



Spruce Grove Newsletter

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, Wolf Lake, MN Vol. 25 No. 6 November - December 2020

Abounding in Thanksgiving

The year 2020 has been an interesting year, to put it mildly, a year with a pandemic sweeping our country and our world. Hatred and violence seem to be the words of the day as we see the chaos in our cities around America. The political wrangling that has been part and parcel of our daily news only seems to heighten the anxiety and concern of the citizens of this great nation. Election day results come in and the outcome is perhaps not what we were hoping for. Giving of thanks seems to be the last thing on our minds as we grapple with all that is going on in our world.

The Apostle Paul writing from prison reminded the Colossian people that they have much to be thankful for.

Colossians 1:3-5 *“We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;”*

Colossians 1:12-14 *“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”*

Colossians 2:6-7 *“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.”*

Colossians 3:12-17 *“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and*

forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

Colossians 4:2 *“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;”*

Thankfulness is not based on our circumstances, but because of our flesh and its selfish tendencies we think that must be the case. If my circumstances are good then I can be thankful and if they are not good then not so much. Paul is writing from a Roman prison and his circumstances could have caused him great despair and filled him with anxiety as he wondered why this was happening to him, but instead he writes this marvelous letter showing his thankfulness and all that we have to be thankful for. We have been rescued from the realm of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of the Son of God. We have been made new by the finished work of Jesus. We are rooted and grounded in Him, established in the faith. We are the elect of God, his chosen people, given the responsibility and the privilege of sharing the reconciling work of God through Jesus Christ. We have the peace of God which rules in our hearts, in other words it controls our hearts. We have the gift of prayer in which we are able to speak to our Heavenly Father. We are of all people most blessed and have so many reasons to be thankful. Happy Thanksgiving!

God's Peace, Pastor Dennis Hannu

Birth Announcements

Nick and Megan announce the birth of their 7th child.

Jillian May was born on September 30, 2020 at Tri-County Health Care in Wadena, MN. Jillian weighed 7 pounds 2 ounces and was 20 inches tall.



Jillian was welcomed home by her parents and siblings: Courtney, Marshall, Norah, Melory and Lawton.

Her grandparents are Victor Sr. & Lola Aho of Menahga and Rick & Betty Estola of MI.

Loren and Karla Impola announce the birth of their 6th child.

Elowyn Mae was born on October 31, 2020 at Tri-County Health Care in Wadena, MN. Elowyn weighed 9 pounds 12 ounces and was 20.5 inches tall.



Elowyn was welcomed home by his parents and siblings: Matthew, Parker, Audrie, Kaesha and Zane.

Her grandparents are Paul & Esther Impola of rural Sebeka and Tim & Carol Karlsen of WA.

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

The Sunday School Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 20th, 2020 at the church at 11:00 A.M. Dinner will be served following the program.

Program practice will be at 9:30 AM on December 6th & 13th and on December 20th at 9:00 AM.

Baptism



Camille Sylvia Keranen, daughter of Darren & Sonya Keranen of rural Osage, was baptized on Sunday, September 20, 2020, at the Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church by Pastor Dennis Hannu. Her sponsors are Kevin & Kaisa Hill of WA. Her grandparents are Arnold & Cynthia Keranen of Menahga and Matt & Jill Traffie of New Ipswich, NH. Her great-grandparents are Bernie & Hester Lampinen of Fitchburg, MA and Walter & Sylvia Muhonen of MN.

Grandchild Announcements

Jeff and Rosy Kinnunen announce the birth of a granddaughter.

Ever Diane Aili was born on September 16, 2020 to their daughter Jacinda and her husband Alex Aili of Esko, MN.

Nate and Stephanie Siltala announce the birth of a grandson.

Callum Isaac Nevala was born on November 4, 2020 to their daughter Shandra and her husband Nolan Nevala of Cokato, MN.

YOUTH GROUP

The Spruce Grove Youth Group meets on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month at 8:00 PM, now at the church for Bible Study. All youth are invited to attend!

