



## Spruce Grove Newsletter

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, Wolf Lake, MN Vol. 27 No. 1 January - February 2022

### Baptism of Our Lord

All four Gospels record the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist which indicates to us that something extraordinary happened on that day at the Jordan River. John the Baptist, being the forerunner of Christ, is taken aback by the absurdity of Jesus being baptized by him as we see in Matthew's gospel. Matthew 3:13-17 *Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*"

If John was appalled at the idea of Jesus coming to his baptism, the question we need to consider is why did He? Why would the spotless Lamb of God allow Himself to be baptized by John? After all John's baptism was for sinners as is shown by the reaction of the people coming to his baptism. Matthew 3:5-6 *Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.*" In fact the gospel writer Mark says that John preached the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. John even calls some of those that came to his baptism a brood of snakes indicating their need of repentance. Clearly John the Baptizer's baptism was for a fallen race of people who were in need of repentance and the forgiveness of their sins. So why did Jesus enter into John's baptism? The crowds flocking to John's baptism were being baptized for the forgiveness of their sins as they acknowledge their sinfulness, but when Jesus arrives at the baptism John recognized

that this man does not need this baptism. John's baptism was for the purpose of preparing the people for the coming of the kingdom of God and now the King has arrived at the Jordan to be baptized. John tried to stop Jesus from being baptized but Jesus says to him; "Allow it to be so now, for in this way it is proper to fulfill all righteousness." Jesus enters into John's baptism in order to join himself unto the fallen race, He is counted as a sinner and will receive the judgment of God as a sinner and in this way will fulfill all righteousness. Paul writes of this in 2 Corinthians 5:21 *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."* Jesus is baptized for us, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world identifies Himself with us in order to save us. The Perfect Human enters into the fallen human race in order to restore it. It was necessary that the fallen race be brought to its death and in Jesus this took place when He died on the cross, He never sinned but was counted as a sinner because our sins were laid on Him and He took the punishment for them by shedding His blood and ultimately dying. When Jesus rose from the dead the human race rose with him (see Romans 6), the work of righteousness was completed, the great exchange mentioned earlier was completed and now we have eternal life. When Jesus is baptized, the Holy Spirit descends like a dove and comes upon Him and the voice of God is heard saying: "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased." God is well pleased in His Son and because of His work, He is well pleased with us as we are found in Christ. It was indeed an extraordinary thing that took place that day at the Jordan River as God the Son enters into a sinner's baptism in order to save sinners.

God's Peace,

Pastor Dennis Hannu

## Birth Announcement

Darren & Sonya Keranen announce the birth of their fifth child.

Merritt Arnold Keranen was born on December 29, 2021 at Essentia Health-St Mary's Hospital in Detroit Lakes, MN. Merritt weighed 7 pounds 1 ounces and was 21 inches tall.



Merritt was welcomed by his parents and siblings; Matix, Charity, Arber & Camille.

Merritt's grandparents are Matt & the late Jill Traffie of New Ipswich, NH and Arnold & Cynthia Keranen of Menahga, MN.

## Baptism



Arvo Reuben Aho, son of Raul & Shelby Aho of rural Frazee, was baptized on Sunday morning, November 28, 2021, at the Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church by Pastor Dennis Hannu. His sponsors are Roy & Mary Aho of NH, Tyler & Brittany Atkinson of Stillwater MN, and Jacob Aho of rural Frazee. His grandparents are Nola Aho of rural Frazee and Ron & Carolyn Munger of Wolf Lake.

## Engagement & Wedding Invitation



Brandon Hanson & Lynette Estola announced their engagement on December 6, 2021.

Brandon is the son of Leslie & Marsha Hanson of Ponsford, MN. Brandon is a crop farmer in South Dakota as well as farming with his parents in Ponsford.

Lynette is the daughter of Bruce & Sharon Estola of MI. Lynette is employed as a office assistant in Watertown, SD.

MR. & MRS. BRUCE ESTOLA  
TOGETHER WITH  
MR. & MRS. LES HANSON  
REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR  
PRESENCE AT THE MARRIAGE OF

LYNETTE KAY  
&  
BRANDON DUANE

MARCH 12, 2022 - 4:00 PM

IRONWOOD MEMORIAL BUILDING  
213 S MARQUETTE BUILDING  
IRONWOOD, MI

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW THE WEDDING  
CEREMONY.

