



Spruce Grove Newsletter

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, Wolf Lake, MN Vol. 20 No. 6 November-December 2015

Lift Up Your Heads

The season of advent reminds us again of the first coming of our Lord and also points us to the expectation of His second coming. The word “Advent” comes from the Latin word “adventus” which means “coming” or “visit”. Another term commonly used for the second coming of Christ is “parousia” which is a Greek word meaning “presence” or “arrival”. The Parousia of Jesus Christ then refers to the time when Christ will return to this earth in all of His power and splendor. He will then judge the world and those who are believers will be united with Him for all of eternity.

One of the texts that is used during the season of the advent is Luke 21:25-38 *And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. And in the day time he was teaching in the temple; and at night he went out, and abode in the mount that is called the mount of Olives. And all the people came early in the morning to him in the temple, for to hear him.*

This portion of the 21st chapter of Luke refers to the second coming of Christ. The cosmos (world or universe) is rocked by disorder and chaos. People upon seeing this become fearful and their hearts fail them because of the uncertainty of what is happening. In the midst of all of this Jesus says to his followers “Look up and lift up your heads for your redemption draweth near.” The consummation of

the eschaton is about to appear. Our Redeemer, our Savior, our God, and our King is about to appear. Don’t be afraid rather lift up your heads and when you do you will see Jesus!

This is really the best way for us to understand eschatology. The study of end times or the understanding of end times is found in the One who has brought the end with His death and resurrection. Jesus in His finished work has already accomplished the eschaton or the end. It’s just that it is not available by sight but rather by faith and so with the faithful we simply wait for its consummation. We now live in the end times or the last age. Hebrews 9:24-28 *For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.* We, then as partakers of the kingdom of God wait with patience for the parousia of our King. We do this standing tall, with our heads held high in full expectation of His arrival.

We are to have the right perspective of the end and not simply engage in our fleshly activities with no awareness of the coming of Christ, so that the end comes upon us like a trap. The end is coming for all whether it’s the end of the world or the end of one’s own life. The encouragement is to always be watchful and in constant communication with the One whose return is imminent. Jesus is the One who has restored all things and now we being fully aware of that are to “Lift up our heads”. As we celebrate during this coming advent season let us always be mindful of His accomplishments for us in His first advent and let us rejoice in full expectation of His second advent. “Our Hope and Expectation, O Jesus, now appear; Arise, Thou Sun so longed for, O’er this benighted sphere! With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see the day of earth’s redemption, That brings us unto Thee!” (Rejoice All Ye Believers 4th verse)

God’s Peace, Pastor Dennis Hannu

Birth Announcements



Marlin & Ashlyn Aho announce the birth of their second daughter. Emery Priscilla Aho was born on September 10, 2015 at home. Emery weighed 7 pounds 9 ounces and was 20 inches tall.

Emery was welcomed by her parents and sister; Sienna. Emery's grandparents are Joshua & Deborah Aho of rural Frazee and Roger & Priscilla Matson of Campobello, SC.



Tim & Sarah Aho announce the birth of their ninth child. Catherine Sarah Aho was born on October 23, 2015 at Essentia Health-St. Mary's in Detroit Lakes, MN. Catherine weighed 10 pounds 13 ounces and was 22.5 inches tall.

Catherine was welcomed home by her parents and brothers: Kent, Jacob, Lance, Carter & Kirk and sisters: Gloria, Brianna & Jacqueline. Catherine's grandparents are Reino & Peggy Aho of rural Frazee and Rick & Betty Estola of Ironwood, MI.



Max & Ashley Aho announce the birth of their third child. Cruiz Maximilian Aho was born on September 30, 2015 at home. Cruiz weighed 9 pounds, 8 ounces and was 22 inches tall.

Cruiz was welcomed by his parents and brother Crio.

Cruiz's grandparents are Victor Sr. & Lola Aho of Menahga and Fiore and Heather Marelli of Sylvan Lake, Alberta, Canada.

Brock & Ramona Anderson announce the birth of their sixth child. Sadie Fay Anderson was born on October 30, 2015 at Essentia Health-St. Mary's in Detroit Lakes, MN. Sadie weighed 8 pounds 12 ounces and was 21.5 inches tall.

