



Spruce Grove Newsletter

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, Wolf Lake, MN Vol. 21 No. 3 May-June 2016

The Wrong Side of History?

Author: Justin Lonas

Originally posted on the Disciple blog, June 2015.

Last summer, when the Supreme Court so ordered that, at least for those of us under the jurisdiction of the United States of America, history had shifted from its underpinnings and that marriage now no longer had any meaning derived from God's created order, there was a lot of fear among believers here. There still is.

This ought not be terribly surprising to us though, as the pivot away from covenant marriage happened a long time ago. The ongoing unraveling of social conventions accompanying that order is simply proceeding apace.

As Christians, we are being told that it's time to take some sexual immorality "off the sin list" and that we ought to get with the times or be left on "the wrong side of history." With the celebrations still ongoing, ideas were being floated to roll back tax exemptions for churches and religious nonprofits, and other discussions about stamping out dissent floated up as well.

Whatever comes, whatever is said, whatever is taken away, don't lose heart. The fight is not with flesh and blood (and not with men and women who choose to live in sexual sin), but with the power that has been since the Fall thumbing his nose at God and His creation. His doom is sure, and when the final draft is written, those who resist him and turn to Christ for mercy and life will emphatically be on the right side.

"Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.' And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying, 'We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign. And the nations were enraged and Your wrath came, and the time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth'" (Rev. 11:15-18).

In the long haul, we ought not fear those who would

marginalize and oppress Christians. We ought to weep for them and bear witness to them, even in faithful suffering. We can be on the wrong side of their idea of history and suffer for a season. Those who are on the wrong side of the Author of History will not be so blessed: "Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.' For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3:3-9). Let us not revile, but pray. Let us not rage against the coming hardships, but joyfully endure as the Lord did. Our strength is in weakness, our life in death.

Remember, as Peter wrote previously, that we shouldn't be surprised when we are on the outs with the surrounding culture "as though some strange thing were happening to you" (1 Pet. 4:12). There have always been and always will be aspects of the Gospel message that will get you ousted from cultural example. When the disciples first began spreading the message that Jesus had been raised, to claim that He was Messiah brought swift judgment from those who claimed to follow His Father. As the Church grew into the centers of power of the Roman state, to say that Jesus (not Caesar) was Lord was to invite punishment or death. In parts of the world today where nearly 1/4 of her people live, saying that Jesus is God's Son and that Mohammed is not a prophet will get you into serious trouble with your family, your neighbors, and the authorities. It goes on and on.

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If, now, we are told that we can proclaim Christ as Lord and the one who saves us from our sins, but not call every sin what it is, we cannot shrink from the whole counsel of God any more than our brothers and sisters across time and space have in their particular contexts.

Take courage. "Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to those with knowledge, but time and chance happen to them all. For man does not know his time. Like fish that are taken in an evil net, and like birds that are caught in a snare, so the children of man are snared at an evil time, when it suddenly falls upon them" (Ecc. 9:11-12). The victory is ours, let us treat those who are perishing with love, mercy, and the grace of Christ as taught in Scripture.

It has been so ordered. Ours is but to obey.

Justin Lonas is editor of Disciple Magazine for AMG International in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

God's Peace, Pastor Dennis Hannu

Apostolic Lutheran Church Convention

"Where there is no vision, the people perish"

2016 Annual Convention of the Apostolic Lutheran Churches of America

June 23rd - June 26th, 2016

The Eastside Apostolic Lutheran Church Congregation of Greer, SC invites you to attend the 108th Annual Convention of the Apostolic Lutheran Church of America.

The convention will be held at the Spartanburg Expo & Event Center in Spartanburg, SC from June 23rd -June 26th, 2016. The address is 6655 Pottery Rd, Spartanburg, SC 29303, www.spartanburgexpo.com

Information regarding our service schedule and lodging information will be posted on the www.apostoliclutheran.org website, as well as our Facebook page ALC Convention 2016. Lodging and housing information can also be found on those pages.

For more housing information please call: Miriam Aho 864-483-0179. If anyone is willing to volunteer, please contact Kyle Hilman at alconvention2016@gmail.com or 980-202-2427

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

We look forward to seeing you soon and we pray for God's blessings as we continue to fellowship around His Word.

On behalf of the 2016 ALC Convention Committee,
Todd Niskanen, Chairman

Birth Announcements



Charles & Leila Aho announce the birth of their fifth child. Gail Margaret Aho was born on March 11, 2016 at Tri-County Hospital in Wadena. Gail weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces and was 20 inches tall.

Gail was welcomed home by her parents and sister: Bridget & brothers: Rafe, Everett & Quinn.

Gail's grandparents are Victor & Lola Aho of Menahga, MN and Dan & Anne Coponen of Atlantic Mine, MI.

