



Spruce Grove Newsletter

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, Wolf Lake, MN Vol. 25 No. 1 January-February 2020

The Name of Jesus

Luke 2:21 *“And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.”*

There is a lot that a name conveys about someone, even in our world today. The mere mention of someone’s name can evoke a lot of emotion. Our names in the modern world don’t always have a great deal of meaning as they did in the ancient world or as they do in the scriptures, but nevertheless they identify who we are. If we mention someone’s name in conversation there immediately arises in our minds the character of the person and to whom they may belong. For instance, if I say the name of someone’s spouse, their husband or wife very often come to mind or if I mention someone’s child their parents come to mind. We are identified by our names in our communities and churches. It is often jokingly said among us Apostolic Lutheran’s “Whose boy are you?” Our names are important to us because they identify who we are and to whom we belong. None of us could imagine being nameless. We all want identity.

The name given to our Savior eight days after His birth at His circumcision ceremony was Jesus. The angel Gabriel had instructed Mary to give Him this name. The name Jesus means the Savior, as we read in Matthew 1:21 *“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”* The name Jesus comes from the Greek form of the Hebrew name for Joshua. This name is the name above all names for there is no other name under heaven whereby man can be saved. Peter says in the book of Acts 4:10-12 *“Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”* You notice that Peter says “by the name of Jesus Christ” for this is what identifies the man Jesus from Nazareth. He is the Christ, He is the anointed One of God, He is the promised Messiah of the Old Testament. In the gospel

of John, Andrew announces this to Peter: John 1:40-42 *“One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.”* So when we mention Jesus in our conversations with each other or in a sermon we immediately recognize who we are talking about. His name conveys the whole message of salvation to the believer. It is as John writes; that we believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing we have life through His name. The name of Jesus is exalted above every name: Philippians 2:9-11 *“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

What a miracle it is that this day we confess the name of Jesus Christ and acknowledge Him as Lord. We are now counted as the Sons of God through His name: John 1:12-13 *“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”* I mentioned earlier that our name gives us identity in this world as individuals but the name of Jesus gives us identity here and into eternity. Paul writes often in his letters about us being in Christ and this is what brings us our real identity. It is being found in Him that brings us real worth and value in this age and the one to come. He became human and identified Himself with us in order that we the fallen race of Adam would be restored and be identified with Him. All of this in a name, that as we have already stated, is the only name that brings with it life and salvation.

This name given to this child at His circumcision ceremony is truly the name that changed the world, or maybe better said, that brought the world to its new beginning.

God’s Peace, Pastor Dennis Hannu

Baptisms



Mikayla Marla Aho, daughter of Rodney & Hannah Aho of Wolf Lake, was baptized on November 26, 2019, at the home of her parents by Pastor Dennis Hannu.

Her sponsors are Annika Aho of Wolf Lake, Luke & Kaylee Aho of Menahga, and Ezekiel & Kaisa Ketola of Brush Prairie WA.

Her grandparents are Joshua & Deborah Aho of rural Frazee and Warren & Pirjoliisa Ketola of Rindge NH.



Philip Jonathan Olson, son of David & Loretta Olson of rural Menahga, was baptized on December 3, 2019, at the home of his parents by Pastor Dennis Hannu.

His sponsors are Jamie & Tamara Aho of Wadena, MN and Samuel Olson of Menahga.

His grandparents are Victor Sr. and Lola Aho of Menahga and Wanda Laue of SD. His great-grandparent is Elma Impola of Sebeka.



Bryce Douglas Meech, son of Neil & Moriah Meech of Nimrod, was baptized on December 6, 2019 at the Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church by Pastor Dennis Hannu.

His sponsors are Nolan Meech of Nimrod and Joseph & Stacie Olson of rural Menahga.

His grandparents are Todd & Patty Meech of Nimrod and Reino & Peggy Aho of rural Frazee. His great-grandparents are Douglas & Maryann Haverinen of Menahga, Robert Meech of Sebeka, and Susie Krull of Park Rapids.

Wedding



Kimberly Aho And Jared Nevala were united in marriage on Saturday, November 23rd at Spruce Grove Church. The couple is living in rural Sebeka.

Special Services

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church will be holding Special Services from Friday, February 28th through Sunday, March 1st.

