



01 DECEMBER 2019

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*CCLI License #3049316 grants permission
for reprinting of words and music*

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 shovel snow for the month of December!

GATHERING

PRELUDE "Immanuel" by Michael Card, arr by Melody Bober
Martha Davis

WELCOME Rev. Rob Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP Becky Brandt

All: O Come, O Come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

One: From the silence of eternity the sound of the Word echoes, speaking life into being.

All: Come let us hear, let us rediscover, let us find renewal in our lives in the light of the Word's goodness and truth.

One: Let us rediscover in hearing again our story of promise, of anticipation, of waiting. We are surrounded with so many other messages of Christmas in advertising and in feeling our need to make this experience perfect.

All: Let us instead, rediscover that which God has done and is continuing to do that is already made perfect. Let us grow in this waiting.

OPENING HYMN "O Come O Come, Emmanuel" (#88)

ADVENT CANDLE READING Elliott Family

TIME WITH CHILDREN Nikki Harves

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION Becky Brandt

One: God, present in our churches today, yet not confined by physical

structures, make your power known in our worship. As we praise your name, may our voices be strengthened and our hearts be lifted. May we be reminded that we cannot contain or limit your power to what we know and understand.

All: Forgive us when we have made you smaller to enhance our comfort, when we have attempted to hold you back because we are not ready. You enter into our sanctuaries, into our worship, into our lives, whether we are ready or not. You refuse to wait any longer. We seek to know your presence, to be caught up in your wake as you weave your way through the world, changing the lives of all your people with the power of love. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE Rev. Rob Smith

PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Rob Smith

RESPONSE HYMN "While We Are Waiting, Come" (#92, v 1 & 3)

ANTHEM "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" with "Come, Messiah King" arr
Lloyd Larson Spirit of Life Choir

HEARING

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Becky Brandt

SCRIPTURES Jeremiah 33: 14-18 Becky Brandt

SERMON "ReNew: ReDiscover" Rev. Rob Smith

RESPONDING

SERMON RESPONSE "Create in Me a Clean Heart" (CCLI #114696)

CALL TO OFFERING Becky Brandt

OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION "Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow (Doxology)" #606
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

WELCOME TO THE TABLE Rev. Rob Smith

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING / 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 thy 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.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS (Served intinction)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING HYMN "The King of Glory"

CHARGE & BLESSING Rev. Rob Smith

POSTLUDE Martha Davis

Volunteers for today, December 1, 2019,

Lay Leader: Becky Brandt

Audio Visual: Eric Scott

Children's sermon: Nikki Harves

Ushers/Greeters: Loretta Hunt

Communion: Loretta Hunt(Lead), Steve Lewis, Alvine Laure Ekame, Deon Ford, Gladys Mbonifor

DECEMBER CAREGIVER - Ruth Shepard

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*

Next Sunday, December 8, 2019,

Lay Leader: Duane Sweep

Audio Visual: Alfred Hicks

Children's sermon: Vickie Fischer

Ushers/Greeters: Loretta Hunt

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.

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 ...

Our **nursery** (2nd floor) is open during worship for children ages 1-6 years.

Texting/Email Scam Alert: Pastor Rob is aware of a scam circulating currently by text that looks legitimate coming from what appears to be your pastor saying that someone from your community is in crisis and your pastor is seeking your financial help. Pastor Rob assures you he will never request help through text, or email, or in any way that is not directly from him. These look real and tug at the heartstrings because we do wish to care for our community, and we will. But it will not be through text. We do requests through email sometimes, but any of these will not be in a way that asks for you to click on a link--and will only be part of larger campaigns. If you ever receive one and have a question, call the office, or call Pastor Rob at his known number.

We will be hanging the Christmas decorations (and putting up the tree) here at church today, **Sunday, December 1st**, following worship. We'd love to have volunteers stay after church to assist. Deon will be bringing homemade hot, yummy turkey noodle soup for all who help!!!! Thanks~~ Deon

Pastor Rob has set a scheduled time to be available for anyone who might wish to connect with him. **Pastor Rob's "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.

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

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.

Do you have the heart of a cookie hostess? We do have an opportunity for you to pursue hospitality during Sunday fellowship hour. Indeed, hospitality is a vital part of the life of Spirit of Life and fellowship hour is the time when people can socialize, get to know newcomers, catch up with friends. Besides bringing cookies, the hostess should also assist with setup, pouring lemonade and water, and cleanup afterwards. Guidelines for being a cookie host/hostess are on the fridge in the church kitchen. We need cookie hostesses for worship in December. Please contact Rosellen Fairall (rfairall@gmail.com) or Loretta Hunt (huntgeo@msn.com) to sign up or with questions. Thank you!