Sadie was welcomed home by her parents and brothers: Blaise & Grady and sisters: Mackenzie, Kylie and Avielee. Sadie's grandparents are Bret & LaRae Anderson of rural Menahga and Joshua & Deborah Aho of rural Frazee.



James & Delfina Aho announce the birth of their first child. Julius James Aho was born on October 11, 2015 in Italy. Julius weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and was 22 inches tall.

Julius' grandparents are Julius & Terrie Aho of rural Sebek and Nino & Antonia Ciampi of Avellino, Italy.



Milestones

Gloria Juntunen ~86th Birthday - 11/2/2015	Blaise Anderson ~10th Birthday - 12/2/2015
Andrea Yliniemi ~30th Birthday - 11/8/2015	Jamin & Gina Aho ~10th Anniversary - 12/10/2015
Chet & Dayna Anderson ~15th Anniversary - 11/11/2015	Jared & Jolene Aho ~15th Anniversary - 12/28/2015
Reuben Tumberg ~78th Birthday - 11/14/2015	

Baptism



Brody Jonas Impola, son of Jonas & Miranda Impola of Richland, WA, was baptized on October 6, 2015 at the home of his grandparents by Pastor Dennis Hannu. His sponsors are Loren & Karla Impola of rural Sebeka and Jerome & Lois Mattila of Yacolt, WA. His grandparents are Paul & Esther Impola of rural Sebeka and Michael & Norma Muhonen of Greer, SC. His great-grandparents are Elma Impola of Menahga and Johanna Muhonen of New Ipswich, NH.

Grandchild Announcement

Raymond & Janet Aho announce the birth of a grandson. Kanan Ray was born on October 11, 2015 to their son Chester and his wife Ashley of Rindge, NH.

Kanan's other grandparents are Matthew & Deanna Olson of Rindge NH.

Advent & Christmas Services

Advent Services will be held at the church Wednesdays, December 2nd, 9th and 16th at 7:30 PM.

There will also be a Worship Service on Christmas Day at 10:30 AM.

Sunday School Christmas Program Practice

We will be practicing for the Sunday School Christmas Program on December 6 & 13 starting at 9:30 A.M. and also on December 20 starting at 9:00 A.M. * Parents of Sunday School Students: Please help them to do the memory work & practice their songs for the program.

Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 20th, 2015 at the church at 11:00 A.M. Dinner will be served following the program.

Engagements

Lucy Kulla and Grant Sunnarborg announced their engagement on August 22nd, 2015.

Lucy lives in New York Mills and is the daughter of Reuben and Darlene Kulla from La Center, WA and is employed by Lund Boats in New York Mills, MN and Grant is the son of Michael and Colleen Sunnarborg from Cloquet, MN and is employed by Speedy Delivery in Duluth, MN.

Their wedding is January 2nd, 2016 in Hockinson, Washington, everyone is welcome to attend.



Joel Aho & Kayse Salo announced their engagement on September 21, 2015

Joel lives in rural Sebeka and is the son of Julius & Terrie Aho of rural Sebeka and is employed by Q3 Contracting of Little Canada, MN. Kayse lives in Fargo, ND and is the daughter of Troy & Linda Salo of New York Mills, MN

and is a student at North Dakota State University.

A summer 2016 wedding is being planned.



Calvin Impola & Kaitlyn Stenersen announced their engagement on October 23, 2015.

Calvin lives in rural Sebeka and is the son on Paul & Esther Impola of rural Sebeka and is in farming. Kaitlyn lives in Yacolt, WA and is the daughter of Leroy & Lynette Stenersen of Yacolt, WA and is employed as a nanny.

A winter 2016 wedding in Washington is being planned.



Mailboxes

There are 3 locking mailboxes in the South Entrance of Spruce Grove Church. The mailboxes are marked for Pastor Dennis Hannu, the Chairman of the Church Board and also the Financial Secretary/Newsletter Editor.

If you have any items for these people, please feel free to use the mailboxes.

News & Notes

- Layla Aho & Moriah Aho traveled to NH.
- Pastor Dennis Hannu traveled to WA.
- Miriam Hannu, Emily Hannu & son, & Tanya Sauvola traveled to MI.
- Wilho & Diana Aho traveled to SC & MI.
- Joshua & Deborah Aho traveled to WA.
- A wedding reception was held for Jerome & Lois Mattila at the church. Many of Jerome's family & friends from WA were here for the wedding.



