



## Spruce Grove Newsletter

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, Wolf Lake, MN Vol. 23 No. 1 January- February 2018

### Come and See

“Come and see” is what Jesus says to the followers of John the baptizer when John points to Him and says “Behold the Lamb of God.” John 1:35-39 *” Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou? He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.”*

These followers of John the Baptist wanted to know where Jesus lived. He says to them come and see because this is the nature of the gospel. The Word became flesh and dwelt among men. He invites them to come and see where He lives because He lives here in this world making the Father know. Come and see the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Come and see the miracle worker who changes water into wine and feeds 5,000 men plus women and children with five barley loaves and two small fishes. Come and see the Man who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Come and see the Man who gives sight to a blind man and raises Lazarus from the dead. Come and see a Man who says I have overcome this world be at peace. Come and see a Man who prays for His followers so that they might be filled with joy and set apart in the truth. Come and see a Man who is the Lamb of God. Come and see Immanuel: God with us.

Philip invites Nathaniel to “Come and see” when he heeded the call of Jesus to follow Him. John 1:43-46 *“The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.”*

“Come and see” is an invitation that comes from the

Gospel of John, an invitation to see the Son of God, the King of Israel. This Nathaniel recognized upon meeting Jesus. John 1:47-49 *“Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile! Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee. Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.”*

In this gospel we are called to see in the reading and hearing of the text: Jesus the Christ, the Son of God. We are called to believe that we might have life through His name. Just like Nathaniel, who was skeptical at best upon the announcement of Philip that they had found the Messiah, we too are called to come and see. We do this through the Word of God. The Bible, the Holy Scriptures give to us the revelation of God through Jesus Christ. By these words our eyes are opened and we are able to see.

There is another group of people in John’s gospel who wanted to see. John 12:20-21 *“And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.”* And upon hearing this Jesus answers in this way. John 12:23-33 *“And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour. Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him. Jesus answered and said,*

*continued on next page*

*This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes. Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die."*

This is ultimately what we are called to come and see. Come see the Man hanging on a cross, hanging there for you and me. Come and see the Man who dies so that we might live. Come and see the Man who in His death defeats death as well as sin and the prince of this world. This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Come and see Him in His death and resurrection. Come and see the God-man who brings you eternal life and a new identity, for as many as received Him to them He gave power or the right to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name. Come and see and believe.

Happy New Year and God's Peace, Pastor Dennis Hannu

## Birth Announcements



Charles & Leila Aho announce the birth of their 6th child. Winifred Lola was born on December 19, 2017 at Tri-County Hospital in Wadena, MN. Winifred weighed 7 pounds 10 ounces and was 21 inches tall. Winifred was welcomed home by her parents and sisters: Bridget & Gail and brothers: Rafe, Everett & Quinn. Her grandparents are Victor Sr. & Lola Aho of Menahga and Dan & Anne Coponen of Atlantic Mine, MI.



David & Loretta Olson announce the birth of their 10th child.

Nathaniel Karl was born on December 21, 2017 at Tri-County Hospital in Wadena, MN. Nathaniel weighed 6 pounds 4 ounces and

was 19 inches tall. Nathaniel was welcomed home by his parents and sisters: Tirzah, Keziah & Talitha and brothers: Silas, Samuel, Daniel, Mathias, Asher & Joel. His grandparents are Victor Sr. & Lola Aho of Menahga and Wanda Laue of South Dakota.



Alvin & Alisha Aho announce the birth of their 4th child.

Dylan Raymond was born on January 7, 2018 at Essentia Hospital in Detroit Lakes. Dylan weighed 9 pounds 2 ounces and was 19 inches tall. Dylan was welcomed home by his parents and brothers: Koen & Benson & sister Krisslyn. His grandparents are Raymond & Janet Aho of rural Wolf Lake and Roger & Priscilla Matson of SC.



Jeremy & Katie Howard announce the birth of their 9th child. Sabine Noelle was born on December 26, 2017 at Essentia Hospital in Detroit Lakes. Sabine weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces. Sabine was welcomed home by her parents and sisters: Grace, Stella, Nina & Royal and brothers: Damon, Jonah, Knaylor

& Roman. Her grandparents are Curtis & Sarah Howard of Menahga, MN and Julius & Terrie Aho of Sebeka, MN

## Engagement



Marisa Aho & David Niemitalo announced their engagement on November 24th, 2017.

