



Spruce Grove Newsletter

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, Wolf Lake, MN Vol. 29 No. 1 January - February 2024

Trust in the Lord

Psalm 146:1-10 KJV *“Praise ye the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul. While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being. Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish. Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God: Which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth for ever: Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The LORD looseth the prisoners: The LORD openeth the eyes of the blind: the LORD raiseth them that are bowed down: the LORD loveth the righteous: The LORD preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down. The LORD shall reign for ever, even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations. Praise ye the LORD.”*

Trust is very important to us as we live out our lives here in this world. It affects our relationships and how we converse and live with one another. We can be really comfortable with someone we trust but if that trust is shattered it is one of the hardest things to rebuild. When we lose confidence in someone or something, inevitably we no longer trust them. When you don't have trust, then it is impossible to have any confidence in what they say or do. We are instructed in this psalm to not put our trust in princes or politicians neither should we place our trust in human institutions. There are a lot of good institutions established by men but if that is where we place our trust we will be sorely disappointed. Humans by their very nature will shatter our trust and we have seen that in the news time and time again as people take advantage of others in order to gratify their own desires. Ultimately, there is no lasting help to be found in our politicians, we are to respect them and the offices they hold but not place

our trust in them. We as citizens of the United States should exercise our right to vote, but if things don't go as we would like them to go, we ought not lose heart because our trust is in God. In God we trust.

We trust in the Lord who brings us lasting joy and happiness. We trust in the Lord who gives us peace that is lasting and eternal. The psalmist says “Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God.” Our Creator is always trustworthy, His Word is the Truth and its promises are to be trusted. The Lord had indeed fulfilled all His promises laid out in this psalm in the life and ministry of Jesus. He embodies the Word and comes to bring justice to a world that needs it. He gives food to the hungry, looses the prisoners, opens the eyes of the blind, raises those who are bowed down, and not only loves the righteous but gives them their righteousness. One of my favorite verses in the Bible is 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.” There is no greater gift that can be given to man than the righteousness of God and by being joined to Jesus Christ we possess this righteousness. No government or politician can give you that. This can only be given by the One who has made us, redeemed us, and reigns over all. Another one of my favorite passages in the Bible is Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Even when our government and politicians fail us we do not faint or lose heart because we have not placed our trust in them. I would encourage you to pray for our president and political leaders in this nation but understand in the end they are just men and women like you and I. Trust in the Lord! He is still reigning and will always reign! Praise the Lord!

God's Peace, Pastor Dennis Hannu

Special Services

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church will be holding Special Services from Friday, March 1 through Sunday, March 3rd.

Chuck Bylkas and Scott Niemitalo 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.

Everyone is invited to attend.

Lent Services

Lent Services will begin on Wednesday, February 14 at 7:30 PM. The services will continue on Wednesdays throughout February and March.

The Maundy Thursday Service is March 28th, Good Friday Service is March 29th and Easter is March 31st.

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.

Remember in Prayer

- Jamie Aho
- Elizabeth Mattila
- Family of Colton West
- Blake Cato
- Alec Aho
- Miriam Yliniemi
- Marvin Jurva
- Deborah Aho
- Family of Les Hanson
- Canton Matson
- Harvey & Patricia Aho
- Reino Aho
- Mickie Howard
- Hazel Aho
- 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

Birth Announcements

Micah & Emeri Aho announce the birth of their first child.

Arlo Jacob Aho was born on December 12, 2023 at Perham Health Hospital in Perham, MN. Arlo weighed 9 pounds 7 ounces and was 21.5 inches tall.

Arlo's grandparents are Victor Sr. & Lola Aho of Menahga and Jeffrey & Marla Bertram of NH.



Michael & Kaisa Alderson announce the birth of their second child.

Harlan Joseph Alderson was born on December 26, 2023 at Perham Health Hospital in Perham, MN. Harlan weighed 6 pounds 5 ounces and was 19 inches tall.

Harlan is welcomed by his parents and sister, Zeniyah. His grandparents are Job & Katie Aho of rural Frazee, Mark Alderson of NH and Paula Grovogel of WI.



Baptism



Keaton Tyrel Aho, son of Ryan & Chelsea Aho of rural Frazee, was baptized on Saturday, December 16, 2023, at the home of his grandparents by Pastor Dennis Hannu. His sponsors are Neil & Amanda Aho, Rodney & Maria Johnson, and Camden Muhonen. His grandparents are Harvey & Patricia Aho and Jerry & Martha Pinoniemi.