We are also asking you to open up your home as a place for the youth to meet on the 2nd & 4th Saturday evenings of each month for fellowship. If you would like to host the youth in your home, there will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. You can also speak to Alvin Aho for more information.

NOV-DEC 2020 & JAN 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11/22 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Betsy Sound: Tyrone	11/23	11/24	11/25 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	11/26 THANKSGIVING	11/27 Worship Srvc 7:30 PM Organist: Ramona Sound: Alvin Coffee Group #	11/28
11/29 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Guest Speaker: Jacob Aho Organist: Sarah Sound: Nate	11/30	12/1	12/2 Advent Service 7:30 P.M Organist: Deborah Sound: Neil Coffee Group #	12/3 Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM	12/4	12/5 Youth Group 8:00 P.M.
12/6 Sunday School 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service & Holy Communion 11:00 AM Organists: Patricia & Betsy Sound: Chet	12/7	12/8	12/9 Advent Service 7:30 P.M Organist: Ramona Sound: Tyrone Coffee Group #	12/10 Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM	12/11	12/12
12/13 Sunday School 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Sarah Sound: Alvin	12/14 7:30 Board Meeting	12/15	12/16 Advent Service 7:30 P.M Organist: Patricia Sound: Nate Coffee Group #	12/17 Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM	12/18	12/19 Youth Group 8:00 P.M.
12/20 Sunday School 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Sunday School Program Dinner Following Service Organist: Betsy Sound:	12/21	12/22	12/23	12/24	12/25 CHRISTMAS DAY Service 10:30 AM Organist: Deborah Sound: Tyrone	12/26
12/27 Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Ramona Sound: Neil	12/28	12/29	12/30	12/31	1/1	1/2
1/3 Worship Service & Holy Communion 11:00 AM Organist: Deborah & Sarah Sound: Chet	1/4	1/5	1/6 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	1/7	1/8 Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Betsy Sound: Alvin Coffee Group #	1/9
1/10 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Patricia Sound: Nate	1/11	1/12	1/13 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	1/14 Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM	1/15	1/16 Youth Group 8:00 P.M.
1/17 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Ramona Sound: Neil	1/18	1/19	1/20 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	1/21 Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM	1/22 Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Betsy Sound: Tyrone Coffee Group #	1/23

CLEANING GROUPS

November 2020

Nola Aho
Neil & Amanda Aho
Joe & Stacie Olson
Paul & Esther Impola
Pete & Linda Levijoki
Raul & Shelby Aho

December 2020

Youth Group -Alvin & Alisha Aho
Tyrone Aho Tamar Aho
Brandon Hanson Micah Aho
Lynn Impola Betsy Impola
Christa Ojala

Funeral



Reverend Elmer Yliniemi

(age 84) of rural Frazee died due to COVID-19 on October 23, 2020, at Essentia St. Mary's Hospital in Detroit Lakes, MN.

Elmer Howard Yliniemi was born on September 25, 1936, to Isacki and Aili (Haanpaa) Yliniemi in Toad Lake Township, Becker County, MN. Finnish was

his first language, and he learned English when he started attending country school. He graduated from Frazee High School in 1955. After high school, he had a number of jobs including managing a grocery store in Osage, MN, and operating a restaurant in Menahga, MN. In 1959, he was drafted into the US Army and rose to the rank of Sergeant (E5) as a medic. Following his active service, he purchased his parents' homestead and began farming. He was honorably discharged from the reserves in 1965.

In his younger days, Elmer did not know the Lord but had his conscience awakened while listening to a crusade message in 1965. A few months later, he had a profound conversion experience where he received the grace and forgiveness of God and was dramatically changed. It was then he devoted his life to serving the Lord. He started attending Bemidji State College at age 29 and earned a Bachelor of Science in Education. He taught social studies and driver training for one year at Frazee High School.

