in the doubting and questioning and creativity.

One: May we never keep silent when heaven needs to argue.

All: May we never sit still when the kingdom needs to move.

One: May we never hurry by when the body of Christ needs patience.

All: May we never speak over the cries of others.

One: In the struggle that is faith may you find us, invite us and struggle with us.

All: In the tension and the love may we be the church.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE Rev. Rob Smith

PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Rob Smith

RESPONSE SONG "Open Our Eyes"

ANTHEM "Total Praise" by Richard Smallwood Choir

HEARING

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Austin Ambe

SCRIPTURE Genesis 32: [9-13] 22-30 Austin Ambe

SERMON "Elements of Struggle" Rev. Rob Smith

RESPONDING

SERMON RESPONSE "I Will Rise" (CCLI #5183450)

CALL TO OFFERING Austin Ambe

OFFERTORY "How Excellent Is Thy Name" by Dick Tunney, arr by Bill Wolaver Martha Davis

PRAYER OF DEDICATION "Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow" #606

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 HYMN "Here I Am, Lord" (#69)

CHARGE & BLESSING Rev. Rob Smith

POSTLUDE Martha Davis

Volunteers for today, September 22, 2019,

Lay Leader: Austin Ambe

Audio Visual: Alfred Hicks

Children's sermon: Vickie Fisher

Ushers/Greeters: Denise Lewis, Becky Brandt, Chris Sachs

SEPTEMBER CAREGIVER - Ruth Ewule

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, September 29, 2019,

Lay Leader: Deon Ford

Audio Visual: Eric Scott

Children's sermon: Karen Johnson

Ushers/Greeters: Walt Ullrich, Howard & Sue Mayers, Joseph Cornormia, DeVean Tchakam

2019 Per Capita is \$35.70.

Like us on Facebook (SpiritofLifePresbyterianChurch)
AND
Twitter (SpiritOfLife@SpiritOfLifeAV)

SPIRIT OF LIFE STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Rob Smith **Email:** pastorrob@spiritoflifeav.org

Parish Lay Pastor: Loretta Hunt

Clerk of Session: Denise Lewis

Pianist: Martha Davis

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

Announcements ...

Please be sure to submit your announcement to the church office so we may include them in the printed bulletin. All announcements received at spirit@spiritoflifeav.org 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.

Children's K - 5th grade will be dismissed shortly after worship begins and have **Sunday school class** during worship. Kids 6th grade and older will meet for Sunday school following worship. Adult Sunday school class will also meet following worship. (see info below)

The **adult Sunday School class** will be highly participatory and highly flexible. Two daily devotional books will be featured one that focuses on thoughts that might be of greater interest to men and one that may be more appealing to women but of course will be interchangeable. Or if you have a favorite daily devotional that you would like to share your thoughts about, that would be encouraged as well. Participants will be asked to choose one of the week's daily devotionals and share why it was the most meaningful or raised the most questions in their minds. By sharing our experiences it is hoped that we continue to grow our understanding of how God works in our lives. The schedule will be flexible as there are several Sundays this fall when other activities are planned immediately after service. These discussions will be easy to pick up on as each session will be independent of previous or succeeding sessions. All adults are encouraged to join the class when you are able.

After worship today, September 22, the Community Service committee is sponsoring a **chili cook off as a fundraiser for the South of the River CROP Hunger Walk**. It is a lot of fun to taste lots of different varieties of chili. To add to the fun, this year in honor of the 50th anniversary of CROP Hunger Walks nation wide, we are inviting chili makers from other SotR CROP Walk participating churches, so we may have a little competition for the best chili. Cornbread and desserts will be provided by the Community Service committee.

Pastor Rob and Lisa are hosting a **New Member Class Kick-Off BBQ** this evening, September 22nd, 6-8pm. This meet and greet class is for those exploring new membership and visitors who may like to connect more. It will be a great opportunity to begin talking with Pastor Rob about what it means to be a member at *Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church*. Please talk to Pastor Rob after worship to RSVP.