There will also be a wedding reception celebration at Spruce Grove Church for Brandon & Lynette on Sundy, April 3rd, 2022 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM with a short program at 8:00 PM.

## Special Services

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church will be holding Special Services from Friday, March 4 through Sunday, March 6th.

Paul Smallwood will be a guest speaker 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.

*Everyone is invited to attend.*

## Lent Services

Lent Services begin on Wednesday, March 9 at 7:30 PM. The services will continue on Wednesdays throughout month of March & into April.

The Maundy Thursday Service is April 14th , Good Friday Service is April 15th and Easter is April 17th.

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.

## Thank You

Dear Church Family,

We would like to thank you all for your love and kindness towards us these last couple of months. We appreciate the prayers, thoughts, gifts, visits and calls. We have experienced the peace of God and felt your prayers. May God bless each of you. We ask for continued prayers for healing. We love you all.

God's Peace,

Harvey and Patricia Aho

## Wedding Invitation



BRIAN AND MIRANDA SEPPANEN

REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE  
AT THE MARRIAGE OF THEIR DAUGHTER

BETHANY ANN

TO

DAMON ISRAEL

SON OF JEREMY AND KATIE HOWARD  
AND THE LATE EMELIA HOWARD

SATURDAY, THE FIFTH OF FEBRUARY  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO  
AT FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

HOCKINSON APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BRUSH PRAIRE, WASHINGTON

## Grandchild Announcement

Pastor Dennis & Miriam Hannu announce the birth of a granddaughter. Daliah Lynn Hannu was born on January 21, 2022 to their son Allen and his wife Annessa of South Carolina.

Other grandparents are Roger and Cilla Matson of SC.

## Sunday School Christmas Program



The Spruce Grove Sunday School Christmas Program was held on December 19th, 2021. Pictured above are the children in Pre-school through 9th grade singing the closing songs. There are over 130 children in Sunday School this year.



Every Christmas season, the Youth Group organizes groups of carolers to go to members of our church and community to sing carols and share Christmas joy. Here are a couple pictures of the carolers this past December.





**Christmas Child Shoeboxes**  
 Alvin and Alisha Aho -Youth leaders  
 Miriam Yliniemi-project leader  
 We met several times with different age youth to complete project.

- 1-assembled boxes
2. Gathered items which had been collected during year and placed various items in plastic bags.
3. Set items out by boy/girl, size,&climate.
4. Packed items in boxes - included clothing outfit, school supplies, personal items, a toy or special item of interest to age group.
5. Labeled all boxes



Boxes included shorts, a shirt and socks + other useful items!



Thanks to the youth who helped. A special thanks to the older youth who helped previous to packing day, who are not pictured.



6. Enjoyed fellowship with pizza and other goodies served.
7. Prayed for children receiving the boxes.
8. Delivered boxes to collection site.