Pastor Bruce Estola from Ironwood, MI and Pastor Dale Niskanen from Negaunee, MI will be the guest speakers for the services.

Services will be held Friday evening at 7:30 PM, Saturday evening at 7:30 PM and Sunday at 11:00 AM and 1:45 PM. Coffee will be served after the evening and afternoon services and dinner will be served after the Sunday morning service.

There will also be a seminar on Saturday at 1:00 P.M. The seminar is called "Is Our Outreach, Outreach?"

Everyone is invited to attend.

Engagement

Raul Aho and Shelby Munger announced their engagement on December 15th, 2019.

Raul is the son of Reuben & Nola Aho of rural Frazee. Raul lives in rural Menahga and works for A-N-A Concrete & Northern Pines Plumbing.

Shelby is the daughter of Ron & Carolyn Munger of rural Menahga. Shelby lives in rural Menahga and works for J & A Dairy. A summer 2020 wedding is being planned.



Grandchild Announcements

Paul & Esther Impola announce the birth of a grandson. Elias Charles Impola was born on December 17, 2019 to their son, Naaman and his wife Lila of Ironwood, MI. Other grandparents are Wayne & Bobbie Hrdlicka of rural Frazee, MN.

Nola Aho announces the birth of a grandson. Cole Wyatt Seppanen was born on January 15, 2020 to her daughter Karen and her husband Brent of Bryant, SD. Other grandparents are John & Jana Seppanen of SD.

Lent Services

Lent Services begin on Wednesday, March 6th at 7:30 PM. The services will continue on Wednesdays throughout the months of March & April.

The Maundy Thursday Service is April 9th, Good Friday Service is April 10th and Easter is April 12th.

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.

Listen in to our Worship Services

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.

News & Notes

- Pastor Dennis & Miriam Hannu traveled to GA.
- Mark & Shari Aho traveled to NH.
- Harry & Lori Aho traveled to NH.
- Joe & Jasmine Christiansen & family traveled to WA.
- Andy & Patty Aho & family traveled to TX.
- Nick & Megan Aho & family traveled to MI.
- Nola Aho traveled to SD.

Some of the visitors the last few months were:

- Bruce & Erica West from SD.
- Elijah & Amanda Ketola & family from NH.
- Brent & Karin Seppanen & family from SD.
- Jimmy & Clara Estola & family from MI.
- Jerome & Lois Mattila & family from WA.
- Alethea Karlsen from WA.
- Darin Seppanen from SD.
- Allan & Val Estola & family from MI.
- Eric Fallon, Nate Somero, Phil LaBelle & Jeff LaBelle from NH.
- Jake & Holly Latto & family from Canada.
- Marc & Alice Ruotsala from MI.
- Jed & Krista Estola & family from MI.
- William & Anna Aho & family from MI.
- Kaisa Aho from NH.
- Josh & Clarice Traffie & family from NH.
- Shawn & Heather Muhonen & family from NH.
- Warren & Pirjoliisa Ketola from NH.
- Chester & Ashley Aho & family from NH.
- Jonathan Aho from NH.

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

Milestones

Martha Aho

~ 65th Birthday - 1/17/2020

Kylie Anderson

~ 10th Birthday - 1/20/2020

Hazel Aho

~ 80th Birthday - 1/21/2020

Stella Howard

~ 10th Birthday - 1/26/2020

Miriam Yliniemi

~ 82nd Birthday - 2/19/2020

Sunday School Christmas Program



The Spruce Grove Sunday School Christmas Program was held on December 15th, 2019. Pictured below are the children in Pre-school through 9th grade singing the closing songs. There are over 115 children in Sunday School this year.

YOUTH WEEKEND



The Youth of Spruce Grove Church hosted a Youth Weekend at the Church from December 29th to December 31st. with over 50 youth from many states.

-BROKENNESS-

create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Psalm 51:10

Pastor Travis Seppala was the speaker 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.

Operation Christmas Child 2019



Youth Group Leaders



Pastor checking boxes



Boxes were assembled, then packed with basic needs and a small toy.



Thrivent Action Team Project



The evening begin with singing followed by 109 Shoeboxes packed by youth and parents on November 2,2019. The evening closed with prayer for the children that would receive them. Pizza and treats were served to the participants in the project. The boxes were delivered to the collection site in Detroit lakes to be delivered around the world for children in need.