Pastor Rob has set a scheduled time to be available for anyone who might wish to connect with him. **Pastor Rob's NEW "office hours"** are at the Dunn Bros., 15265 Galaxie Ave, Apple Valley, on **Mondays, 9-11am**. 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.

Meet in the Middle (M+M) happens on Wednesdays. From 4:30-6pm, kids will be playing games, making arts and crafts, eating snacks, singing, Bible lessons and more! Parents join the kids for dinner at 6pm (provided by the church but free will offering received). Please contact Nikki at nikkiharves@gmail.com to register or with questions. We also need people to sign up to provide desserts. There's a sign up in the kitchen (on the refrigerator).

Cookie hostesses needed! We need cookie hostesses for worship in

November. Please contact Rosellen Fairall (rlfairall@gmail.com) or Loretta Hunt (huntgeo@msn.com) to sign up. Thank you!

Everyone is invited to join Pastor Rob for the **midweek Bible study**. The study will be on Ephesians, focusing on faith community. We'll meet **Wednesdays, 10am, beginning October 2nd**, at *Spirit of Life*. See Pastor Rob with questions.

It's that time of year again, time to start thinking about ordering **poinsettias and greens for the holiday season**. Advent begins December 1st, that is the day we will decorate the sanctuary. We will be taking your holiday orders September 15th through October 6th. Gertens actually grows the plants to fulfill each specific order, which is why they need to be ordered so early. You are welcome to order plants to take home and/or leave at Spirit of Life as holiday décor. Use the bulletin insert to place your order.

The **South of the River CROP Hunger Walk** will be Sunday, October 13, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lakeville. You can participate in this effort to work towards an end to hunger by joining the team of walkers (sign up with Denise Lewis, or online at www.crophungerwalk.org/burnsvilleMN and search for the Spirit of Life team); donating to the team's fundraising, or by attending the chili cook off and voting with your dollars; participating in the food drive for the CROP Walk that will be coming up in early October. Contact either Denise Lewis or Peggy Roeske if you have any questions.

Women's book club will meet on Thursday October 24 at 7pm at Lisa Smith's home. We will be discussing *Wolfpack* by Abby Wambach, available at: https://www.amazon.com/dp/1250217709/ref=cm_sw_r_em_api_i_c_6PyEDbQ09HYSR All are welcome! Please join us!

From the Music Director:

Calling all handbell players! Come to an introductory meeting/rehearsal this Wed, Sept 25 from 8 - 8:30 pm in the sanctuary.

Spirit of Life currently has a Mixed Voice Choir, Women's Choir, Youth Music Ensemble (singers and instrumentalists), and soon a Handbell Choir. If interested in joining any of these ensembles, please talk with Martha after worship today!

The choir will be sharing all kinds of praise music this fall - different styles and cultures but all will be about lifting our hearts, minds, and souls to praise God, no matter our imperfections and troubles. Today's anthem "Total Praise" is by gospel composer Richard Smallwood. Richard, a gifted and accomplished man, lived through a 20 year struggle with severe depression. He says that his faith and love of God and music was his salvation. Today he courageously speaks of his battle to offer God's light and hope to others.

Building Use this week:

Sun, Sept 22	8:45am choir 10:00am Worship 11:15am Chili Cook-Off	sanctuary sanctuary/kitchen sanctuary/kitchen
Mon, Sept 23	6:00 pm Cub Scouts/ Den 3	conf rm
Tues, Sept 24	1:00 pm staff mtg 6:30 pm Boy Scouts Troop 292	conf rm sanctuary
Wed, Sept 25	4:30pm M+M 6:00 pm FAMILY MEAL 7:00 pm women's choir 8:00 pm handbells mtg	sanctuary/conf rm sanctuary/kitchen sanctuary sanctuary
Sat, Sept 28	8:30pm NA	sanctuary/kitchen

September 22, 2019 "Elements of Struggle"

Rev. Rob Smith

Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church

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