

**WELCOME TO
SPIRIT OF LIFE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

14401 Pilot Knob Road / Apple Valley, MN 55124
www.spiritoflifeav.org / spirit@spiritoflifeav.org
952.423.2212

Thank you for joining us!

We hope you experience the joy of God's love in our diverse, inclusive, and compassionate community. Come as you are; all are welcome!

- ◇ Worship is at 10:00 am Sunday mornings, and can be live-streamed or watched later on YouTube or Facebook.
- ◇ Restrooms are in the first hallway to the left on exiting the sanctuary.

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
DECEMBER 10, 2023**

** All who are able are invited to stand.
Hymnals are available on the cart by the sound booth.
Regular attenders, visitors, & members, please complete &
return Connect/Prayer cards in offering plate
or to the Welcome Table at the back of the sanctuary.
Today's worship leaders: Rev. Rob Smith, Becky Brandt,
Kyle & Kate Frost, Anwyn & Oliver*

Prelude

Call to Worship

Advent Candle

***Opening Song** O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Prayer of Reconciliation

Assurance of Grace

***Passing of Peace**

***Song** I Hear A Sound (CCLI #14129)

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Isaiah 40: 1-11

Children's sermon

Sermon

Call To Offering

Ushers will circulate offering plates for those who wish to give in this way. Online giving is also available on our website.

Offertory O Come, O Come Emmanuel by Craig Curry (Spirit of Life Choir, Kyle Frost, trumpet)

Prayers of the People

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.

Announcements

***Closing Song** It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (Hymn #123)

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Please join us for coffee and refreshments after worship.

Announcements

Visitors: Welcome to Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church! Thank you for worshiping with us. Visitors, regular attenders and members, please complete the Connect/Prayer card and indicate if you wish to receive our weekly emails. If you don't have a card, please pick one up from our Information Table at the back of the sanctuary. Please return completed Connect/Prayer card in offering plate or in box labeled accordingly at the back. If you have any questions, please ask at the Information Table or Pastor Rob.

SPECIAL NOTICE: We will have a brief **congregational meeting** immediately following worship on Sunday, December 17th, for the sole purpose of electing an elder to fill the open position. The nominating committee presents Patience Mbonifor to consider to serve as ruling elder.

Sunday Events:

- **The children's Sunday school class starts at 9:30am** and goes until 10:15 (meeting upstairs), then the kids will join adults in

sanctuary for the Children's sermon. Our curriculum this fall is called Living the Word which will follow the same Bible verses as our sermons.

- There is a card in the back of the sanctuary TODAY to thank Jesse Lowinske (Deon's son) for his military service. Hopefully he will be home soon! Please take a moment to sign it for him.

Weekday Events:

- **(Monday) Coffee & Conversation meets Mondays, 9:30-10:30 am.** Plan to join us the Monday and come as you are. This is a gathering online and in person. It is open for you to pop in and out any time so feel free to drop in and say hello. *Note, same time and same login, recurring meeting each week. Join Zoom Meeting at <https://zoom.us/j/286584190>.
- **Meet in the Middle meets Wednesdays, 4:30-6pm.** It's another exciting year of Meet in the Middle at *Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church*! We do many of the same things we did at summer kids camp. 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 6pm dinner. (A free will offering will be taken for dinner).

The worship committee says **THANK YOU** to all who signed up to help and to provide cookies following the Christmas program on December 17.

Donations for the **Giving Tree project** (providing Spirit of Life Families needing assistance during the holidays) will be collected through today. We are collecting gift cards in \$25 increments (\$25, \$50 or \$75) for grocery stores (Cub, Aldi), gas stations (Holiday, Speedway, Quik Trip) or Walmart/Target. A box is provided in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for helping us provide a Merry Christmas for ALL.

The Christian Ed committee will be putting together **Christmas treat bags** for the children again this year. If you would like to donate any pre-wrapped candy, treats or small favors for the bags, please leave those in the basket below the table in front hall today. We will be giving them to the children after the Christmas Program on December 17th.

Little Free Food Pantry: It's cold outside!! Our little free pantry continues to serve many in our neighborhood. However, with our

freezing weather we must now discontinue glass jars and canned food. Good options for winter include anything in a box (potatoes, pasta, powdered milk, etc) or bag (cereal, tuna or chicken in foil packets, rice, ramen, etc.) or plastic jar (peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce). Many thanks for your help in feeding hungry neighbors through our pantry.

Valentine Cabaret will be held February 10, 2024, so please save the date. If you want to share a musical talent, donate a silent auction prize or donate a dessert please contact Sayra Maberry or Eric Scott!

Prayer Ministry at Spirit of Life Please use the connect card and turn in at the offering time if you have a prayer request to share today. During the week, please email our deacon, Chris Sachs at ccsachs123@gmail.com to share a prayer request with our Spirit Care Prayer Team.

Usual Church Office Hours: Monday & Thursday 10-3. Call ahead to make sure as we work remotely some days.

Staff: Pastor: Rev. Robert (Rob) Smith (pastorrob@spiritoflifeav.org)
Music Director: Martha Davis (davis.martha@live.com)
Office Administrator: Shari Shaw (spirit@spiritoflifeav.org)

Lyrics & music are projected & printed under CCLI License #3049316 & Streaming License #20010882