Marisa lives near Wolf Lake and is the daughter of Reuben & Nola Aho of rural Frazee and is employed by Aho Brothers Dairy.

David lives in Trinity, NC and is the son of Scott and Karen Niemitalo and is employed by American Concrete.

They are planning their wedding for the summer of 2018.

## Milestones

Julius & Terrie Aho

~ 35th Anniversary - 1/1/2018

Chet Anderson

~ 40th Birthday - 1/3/2018

Karen Samuelson

~ 75th Birthday - 1/6/2018

Stephanie Siltala

~ 40th Birthday - 1/5/1978

Hazel Aho

~ 78th Birthday - 1/21/2018

Dayna Anderson

~ 40th Birthday - 1/29/2018

Hazel Yliniemi

~ 77th Birthday - 1/30/2018

Thomas Aho

~ 30th Birthday - 2/15/2018

Miriam Yliniemi

~ 80th Birthday - 2/19/2018

## Special Services

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church will be holding Special Services from Friday, March 2nd through Sunday, March 4th.

Pastor Chuck Bylkas and Pastor Gary Bertram will be the guest speakers for the weekend.

Services will be held Friday evening at 7:30 PM, Saturday evening at 7:30 PM and Sunday at 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM. Coffee will be served after the evening and afternoon services and dinner will be served after the Sunday morning service.

***Everyone is invited to attend.***

~There will be no Sunday School on March 4th.

## Lent Services

Lent Services begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14th at 7:30 PM. The services will continue on Wednesdays throughout the months of February & March.

The Maundy Thursday Service is March 29, Good Friday Service is March 30 and Easter is April 1.

Please join us as we gather in worship and fellowship in the weeks leading up to the celebration of Christ's resurrection from the grave.

## Grandchild Announcement

Raymond & Janet Aho announce the birth of a granddaughter. Brianne Hope Aho was born on December 31, 2017 to their son, William and his wife Anna of Chassell, MI. Brianne's other grandparents are Cal & Donna Niemela of MI.

## Birthday Celebration

Everyone is invited to a 80th Birthday Celebration for Miriam Yliniemi on February 17, 2018 from 2:00 - 4:00 PM at the Spruce Grove Church.



## News & Notes

- Lyle & Rebecca Matson & family traveled to WA.
- Dara Sikkila has moved to MI.
- Shari Aho & Lori Aho traveled to NH.
- Reid & Ashley Aho & family traveled to FL.
- Job & Katie Aho & family traveled to FL.
- Nick & Megan Aho & family traveled to MI.
- Pastor Dennis Hannu traveled to Hockinson, WA to serve as a guest speaker over the New Year.
- Many of the youth and others from the church went caroling to church family, friends and neighbors in December.

Some of the visitors the last few months were:

- Brent & Karen Seppanen & family from SD.
- Alan & Val Estola & family from MI.
- Jake Latto from Canada.
- Alethea Impola from WA.
- James & Clara Estola & family from MI.
- Jethro & Molly Impola & family from SD.
- Jerome & Lois Mattila & family from WA.
- Raeann Malysh from Canada.
- Jonathan Aho from NH.
- Bruce & Hannah Barney & family from Chisholm, MN.
- Kyle Aho from NH.
- Roy & Mary Aho & family from NH.
- Jed & Krista Estola & family from MI.
- Aubree Matson from SC.
- Priscilla Matson from SC.
- Lee & Lynette Stenersen from WA.
- Coltin & Verna Sauvola & family from CO.
- Ruth Farrey from WA.
- David Niemitalo from NC.
- Chad Raasio from MI.
- Dara Sikkila from MI.
- Bruce & Erica West & family from SD.
- Luke & Kaylee Aho & family from NH.
- Alyssa Marrelli from Canada.
- Will & Jennifer Yliniemi & family from WI.
- Many, many others were here for Christmas and the new year.

