

**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 22, 2024**

** All who are able are invited to stand.
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 & Steve Lewis*

Prelude

Welcome

Welcome Song (Gladys Mbonifor, singer)

Call to Worship

Advent Candle

Congregational Song Light a Candle Bright and Tall, copyright 2012, by David Woods, (permission given to use in worship) (tune of For the Beauty of the Earth)

***Opening Song** The First Noel (Hymn #147)

Scripture Luke 1: 26-38

Assurance of Grace

***Passing of Peace**

***Song** I Hear A Sound (CCLI #14129) (Christine Kolb, songleader)

Scripture Luke 1: 39-45

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Luke 1: 46-56

Children's sermon

Sermon Song (Gladys Mbonifor, singer)

Sermon Mary Knew (Rev. Rob Smith)

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 Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song) by Amy Grant & Chris Eaton (Kate Frost, Lisa Smith & Mary Brause, singers)

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** Joy to the World with Unspeakable Joy (CCLI #5607039) (Odosa Amadasun)

***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 worshipping 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.

Sunday Events:

- **Children's Sunday School class** is suspended on Dec 22 and Dec 29. Class resumes January 5th, meeting at 9:30am Sundays.

Weekday Events:

- **(Tuesday) Coffee & Conversation with Pastor Rob meets Tuesdays, 9:00-10:00 am.** Plan to join us the Tuesday 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>. NOTE: Due to the holidays, we will not share coffee Dec 23rd or Dec 31st. Also, the first Tuesday of the month, Jan 7th, is in person only at the McDonalds, 21044 Kenrick Ave, Lakeville, 55044.
- Please plan to join us for **Christmas Eve worship at 5:30pm** Christmas Eve, December 24th.
- **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*! 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). **Youth group** meets Wednesdays, 6-8pm. **NOTE:** M&M celebrated Christmas this past week with fun snacks and activities. We will be taking a break over the holidays and will resume on JANUARY 15.

Your **Community Service** team is again sponsoring The Giving Tree project. Gift cards to Target, Walmart, Kwik Trip, and Holiday are requested in \$25 increments. These will be offered to Spirit of Life families in need of assistance this Christmas, and for the pastor's discretionary fund throughout the year. This is another wonderful opportunity to help all have a Merry Christmas! Thank you for your continued generosity!

The Little Free Pantry update Now that we've been having BELOW FREEZING TEMPS (BRRRRRRR) we need to eliminate glass jar and often canned items from our LITTLE FREE PANTRY. We suggest

items in boxes, bags, paper wrapping, foil packets, plastic jars etc. We can store canned items in our entryway cupboard and put out as weather allows. Suggestions Include: Pasta Products, Pasta Sauce, White Rice, Peanut Butter, Jelly/Jam, Boxed Potatoes, Cereal / Oatmeal, Fruits and Vegetables, tuna, ANY Nonperishable Items. Hunger persists in our neighborhood and we thank you for your help!

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 Chris Sachs at ccsachs123@gmail.com to share a prayer request with our Spirit Care Prayer Team.

It takes all of us to be the church. Leadership has worked diligently to organize the opportunities and share many of these through the following Sign-Up Genius links. Would you please take a few minutes and make a commitment to help pick up a part? Please click on the link and select a date you could serve:

- Fellowship Time
- Dec 22: Mary Brause
- Dec. 29: Barb Ostlund
- Jan 5: (VOLUNTEER NEEDED)

Please use this link to sign up to prepare and serve coffee and treats for the fellowship time: Spirit of Life Congregation: Spirit of Life Sunday Fellowship—Coffee/Treats (signupgenius.com).

2025 Per Capita is \$40.00

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)
Nursery Director: Trista Hansen
Tech Director: Jacqui Hicks

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