Jeremy & Katie Howard announce the birth of their 8th child. Royal Gem was born on March 27, 2016 at Essentia Hospital in Detroit Lakes.



Royal weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces and was 20 inches tall.

Royal was welcomed home by her parents and sisters: Grace, Stella & Nina and brothers: Damon, Jonah, Knaylor & Roman. Nina's grandparents are Curtis & Sarah Howard of Menahga, MN and Julius & Terrie Aho of Sebeka, MN.

Alvin & Alisha Aho announce the birth of their third child.

Krisslyn Mae was born on April 21st, 2016 at Essentia Hospital in Detroit Lakes.. Krisslyn weighed 8 pounds and was 19 1/2 inches tall. Krisslyn was welcomed by her parents and brothers Koen & Benson.



Benson's grandparents are Raymond & Janet Aho of rural Wolf Lake and Roger & Priscilla Matson of SC.

2016 Graduates



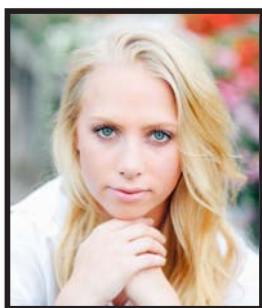
Lanae Aho
Daughter of
Harry & Lori Aho
Menahga High School



Leah Aho
Daughter of
Julius & Terrie Aho
Sebeka High School



Kyah Hillukka
Daughter of
Dale & Molly Hillukka
Menahga High School



Dara Sikkila
Daughter of
Jared & Kendra Sikkila
New Creation Academy



Shandra Siltala
Daughter of
Nathan & Stephanie
Siltala
**Holdingsford High
School**



Shania Siltala
Daughter of
Nathan & Stephanie
Siltala
**Holdingsford High
School**

Graduation Open Houses

Everyone is welcome to attend the Graduation Open Houses!

An Open House will be held for **Dara Sikkila** on Sunday, May 22nd, 2016 from 3:00 to 6:00 P.M. at her home.

An Open House will be held for **Lanae Aho & Kyah Hillukka** at the Spruce Grove Church following the graduation ceremony in Menahga on Friday evening, May 27th, 2016.

An Open House will be held for **Shandra & Shania Siltala** on Sunday, May 29th from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M at the Menahga Park.

An Open House will be held for **Leah Aho** on Sunday, June 5th from 5:00 to 8:00 P.M. at her home.

Congratulations to all the Graduates!
We pray God's blessings & guidance for you now and always.

Remember in Prayer

"...pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much"
(James 5:16)

- Linda Aho
- Brian Haataja
- Reid Anderson
- Richard Yliniemi
- Clifford Koskela
- Shelby Munger
- Marla Kandoll
- Family of Camri Aho
- Joan Koskela
- Marvin & June Nelmark
- Lila Yliniemi
- Art Latto
- Marge Kumma
- Martha Aho
- Billy Nelmark
- Our Church, our Pastor and Church leaders.
- National Leaders
- Our Missionaries
- Our Children & Youth
- Our Military
- Our Elderly

Baptisms



Emery Priscilla Aho, daughter of Marlin & Ashlyn Aho of rural Menahga, was baptized on Friday, March 4, 2016, at the home of her grandparents by Pastor Dennis Hannu. Her sponsors are Luke & Kaylee Aho of Rindge NH, Eliina Matson of SC, and Layla Aho of rural Frazee. Her grandparents are Joshua & Deborah Aho of rural Frazee and Roger & Priscilla Matson of SC. Her great-grandparents are Doug & Donna Coponen of SC.



Gail Margaret Aho, daughter of Charles & Leila Aho of rural Menahga, was baptized on Sunday, April 10, 2016, at the Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church by Pastor Dennis Hannu. Her sponsors are Russell & Eunika Aho of rural Menahga and Jack & Jessica Somero of New Ipswich, NH. Her grandparents are Victor & Lola Aho of Menahga and Daniel & Anne Coponen of Atlantic Mine, MI. Her great-grandparents are Elma Impola of Menahga and William Coponen of Atlantic Mine, MI.



Joely June Latto and Emily Joy Latto, daughters of Jacob and Holly Latto of Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada were baptized Sunday morning, March 20, 2016, and the Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church by Pastors Dennis Hannu and Elmer Yliniemi. Joely was born May 16, 2014, and Emily was born on December 11, 2015, at the Thunder Bay Regional Medical Center in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. Sponsors of Joely are Jamin and Gina Aho of rural Frazee and Sponsors of Emily are Russell and Eunika Aho of rural Menahga.

Their grandparents are Art Latto of Park Rapids, and Robert and Susan LeBrun of Thunder Bay Canada.