On Sunday, November 1, we honored Pastors Elmer Yliniemi & Don Salo for their many years of service to the Echoes of Mercy Radio Broadcast.

Some of the visitors the last 2 months were:

- Linda Aho's children from NH, SC & WA.
- Alan & Val Estola from MI.
- Jimmy & Clara Estola & family from MI.
- Robert & EmaLeigh Estola from MI.
- Brent & Karen Seppanen & family from SD.
- Darin Seppanen from SD.
- Mike & Caitlyn Aho & son from NH.
- Marcy Traffie & son, Melinda Niemela & son and Molly Seppala from NH.
- Marc & Alice Ruotsala from MI.
- David & Marilyn Hannu from SC.
- Bruce & Erica West & family from SD.

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

Ladies Fellowship

The Ladies of the church and their children are invited to the church on Thursday, November 12th at 11:00 AM for a time of fellowship. Bring a bag lunch for you and your children.

Cookie Exchange

The Ladies Cookie Exchange will be held on Thursday, December 10th at the church at 11:00 AM. Please bring a snack to share and goodies to exchange. All ladies are encouraged to attend.

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)



- Clifford Koskela
- Karen Samuelson
- Marla Kandoll
- Family of George Salmonson
- Jamie Aho
- Family of Camri Aho
- Family of Graham Aho
- Family of Skyler Impola
- Joan Koskela
- Marvin & June Nelmark
- Lila Yliniemi
- Linda Aho
- Art Latto
- Marge Kumma
- Martha Aho
- Billy Nelmark
- Elias Aho
- Our Church, our Pastor and Church leaders.
- National Leaders
- Our Missionaries
- Our Children & Youth
- Our Military
- Our Elderly

Thank You

I wish to thank everyone who came to celebrate my 90th Birthday with me. Especially my eighteen children, the oldest to the youngest and their families and all the grandchildren & great-grandchildren. What a blessing!

Many thanks for arranging it, for prayers, food, music, songs, cards, gifts, everything was a complete surprise.

Children's children are crown to the aged and parents are a pride of their children. Proverbs 17:6

In your love I find release, a haven for my unbelief. Take my life, let me be a living prayer my God to thee.

Grandma Aho ~ Linda Aho



A heartfelt thank you for all the prayers, thoughts, gifts, food, cards and visits during and after surgery.

God bless you for your love & caring.

Karen Samuelson

Thank you to all of the people who came to the church to do the fall cleaning. Your efforts were greatly appreciated and noticeable.

YOUTH NEWS

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child is coming up. If you would like to make a shoe box or donate money for the cause please contact Jared Siikkila or Tyrone Aho to get more details. You could also check their website out at <http://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> The boxes MUST be turned in to the church by November 22nd. A \$7 fee is charged per box for shipping.



Instructions for Creating a Shoe Box Gift for a Child in need.

1. Use an empty shoe box (standard size, please) or a small plastic container. You can wrap the box (lid separately), but wrapping is not required. Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your gift.
2. Determine whether your gift will be for a boy or a girl, and the child's age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Let someone from the youth group know what age and gender and they will put a label on it.
3. Fill the box with a variety of gifts that will bring delight to a child. Use the gift ideas provided on the bottom of this page.
4. Please donate \$7 or more for each shoe box you prepare to help cover shipping and other project costs.
5. Place a rubber band around each closed shoe box and drop off at the church and the youth will bring them to a donation center.

GIFT IDEAS TO INCLUDE

TOYS: Small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos jump ropes, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries)

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: Pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books.

HYGIENE ITEMS: Toothpaste, toothbrush, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth.

OTHER: Hard candy and lollipops (please double bag all candy), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries).

A PERSONAL NOTE: In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child may write back.)

Please talk to a member of the Youth Group if you have any further questions!

YOUTH GROUP- BIBLE STUDY

We would love to have more youth attend our Bible studies. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month. If your youth would need a ride please contact someone closest to you that regularly attends or contact Jared Siikkila.