**142  
Boxes  
sent**

# FEBRUARY - MARCH 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1/30</b> Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Patricia Sound: Tyrone Guest Speaker: Nick Aho	<b>1/31</b>	<b>2/1</b>	<b>2/2</b> Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	<b>2/3</b> Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM	<b>2/4</b>	<b>2/5</b> Youth Group 8:00 P.M.
<b>2/6</b> Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service & Holy Communion 11:00 AM Organist: Carrie & Deborah Sound: Alvin	<b>2/7</b>	<b>2/8</b>	<b>2/9</b> Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	<b>2/10</b> Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM	<b>2/11</b> Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Patricia Sound: Neil Coffee Group # 9	<b>2/12</b>
<b>2/13</b> Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Sarah Sound: Nate Guest Speaker: Gerry Southerton Dinner Following Service-Group # 4	<b>2/14</b>  7:30 Board Meeting	<b>2/15</b>	<b>2/16</b> Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	<b>2/17</b> Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM	<b>2/18</b>	<b>2/19</b>  Youth Group 8:00 P.M.
<b>2/20</b> Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Megan Sound: Neil	<b>2/21</b>	<b>2/22</b>	<b>2/23</b> Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	<b>2/24</b> Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM	<b>2/25</b> Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Carrie Sound: Tyrone Coffee Group # 1	<b>2/26</b>
<b>2/27</b> Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Ramona Sound: Alvin	<b>2/28</b>	<b>3/1</b>	<b>3/2</b> Ash Wednesday	<b>3/3</b> Guest Speaker: Paul Smallwood	<b>Special Services March 4-6</b>	
					Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Betsy Sound: Neil Coffee Group # 2	Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Patricia Sound: Nate Coffee Group # 3
<b>3/6</b> Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service & Communion 11:00 A.M. Organists: Deborah & Sarah Sound: Tyrone Dinner Following the Service Grp # 1	<b>3/7</b> Worship Service 1:45 P.M. Organist: Megan Sound: Alvin Coffe Group # 10	<b>3/8</b>	<b>3/9</b> Lent Service 7:30 P.M Organist: Ramona Sound: Nate Coffee Group # 4	<b>3/10</b> Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM	<b>3/11</b>	<b>3/12</b>
<b>3/13</b> Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Ramona Sound: Neil	<b>3/14</b> 7:30 Board Meeting	<b>3/15</b>	<b>3/16</b> Lent Service 7:30 P.M Organist: Deborah Sound: Tyrone Coffee Group # 5	<b>3/17</b> Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM	<b>3/18</b>	<b>3/19</b>  Youth Group 8:00 P.M.
<b>3/20</b> Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Betsy Sound: Nate	<b>3/21</b>	<b>3/22</b>	<b>3/23</b> Lent Service 7:30 P.M Organist: Sarah Sound: Alvin Coffee Group # 6	<b>3/24</b> Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM	<b>3/25</b>	<b>3/26</b>
<b>3/27</b> Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Patricia Sound: Tyrone	<b>3/28</b>	<b>3/29</b>	<b>3/30</b> Lent Service 7:30 P.M Organist: Megan Sound: Neil Coffee Group # 7	<b>3/31</b> Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM	<b>4/1</b>	<b>4/2</b>  Youth Group 8:00 P.M.

## Remember in Prayer

- Harvey & Patricia Aho
- Les Hanson
- Reuben Tumberg
- Reino Aho
- Rodney & Hannah Aho Family
- Family of Van Matson
- Family of Ava Woodard
- Family of Robert (Bob) Christiansen
- Family of Elma Impola
- Family of Linda Aho
- Mickie Howard
- All of those affected by COVID-19
- Eva Salo
- Hazel Aho
- Marlene Walters
- Shirley Kangas
- Jennie Hanson
- Joan Koskela
- Martha Aho
- Sirkka Seppala
- Our Church, our Pastor and Church leaders.
- National Leaders
- Our Widows
- Our Missionaries
- Our Children & Youth
- Our Military
- Our Elderly



## Milestones

Karen Samuelson	~ 79th Birthday	- 1/6/2022
Renata Nevala	~ 40th Birthday	- 1/24/2022
Hazel Yliniemi	~ 81st Birthday	- 1/30/2022
Eleanor Yliniemi	~ 81st Birthday	- 2/9/2022
Ryan & Chelsea Aho	~ 10th Anniversary	- 2/11/2022
Irene Koskela	~ 81st Birthday	- 2/16/2022
Miriam Yliniemi	~84th Birthday	- 2/19/2022

## Fundraiser

There has been a fundraiser setup on [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com) for Harvey and Patricia to help ease the financial burden following Harvey's stroke and heart surgery. Harvey has been unable to work and is unable to return to work for the foreseeable future, and is focusing on recovery and rehab. Patricia, who has been diabetic since childhood, is also dealing with health issues. With both of them doctoring often, the bills add up fast.

We are grateful for any monetary donation that you would feel led to give, but more than anything please remember Harvey and Patricia in prayer!

*If you wish to donate, please go to:*

*[www.gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com) and search for Harvey Aho.*

The Harvey and Patricia Family

## 2022 ALCA Convention

The 2022 Apostolic Lutheran Church of America Convention will be held June 23-26 in New Ipswich, NH. Services will be held Friday thru Sunday with meetings on Thursday.

Ashburnham Apostolic Lutheran Church will be hosting.

### 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., Ada on KRJB 106.5 FM at 8:35 am, in Aitkin on KKIN 94.3 FM at 9:35 am, in Fosston on KKCQ 96.7 FM at 10:35, and in International Falls on KSDM 104.1 FM at 11:05 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](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.

### Telephone 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 #. Press # again or just stay on the line and it will connect you after about 5 seconds.

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

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