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation Classes will be held Monday, June 6th to Friday, June 10th, 2016. Classes will be held at the church from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Confirmation Service will be Sunday, June 12, 2016 at 10:30 A.M. with dinner following the service.



Melory Ann Aho, daughter of Nick & Megan Aho of rural Menahga, was baptized on Sunday, April 10, 2016, at the home of her parents by Pastor Dennis Hannu. Her sponsors are Nathan & Stephanie Siltala of Holdingford and Jed & Krista Estola of Ironwood, MI. Her grandparents are Victor & Lola Aho of Menahga and Rick & Betty Estola of Ironwood, MI. Her great-grandparent is Elma Impola of Menahga.

Summer Schedule

Starting Sunday, June 5th, 2016, services will begin at 10:30 AM on Sunday mornings for the months of June, July and August.

Sunday School Picnic

The Sunday School Picnic will be held on Sunday, June 5, 2016. Everyone is invited to join us for food and fellowship following the morning service.

Baptisms



Julius James Aho, son of James & Delfina Aho of rural Sebeka, was baptized on Sunday, April 17, 2016, at the home of his grandparents by Pastor Dennis Hannu. His sponsors are Jeremy & Katie Howard of rural Menahga, Joel Aho, and Kayse Salo. His grandparents are Julius & Terrie Aho of rural Sebeka and Nino & Antonia Ciampi of Italy. His great-grandparent is Linda Aho of rural Menahga.

Easton Charles Beldo, son of Andrew & Anne Beldo of rural Sebeka, was baptized on Sunday, April 17, 2016, at the home of his grandparents by Pastor Dennis Hannu. His sponsors are Leah Aho of rural Sebeka, Jacob Waggoner of Park Rapids, Joel Aho, and Kayse Salo. His grandparents are Chuck & Deb Beldo of rural Sebeka and Julius & Terrie Aho of rural Sebeka. His great-grand parent is Linda Aho of rural Menahga.

Thank You

Thank you for the many prayers and visits during Richard's illness. He is finally on the mend now. We have felt the prayers and God's working in our lives. We thank our friends and family for all their help. May God bless you all!

Thank you to Gary Kangas from Esko, MN and Jason Somero from New Hampshire for serving us during our special services in March.

Thanks also to everyone who came to our services. Your presence was appreciated.

News & Notes

- Justin & Miranda Impola & family traveled to SC.
- Miriam Hannu traveled to FL & WA.
- Reuben & Ellen Tumberg traveled to OR & WA.
- Marsha Hanson traveled to WA.
- A Open House Celebration was held for James & Delfi Aho & their son Julius at the church.
- Dara Sikkila traveled to WA.
- Kimberly Aho traveled to WA.
- Hazel Aho traveled to FL.
- Alvin & Alisha Aho & family traveled to SC.
- Wilho & Diana Aho have returned from spending time in SC & FL over the winter.
- Nick & Megan Aho & family traveled to MI.
- Jethro & Molly Impola & family traveled to SC & MI.
- A baby shower was held for Ruby Aho at the church.
- Jared & Jolene Aho & family, Neil & Amanda Aho & family and Deborah Aho traveled to IL.

Some of the visitors the last 2 months were:

- Jason & Tina Somero from NH.
- Gary & Jan Kangas from MI.
- Jake & Holly Latto & children from Canada.
- Ruth Farrey from WA.
- Eliina Matson from SC.
- Sandy Hannu from SC.
- Todd & Rhonda Niskanen from SC.
- Rosanna Kulla and children from SD.
- Brent & Karen Seppanen & family from SD.
- Jed & Krista Estola & family from MI.
- Scott & Charissa Muhonen & family from NH.
- Paul & Dorothy Benjamson from MI.
- Mark & Shari Aho from NH.
- Tauno & Megan Olson & family from SD.

Thanks to those who visit here, we are truly blessed.

Milestones

Olavi Seppala

~ 92nd Birthday - 5/4/2016

Marge Kumma

~ 85th Birthday - 5/9/2016

Esther Impola

~ 60th Birthday - 6/13/2016

Leila Aho

~30th Birthday - 6/15/2016

Sunday Meals at Church Notice

If you are on a dinner group, but not serving on a Sunday when there is a meal, please bring a dessert and a salad. If you are not on a group and would like to bring either a salad or dessert, please feel free to do so. All meals will be potluck unless announced in church.

Cookbooks For Sale

Spruce Grove Church has 2 cookbooks for sale. Tastes for All Seasons (#1) and Feed on His Word (#2)
If you would like to purchase a cookbook, please contact Amanda Aho. The cost is \$12.50 per book; shipping is \$2.50 per book. Make checks payable to Spruce Grove Church Ladies and send to: Amanda Aho, 15610 490th Ave., Menahga, MN 56464. Please specify how many and which cookbook(s) you would like to purchase: cookbook #1 or cookbook #2.