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

## 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)*

- Huldy Sannes
- Gladys Fraki
- Ashley Aho
- Pat Aho
- Patricia Aho
- Jamie Aho
- Jared & Melinda Niemala & family
- Aria Aho
- Family of Norman Kangas
- John Snelling
- Ralph Kandoll
- Linda Aho
- Richard Yliniemi
- Clifford & Irene Koskela
- 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 Widows
- Our Missionaries
- Our Children & Youth
- Our Military
- Our Elderly
- Sunday School Teachers & Students

## Baptism Seminar

On Saturday, January 20, 2018 Pastor Elmer Yliniemi and Pastor Dennis Hannu presented a Baptism Seminar at Spruce Grove Church. If you are interested in watching this seminar it can be viewed via the Spruce Grove Church website on our Ustream page. [www.sprucegrovealc.org](http://www.sprucegrovealc.org). Click on “Watch Sermons” and then “Spruce Grove Church on Ustream”

## Thank You

To the Spruce Grove Congregation,  
Words can not express how thankful we are for the gift of money and prayers on our family's behalf! We have been absolutely amazed by the blessings we have received during this very difficult time. We still are in a very trying period so please continue to pray for Jared especially and for strength and wisdom for myself and the children. God is good even in this!

With much love and Gods Blessings to all of you!  
Mindy Niemela and children

My heartfelt thanks for your thoughts and prayers when I was in the hospital and at home recovering. I'm enjoying my plant and have appreciated the gift card.

God's blessings and peace to you all.

Sister in Christ, Hazel Aho

Spruce Grove Church

Thank you so much for all the prayers and thinking of us! The gift card was very much appreciated.

May God bless you for you your kindness.

Love & God's Peace

Curtis, Ruby & Aria Aho

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: David Olson (218)538-7842

V. Chairman: Raymond Aho (218)538-6735

Secretary: Rodney Aho (218)538-6724

Treasurer: Nick Aho (218)252-0757

Members: Armas Aho (218)564-4397

Joshua Aho (218)538-6719

Lyle Matson (218)538-6001

Reid Aho (218)282-3050

Chet Anderson (218)564-5093

Financial Secretary & Newsletter Editor:

Dayna Anderson (218)564-5093

Sunday School Superintendent:

Jason Aho (218)538-6732

Thank you to the Spruce Grove congregation for the love, prayers & support during my doctoring & surgery at Mayo. Many thanks also for the generous gift card.

God bless you all. God's peace & love.

~ Pat Aho

In November and December the Youth and many Members of Spruce Grove Church collected and made Christmas boxes for Operation Christmas Child. 96 boxes were collected this year and were sent to children all over the world. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the boxes and the shipping costs.



## Baby Shower

Laureena Keranen is expecting 2 babies, 2 bundles of joy, 2 gifts from above, 1 girl and 1 boy!

You are invited to join us in showering

Laureena Keranen

with love, diapers and/or gift cards on

Saturday, February 3rd, 2018 at 1:30 P.M. at the

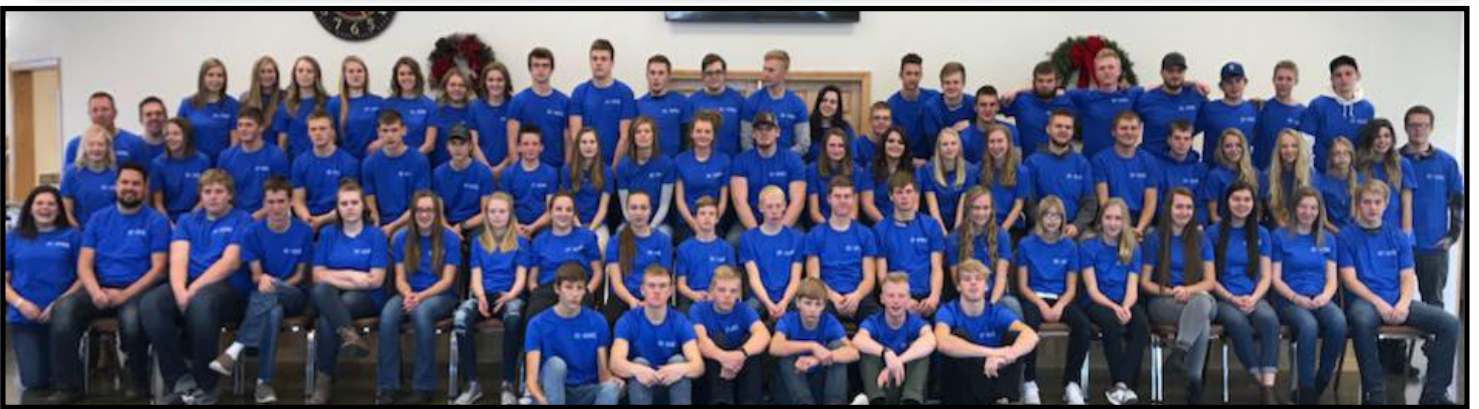
Spruce Grove Church.