YOUTH WEEKEND

Therefore I have HOPE. Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness. Lamentations 3:21-23

Spruce Grove Youth is hosting a Youth Weekend for New Years! December 31st - January 2nd. Youth in confirmation class and older are invited to join us. Cost is \$25 per person. If you plan on attending and are in need of housing, private message/call/text Tyrone Aho (218-230-4098) or Kimberly Aho (218-230-5902). Hope to see you in Wolf Lake!

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church
15272 Co. Hwy 45, Menahga, MN 56593

Phone: (218)538-6540

Pastor's Office Hours:

Tues-Fri 9:00 am to Noon or by Appointment

Pastor Dennis Hannu

H:(218)837-5871 C:(218)539-0098

Church Board

Chairman:	Raymond Aho	(218)538-6735
V. Chairman:	Harvey Aho	(218)538-6640
Secretary:	Neil Aho	(218)538-6690
Treasurer:	Jamin Aho	(218)538-6677
Members:	Armas Aho	(218)564-4397
	Justin Impola	(218)639-9901
	Joshua Aho	(218)538-6719
	Jeremy Howard	(218)564-5381
	Victor Aho Jr.	(218)564-5222

Financial Secretary & Newsletter Editor:

Dayna Anderson (218)564-5093

Sunday School Superintendent:

Jethro Impola (218)639-7312

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. – English, 9:00 A.M. - Finnish 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. New pictures are added often. 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.

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

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

NOVEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship Service & Communion 10:30 A.M. Dinner Following Service Organists: Deborah, Patricia Sound: Alvin Worship Service 1:30 P.M. Organist: Megan Sound: Jason Coffee Following Service Group # 10	2	3	4 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	5	6	7 Youth Group 7:30 P.M.
8 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Class 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Carrie Sound: Chet	9	10	11 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	12 Ladies Fellowship 11:00 A.M. Adult Bible Study 2:00 PM	13 Worship Service 8:00 PM Organist: Betsy Sound: Nate Coffee Group # 11	14
15 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Class 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Deborah Sound: Andrew	16	17	18 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	19	20	21 Youth Group 7:30 P.M.
22 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Class 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Carrie Sound: Jamin	23	24 Green Pine Acres Nursing Home Service 2:00 PM	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27 Worship Service 8:00 PM Organist: Carrie Sound: Tyrone Coffee Group # 1	28
29 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Class 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Betsy Sound: Neil	30					

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.

November Cleaning Group

Jared & Jolene Aho

Curtis & Ruby Aho

Alvin & Alisha Aho

Andrew & Laureena Keranen

Jethro & Molly Impola

* 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.

DECEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Advent Service 7:30 PM Organist: Deborah Sound: Nate Coffee Group # 2	3	4	5 Youth Group 7:30 P.M.
6 Sunday School 9:30 AM Adult Bible Class 10:00 AM Worship Service & Communion 11:00 AM Organists: Patricia, Betsy Sound: Jason	7	8	9 Advent Service 7:30 PM Organist: Carrie Sound: Tyrone Coffee Group # 3	10 Cookie Exchange 11:00 A.M. Adult Bible Study 2:00 PM	11	12
13 Sunday School 9:30 AM Adult Bible Class 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Deborah Sound: Alvin	14	15	16 Advent Service 7:30 PM Organist: Betsy Sound: Chet Coffee Group # 4	17	18	19 Youth Group 7:30 P.M.
20 Sunday School Program Sunday School 9:00 A.M. Adult Bible Class 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Deborah Sound: Chet	21 Dinner Following Service	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day Worship Service 10:30 A.M. Organist: Patricia Sound: Tyrone	26
27 Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Carrie Sound: Andrew	28	29 Green Pine Acres Service 2:00 PM	30	31	1/1	1/2
				Youth Weekend 12/31/2015 to 1/2/2016		
1/3 Worship Service & Communion 11:00 AM Organists: Betsy, Deborah Sound: Jamin	1/4	1/5	1/6 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	1/7	1/8 Worship Service 8:00 PM Organist: Patricia Sound: Nate Coffee Group # 5	1/9
1/10 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Class 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Carrie Sound: Neil	1/11	1/12	1/13 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	1/14	1/15	1/16

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

December Cleaning Group

Youth Group
Jared & Kendra Sikkila

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