The Sunday School Program was held Sunday Morning, December 17, Over 130 students participated as well as their teachers & Sunday School Superintendent.



The Spruce Grove Church Youth hosted a Youth Weekend for New Years! December 28th - December 31st. The guest speaker for the weekend was Ryan Kandoll.



An interesting feature of the annual event is the marriage panel. This year the 4 couples featured were Andrew & Laureena Keranen, Adrian & Tamra Aho, David & Loretta Olson and Peter & Linda Levijoki. They answered questions and shared experiences.



Wedding Invitation

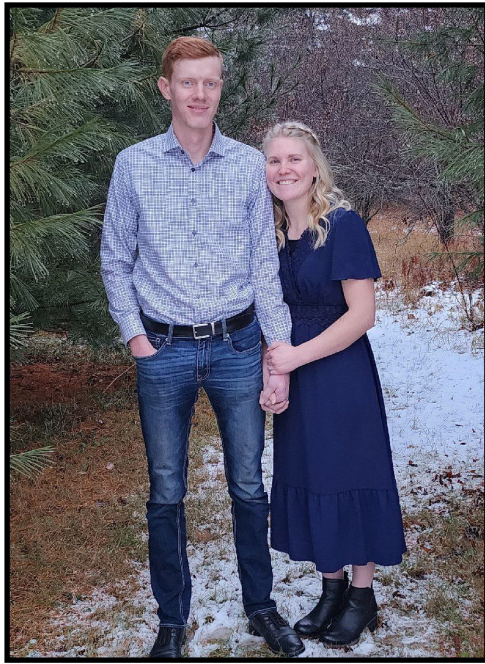
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Impola
and
Mr. & Mrs. Chet Rhoades
request the honor of your presence at
the marriage of their children

Betsy Jane
&

Richard Frederick

Saturday, February, 17, 2024
at 12:00 PM

at Spruce Grove
Apostolic Lutheran Church
Reception to follow.



Betsy Impola of rural Sebeka, was engaged to be married to Richard Rhoades of Hayti, SD on December 9, 2023.

Engagement Announcements

Alessandra Matson, daughter of Lyle & Rebecca Matson of rural Wolf Lake, was engaged to be married to Christian Johnson, son of Matthew & Pamela Johnson of Menahga on November 12, 2023.

Alessandra works as a CNA in Detroit Lakes and Christian works for an accounting firm in Fargo, ND and is also a student at Moorhead State. They are planning to get married in June 2024.



Gloria Aho of Ridgefield, WA, daughter of Tim & Sarah Aho of rural Frazee, was engaged to be married to Gage Hannu, son Naaman & Jane Hannu of Ridgefield, WA on January 8, 2024.

Gloria works for Kingston Homes in WA and Gage works for New Tradition Homes in WA. They are planning to get married in March, 2024.



Milestones

Karen Samuelson		
~ 81st Birthday	1/6/2024	
Brock Anderson		
~ 40th Birthday	1/17/2024	
Nels Aho		
~ 10th Birthday	1/29/2024	
Hazel Yliniemi		
~ 83rd Birthday	1/30/2024	

Eleanor Yliniemi		
~ 83rd Birthday	2/9/2024	
Irene Koskela		
~ 83rd Birthday	2/16/2024	
Miriam Yliniemi		
~86th Birthday	2/19/2024	
Tori Aho		
~ 30th Birthday	2/25/2024	

JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1/21 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Mona Sound: Raul	1/22	1/23	1/24 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	1/25	1/26 Worship Srvc 7:30 PM Organist: Megan Sound: Neil Coffee Grp # 1	1/27
1/28 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Betsy Sound: Nate	1/29	1/30 Green Pine Acres Nursing Home Service 2:00 PM	1/31 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	2/1	2/2	2/3 Youth Grp 8:00 P.M.
2/4 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service & Holy Communion 11:00 AM Organists: Deborah & Mona Sound: Tyrone	2/5	2/6	2/7 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	2/8	2/9 Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Carrie Sound: Raul Coffee Grp # 2	2/10
2/11 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Sarah Sound: Neil	2/12 7:30 Board Meeting	2/13	2/14 Ash Wednesday 7:30 P.M Organist: Mona Sound: Nate Coffee Grp # 3	2/15	2/16	2/17 Impola-Rhoades Wedding 12:00 PM
2/18 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Megan Sound: Tyrone	2/19	2/20	2/21 Lent Service 7:30 P.M Organist: Deborah Sound: Raul Coffee Grp # 4	2/22	2/23	2/24
2/25 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Carrie Sound: Nate	2/26	2/27 Green Pine Acres Nursing Home Service 2:00 PM	2/28	2/29 Guest Speakers: Chuck Bylkas & Scott Niemitalo	Special Services March 1 - 3 Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Sarah Sound: Neil Coffee Grp # 5	
3/3 Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service & Communion 11:00 A.M. Organists: Patricia & Megan Sound: Tyrone Dinner Following Service: Grp A	3/4 Worship Service 1:45 P.M. Organist Deborah Sound: Nate Coffe Grp # 10	3/5	3/6 Lent Service 7:30 P.M Organist: Carrie Sound: Neil Coffee Grp # 7	3/7	3/8	3/9
3/10 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Guest Speaker Organist: Sarah Sound: Raul	3/11 7:30 Board Meeting	3/12	3/13 Lent Service 7:30 P.M Organist: Megan Sound:Nate Coffee Grp # 8	3/14	3/15	3/16 Youth Grp 8:00 P.M.
3/17 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Mona Sound: Neil	3/18	3/19	3/20 Lent Service 7:30 P.M Organist: Deborah Sound: Tyrone Coffee Grp # 9	3/21	3/22	3/23

2023 Christmas Child Shoe Box Project

For many years the Youth and some adults have participated in the annual Samaritans Purse Christmas Child Shoe box project. A Shoe box is filled with gifts for a child in need around the world. Bible Stories are enclosed at the Processing Center in each box. Millions of boxes are sorted and sent to about 170 countries each year, with literature in the language of the country the boxes go to. This year 200 boxes were sent from the Spruce Grove Church. The boxes were labeled for a boy or girl in 3 size categories. Each child only gets one box in a lifetime. This is an all year project. Our boxes are delivered to Detroit Lakes from where they will continue on to a processing center. Thank you to all the helpers and all those that contributed to the mailing and Bible literature fee for each box.



Items purchased are sorted, and kept in totes until packing

Above are items packed in one box for a 10/14 yr. old boy



Anyone interested is invited to help with the project. There are many things that can be done during the year. They go out in Nov.

1. Items are purchased all year to get in on seasonal sales.
2. All labels and packaging must be removed to fit as much as possible in boxes since each child gets only one box in lifetime.
3. Clothing is coordinated and packed in Ziploc bags.
4. Boxes come flat and have to be assembled.
5. Items are sorted for boys or girls and age appropriate before packing.
6. Boxes must all be labeled for boy or girls in one of 3 age categories.



Banding and moving 200 boxes

All boxes had age-appropriate shirt and shorts or dress with matching socks. Other items included school supplies (writing paper, pencils, pens, crayons, rulers, scissors, markers etc.) health supplies such as comb, toothbrushes, etc. and fun things like puzzles, games, balls, toy cars, dolls, color books, flash lights, tape measure, etc. Gloves and stocking hats labeled for cooler climate.



Boxes loaded in Van and delivered

Fundraiser for

JAMIE AHO

Sunday, January 28

11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

New York Mills Apostolic Lutheran Church

315 South Main Ave, New York Mills, MN 56567

Jamie Aho of Wadena suffered a severe stroke on October 26, 2023. He underwent a craniectomy to relieve pressure on the brain, but the stroke left the left side of his body paralyzed. He is currently at the Courage Kenny Rehab Center in Golden Valley, MN where he has therapy for three or more hours most days. It is projected that he will be at this rehab center for a ten-to-twelve week period and is anticipating returning home in mid-March. Jamie is married to Tamara, and they have five children.



MEAL

A chili & soup meal will be provided along with sides & desserts

FREE WILL DONATIONS

Donations will be used to defray the cost of a handicap accessible bathroom

CONTACT

Dennis Windel - 218.371.0189

DeDe Windel - 218.639.5242

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Action Team Event

If you are unable to attend but would like to mail a contribution, please make checks payable to:

Apostolic Lutheran Church & put "Jamie Aho" in the memo.

Mail to: Apostolic Lutheran Church, 315 South Main Ave, New York Mills, MN 56567

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, in International Falls on KSDM 104.1 FM at 11:05 am and a NEW STATION has been added KDKK 97.5 FM at 9:30am in Park Rapids.

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.

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.

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church
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