## Sunday School Christmas Program



The Spruce Grove Sunday School Christmas Program was held on December 17th, 2017. Pictured below are the children in Pre-school through 9th grade singing the closing songs. There are over 110 children in Sunday School this year.

## YOUTH WEEKEND



The Youth of Spruce Grove Church hosted a Youth Weekend at the Church from December 28th to December 31st. with over 70 youth from MN, MI, SD, WA, NH & Canada attending.

**GOD > WEAKNESS** (God is greater than weakness.)

"My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." 2 Corinthians 12:9

Pastor Alan Estola and Pastor Nick Kandoll were the speakers over the weekend.

~Thank you to all those who came, we were glad you were here.

~Thank you to those who helped with food, supervising or just being a part of the weekend. Your efforts were greatly appreciated.



# JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1/21</b> Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Ramona Sound: Nate	<b>1/22</b>	<b>1/23</b>	<b>1/24</b> Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	<b>1/25</b>	<b>1/26</b> Service 8:00 PM Organist: Megan Sound: Coffee Group # 6	<b>1/27</b>
<b>1/28</b> Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Ramona Sound: Chet	<b>1/29</b>	<b>1/30</b> GPA Nursing Home Service 2:00 PM	<b>1/31</b> Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	<b>1</b> Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Baby Shower 1:30 PM for Laureena K. Youth Group 7:30 PM
<b>4</b> Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Class 10:00 AM Worship Service & Communion 11:00 A.M. Organists: Patricia & Betsy Sound: Alvin	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	<b>8</b> Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM	<b>9</b> Worship Service 8:00 PM Organist: Sarah Sound: Tyrone Coffee Group # 7	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Class 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Carrie Sound: Neil	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 PM Organist: Ramona Sound: Nate Coffee Group # 8	<b>15</b> Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Miriam Yliemi Birthday Celebration 2-4 Youth Group 7:30 P.M.
<b>18</b> Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Class 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Deborah Sound: Jamin Speaker: Elmer Yliniemi	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Lent Service 7:30 P.M. Organist: Patricia Sound: Chet  Coffee Group # 9	<b>22</b> Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Class 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Sarah Sound: Tyrone	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Green Pine Acres Nursing Home Service 2:00 PM	<b>28</b>	<b>3/1</b> Guest Speakers: Chuck Bylkas & Gary Bertram	<b>3/2</b> <b>Special Services March 2-4, 2018</b> Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Betsy Sound: Alvin Coffee Group # 1	
<b>3/5</b> Worship Service & Communion 10:30 A.M. Organists: Carrie & Sarah Sound: Nate Dinner Following the Service Grp #3	<b>3/6</b> Worship Service 1:45 P.M. Organist: Patricia Sound: Jamin Coffe Group # 10	<b>3/6</b>	<b>3/7</b> Lent Service 7:30 P.M. Organist: Deborah Sound: Silas  Coffee Group # 3	<b>3/8</b> Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM	<b>3/9</b>	<b>3/10</b> Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Ramona Sound: Neil Coffee Group # 2
<b>3/11</b> Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Class 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Betsy Sound: Chet	<b>3/12</b>	<b>3/13</b>	<b>3/14</b> Lent Service 7:30 P.M. Organist: Carrie Sound: Alvin Coffee Group # 4	<b>3/15</b> Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM	<b>3/16</b>	<b>3/16</b> Youth Group 7:30 P.M.
<b>3/17</b> Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Class 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Deborah Sound: Neil	<b>January Cleaning Group</b> Luke & Renata Nevala Justin & Miranda Impola Tim & Sarah Aho Victor Jr. & Stacy Aho Nick & Megan Aho Thomas Aho			<b>February Cleaning Group</b> Chet & Dayna Anderson Levi & Andrea Yliniemi Dennis & Miriam Hannu Job & Katie Aho Dawne Loper Kimberly Aho		

The numbers to dial to listen to the services over the telephone are: Wolf Lake: 538-1030 / Menahga: 564-1030 / 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.

### 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.

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

### 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.

### 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](http://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](mailto: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.

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