Reminder: When there is a funeral at the church, there is usually a need for desserts and bars for after the meal.

Radio Broadcast

Echoes of Mercy broadcast KWAD Wadena
920 & 1430 AM Sundays: 8:05 A.M. Sponsored by Spruce Grove, Menahga and New York Mills Apostolic Lutheran Churches

Church Website

You are invited to check out the church website at: www.sprucegrovealc.org. Services are live online and are also recorded and may be accessed any time. Please call the church at (218) 538-6540 if you have any problems.

Newsletter

The newsletter is also available online, if you prefer not to receive the newsletter by mail, please e-mail sgalcnewsletter@gmail.com and ask to be removed from our mailing list. Also if you know of anyone who would like to receive our newsletter, please call the church at 218-538-6540 and leave the name & address of the person who would like to receive it.

Telephone Services

Services can be listened to over the telephone, please check the calendar for details.

Non-Profit Org.
Permit # 11
U.S. POSTAGE
Menahga, MN
56464

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church
15275 Co. Hwy 45
Menahga, MN 56464

MAY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Class 10:00 AM Worship Service & Communion 11:00 AM Organists: Patricia & Betsy Sound: Chet	2	3	4 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	5	6	7 Youth Group 7:30 P.M.
8 Mother's Day Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Class 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Carrie Sound: Tyrone	9 7:30 Board Meeting	10	11 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	12	13 Worship Service 8:00 PM Organist: Sarah Sound: Nate Coffee Group # 11	14
15 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Class 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Megan Sound: Jason Guest Speaker: Ryan Kandoll Dinner Following Service-Group # 4	16	17	18 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	19	20	21 Youth Group 7:30 P.M.
22 Last Day of Sunday School Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Class 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Deborah Sound: Jamin	23	24	25 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	26	27 Graduation in Sebeka & Menahga	28
29 Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Patricia Sound: Chet	30	31 Green Pine Acres Nursing Home Service-2:00 P.M.				

The numbers to dial to listen to the services over the telephone are:

Wolf Lake: 538-1030 Menahga: 564-1030

Aldrich: 445-1030 Nimrod: 472-1030

Sebeka: 837-1030

The pin number will be 787565# for all services. When you call in, you will be asked for the participant code and that is when you will dial the pin number followed by the #.

Then it will ask for your name, this is optional, you can either say your name and press # or just stay on the line and it will connect you after about 5 seconds.

May Cleaning Group

Pete & Linda Levijoki

Joe & Stacie Olson

Keith & Jamie Aho

Paul & Esther Impola

Max & Ashley Aho

* Just a reminder, the coffee group #'s are on the calendar to remind you are serving. There is a possibility of those numbers changing because of church cancellations, so please double check with the head of the kitchen to make sure it is your turn to serve.

JUNE 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Youth Group 7:30 P.M.
5 Worship Service & Communion 10:30 AM Organists: Betsy & Sarah Sound: Jason SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC FOLLOWING SERVICE	6	7	8	9	10 Worship Service 8:00 PM Organist: Megan Sound: Tyrone Coffee Group # 1	11
Confirmation Classes 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM						
12 Confirmation Worship Service 10:30 AM Organist: Deborah Sound: Neil Dinner Following Service Group # 1	13 7:30 Board Meeting	14	15	16	17	18 Youth Group 7:30 P.M.
19 Father's Day Worship Service 10:30 AM Organist: Patricia Sound: Chet	20	21	22	Apostolic Lutheran Church Convention June 23-26		25
				23	24 Worship Service 8:00 PM Organist: Betsy Sound: Nate Coffee Group # 2	
26 Worship Service 10:30 AM Organist: Betsy Sound: Jamin	27	28 Green Pine Acres Nursing Home Service 2:00 PM	29	30	7/1	7/2 Youth Group 7:30 P.M.
7/3 Worship Service & Communion 10:30 AM Organists: Sarah & Megan Sound: Neil	7/4 <i>Independence Day</i>	7/5	7/6	7/7	7/8 Worship Service 8:00 PM Organist: Patricia Sound: Tyrone Coffee Group # 3	7/9
7/10 Worship Service 10:30 AM Organist: Deborah Sound: Chet	7/11 7:30 Board Meeting	7/12	7/13	7/14	7/15	7/16 Youth Group 7:30 P.M.

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June Cleaning Group

Andrew & Jolie Ingvalson
Ryan & Chelsea Aho
Nate & Carrie Aho
Harvey & Patricia Aho
Chet & Dayna Anderson

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