If you signed up to purchase a gift for **Armful of Love**, please leave your gift today, Sunday, December 1st. The gift should be wrapped and labeled with the name of the recipient. Thanks! Questions—please see Wendy Barta.

From the Music Director:

For those who would like to join in singing for the advent and Christmas season, plan to come to rehearsal on Sunday, December 1, at 8:30am!

December rehearsal schedule:

1-Dec	Sun	8:30 - 9:40, Choir	11:15 - 11:45	Youth
4-Dec	Wed	7:00 - 7:30, Womens	7:30 - 8:30	Choir
8-Dec	Sun	8:30 - 9:00, Womens	9:00 - 9:40	Choir
11-Dec	Wed	7:00 - 8:00, Choir		
15-Dec	Sun	8:30 - 9:40, Choir	11:15 - 11:45	Youth
15-Dec	Sun	Children's Program w Youth 6:30 (warm-up w Youth at 6)		
18-Dec	Wed	Reflective Service 7:00pm Choir rehearse following service - details tba		
21-Dec	Sat	9:30 - 11:00, Cantata Dress Rehearsal: Choir, Womens, Youth, Narrators, (Children?)		
22-Dec	Sun	8:45, All groups warm up, rehearse trouble spots only		
24-Dec	Tues	5:00pm Christmas Eve (4:15 choir warm up and run through)		
29-Dec	Sun	OFF		

~ Thanks, Martha

Women's book club will meet on Thursday, December 5 at 7pm at Lisa Smith's home. We will be discussing the book "Miracles and Other Reasonable Things: A Story of Unlearning and Relearning God" by Sarah Bessey. Check this out at Amazon.com: https://www.amazon.com/dp/1501155466/ref=cm_sw_r_em_api_azeWDbSCYH30D All are welcome! Please join us!

Many thanks to all who participated in our kick-off immigration event, where stories were shared about generational immigration experiences. It was a rich and varied exchange, including voices from immigrants of Dutch, German, Italian, Scandinavian, Japanese, Nigerian, and Cameroonian descent as well as rural and pioneer experiences, and the intersection of immigrant settlement and Native American reservations. Thank you again to all who attended to listen, and to all who shared their stories! We all learned from it! **SAVE THE DATE:** our next immigration event will be Sunday, December 8, following worship. We will be hosting a panel discussion with three or four guest speakers who are experts in the field of immigration. More details to follow!

Throughout the month, we collect change and then bring it on the second Sunday (December 8) to give in the "**Change for change**" bucket offering. With the help of our children, we continue collecting change in our metal buckets on a monthly basis. This is a great teaching tool to help us show each other and the younger generation how fun it is to give when we hear the change drop in the buckets!

2019 Per Capita is \$35.70.

Christmas Season at Spirit of Life

December 15th, at **6:30pm**, the children will be performing their nativity play: *Grandpa's Nativity Story*. There will be cookies, cocoa, and conversation after the performance.

December 18th, **7:00pm**, Reflective Christmas

December 22nd, **10:00am**, we will enjoy the *Christmas Cantata* as part of our Sunday morning worship.

December 24th, at **5:00pm**, we will have our **Christmas Eve Service**

Like us on Facebook ([SpiritofLifePresbyterianChurch](https://www.facebook.com/SpiritofLifePresbyterianChurch))
AND
Twitter ([SpiritOfLife@SpiritOfLifeAV](https://twitter.com/SpiritOfLife@SpiritOfLifeAV))

Building Use this week:

Sun, Dec 1	8:30am	choir	sanctuary
	10:00am	Worship	sanctuary/kitchen
	11:15am	youth music rehearsal	upper classroom
		Christmas decorating	sanctuary
Mon, Dec 2	6:00pm	Cub Scouts/ Den 3	conf rm
	6:30pm	Deacon mtg	dove rm
Tues, Dec 3	1:00pm	staff mtg	conf rm
	6:30pm	Boy Scouts Troop 292	sanctuary
Wed, Dec 4	10:00am	Ephesians Bible study	conf rm
	4:30pm	M&M	sanctuary/conf rm
	6:00pm	family meal	sanctuary/kitchen
	7:00pm	women's choir	sanctuary
	7:30pm	choir	sanctuary
Thurs, Dec 5	6:00pm	Pack 292 Wolf Den 2	upstairs classroom
		Pack 292 Lion Cub mtg	conf rm
Sat, Dec 7	12:00pm	Scouts Court of Honor	sanctuary
	8:30pm	NA	sanctuary/kitchen

ReNew

Dec 1 ReDiscover
Dec 8 ReCreate
Dec 15 ReBuild
Dec 22 Reveal
Dec 24 Rejoice

Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church

Rev. Rob Smith

14401 Pilot Knob Road
Apple Valley, MN 55124

www.spiritoflifeav.org
spirit@spiritoflifeav.org
952.423.2212