JAN-FEB-MAR 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1/19 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Sarah Sound: Alvin Dinner Following Service: Group # 3 Guest Speaker: Nick Kandoll	1/20	1/21	1/22 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	1/23	1/24 Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Patricia Sound: Nate Coffee Group #6	1/25
1/26 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Deborah Sound: Neil	1/27	1/28 GPA Nursing Home Service at 2:00 P.M.	1/29 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	1/30	1/31 Song Service 7:30 PM Organist: Megan Coffee Group #7	2/1 Youth Group 8:00 PM
2/2 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service & Holy Communion 11:00 AM Organists: Ramona & Carrie Sound: Tyrone	2/3	2/4	2/5 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	2/6	2/7	2/8
2/9 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organists: Betsy Sound: Nate	2/10 7:30 Board Meeting	2/11	2/12 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	2/13	2/14 Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Deborah Sound: Alvin Coffee Group #8	2/15 Youth Group 8:00 P.M.
2/16 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Sarah Sound: Neil	2/17	2/18	2/19 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	2/20	2/21	2/22
2/23 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Patricia Sound: Alvin	2/24	2/25	2/26 Ash Wednesday	2/27 Guest Speakers: Bruce Estola & Dale Niskanen	Special Services Feb 28 to Mar 1 Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Carrie Sound: Neil Coffee Group # 9	
3/1 Worship Service & Communion 11:00 A.M. Organists: Deborah & Betsy Sound: Chet Dinner Following the Service Grp #4	3/2 Worship Service 1:45 P.M. Organist: Megan Sound: Nate Coffe Group # 10	3/3	3/4 Lent Service 7:30 P.M. Organist: Patricia Sound: Alvin Coffee Group # 2	3/5	3/6	3/7 Youth Group 8:00 P.M.
3/8 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Sarah Sound: Neil	3/9 7:30 Board Meeting	3/10	3/11 Lent Service 7:30 P.M. Organist: Carrie Sound: Tyrone Coffee Group # 3	3/12	3/13	3/14
3/15 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Ramona Sound: Nate						

CLEANING GROUPS

January 2020

Brock & Ramona Anderson Marlin
 & Ashlyn Aho
 David & Loretta Olson
 Rodney & Hannah Aho
 Julius & Terrie Aho

February 2020

Reino & Peggy Aho
 Charles & Leila Aho
 Jeremy & Katie Howard
 Lyle & Rebecca Matson
 Luke & Kaylee Aho

Remember in Prayer

- Shirley Kangas
 - Seth Aho Jr.
 - Family of Gladys Fraki
 - Les Hanson
 - Olavi & Sirkka Seppala
 - Curtis & Karen Samuelson
 - Family of Doris Matson
 - Grady Anderson
 - Family of Trudi Nevala
 - Rev. Wilfred Sikkila
 - Alan Estola
 - Jennie Hanson
 - Pat Aho
 - Family of Marvin & June Nelmark
 - JoAnne Aho
- Avery O'Neil
 - Marlene Walters
 - Family of Billy Nelmark
 - Isak Yliniemi
 - Elma Impola
 - Tim (Jill) Aho
 - Jamie Aho
 - Jared & Melinda Niemela & family
 - Linda Aho
 - Joan Koskela
 - Clifford & Irene Koskela
 - Martha Aho
 - Our Church, our Pastor and Church leaders.
- National Leaders
 - Our Widows
 - Our Missionaries
 - Our Children & Youth
 - Our Military
 - Our Elderly



*Merry Christmas
And A
Happy New
Year*

*>Spruce Grove
Youth*

Youth Caroling - December 14

The Spruce Grove Youth and Leaders went Christmas caroling to numerous homes of the elderly and shut in's as well as the Assisted Living, Nursing Home and Rosehaven and delivered cookie plates. *(This was a Thrivent Action Team project)*

The youth divided into 2 teams so they could reach more homes. The group met at the church the evening before to bake cookies and prepared the cookie plates.



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 on Sundays: KWAD Wadena 920 & 1430 AM at 8:30 A.M., KRJB 106.5 FM at 8:30 AM and KKCQ 96.7 FM Fosston at 10:35 AM 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
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56464

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