At this time, the Lord brought Miriam Suomala into his life, and they were married on June 13, 1970. Elmer felt called to the ministry and attended the Inter-Lutheran Seminary in Golden Valley, MN, from 1970 to 1973. After this, Elmer and Miriam studied church history on a scholarship from the Church of Finland in the Theology Department of the University of Helsinki. He and Miriam enjoyed their year experiencing the full culture of Finland. They traveled throughout the country doing research and made many dear friends.

Upon their return, Elmer served as the pastor of his home congregation of Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, Wolf Lake, MN, for 36 years from 1974 until his retirement in 2010. He also served as pastor at Ponsford Community Church for 33 years every Sunday and monthly at the Pine River Apostolic Lutheran Church for 22 years. Additionally, he served once a month at both the Green Pine Acres Nursing Home in Menahga and New York Mills Nursing Home speaking in both Finnish and English languages.

In 1975, Elmer and Miriam welcomed with great excitement their first daughter (Chae) from South Korea, and in 1976, they welcomed a second daughter (Mia) also from South Korea.

This was the beginning of a notable phase in the life of the Yliniemi family. In August of 1976, the Yliniemis were called to serve as full-time resident missionaries in Nigeria by the Apostolic Lutheran Church of America. It was also at this time, they found out they were expecting a child. Given the circumstances of a newly adopted child and expecting a baby, leaving the country was a complicated situation. With miraculous provision from God, the family was able to leave within two months.

In Nigeria, Elmer and Miriam worked with 24 congregations, and the Lord blessed them with a third daughter (Eno) in 1977, born to them in primitive conditions. The Nigerian experience was broadening in many aspects. Elmer suffered through bouts of malaria and other illness and the family had to return home a year later with Elmer resuming the pastoral duties at Spruce Grove. In 1980, they were blessed with a son, Isak.

Pastor Elmer served as an instructor at the Inter-Lutheran Seminary and was invited on several preaching tours to Finland as well as Sweden, Norway, Latvia, Estonia, and Russia. He had a heart for people and focused on the Scriptures. He dedicated his life to sharing the love of God and the good news of forgiveness and eternal life in Jesus Christ.

Elmer served throughout his community. He was an active member of the Minnesota Finnish American Historical Society, the High Mileage group in Detroit Lakes, and was involved with local pro-life groups and Gideon ministries. He and his wife Miriam did almost everything together during their 50 years of marriage. He had close relationships with his children, siblings, and in-laws. His gift of friendship was extended to everyone he met.

Elmer is survived by his wife Miriam, three daughters: Chae (Brian) Norman, Sartell, MN; Mia (Troy) Reynolds, Bagley, MN; Eno Yliniemi, Renton, WA; son, Isak Yliniemi of rural Frazee, MN, three grandchildren: Tyler Norman, Brooke Norman, and Mateo Reynolds; four sisters, Helen Laine, Detroit Lakes, MN; Hazel A. Yliniemi, Frazee, MN; Huldy (Bruce) Sannes, Frazee, MN; and Patricia (Arlan) Ervasti, Bertha, MN; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, cousins, and innumerable friends in Christ here and throughout the world. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Roy (Hazel M.) and James Edward, and three infant siblings.

News & Notes

- Shari Aho traveled to WA & NH.
 - Lori Aho & Ginger traveled to WA.
 - Jeff & Rosy Kinnunen traveled to Esko.
- Some of the visitors the last few months were:
- Kent, Alyssa & Milo Aho from TX.
 - Matt & Alethea Karlsen and family from WA.
 - Jerome & Lois Mattila and family from WA.
 - Andre & Janel Aho and family from NH.
 - Steve & Robyn Estola and family from MI.
 - Mark & Lynette Niskanen and family from SC.
 - Many hunters from SC, SD, WA & NH.
- Thanks to those who visit here, we are truly blessed.

Milestones

- Gloria Juntunen
~ 91st Birthday - 11/2/2020
- Armas Aho
~ 77th Birthday - 11/5/2020
- Chet & Dayna Anderson
~ 20th Anniversary - 11/11/2020
- Reuben Tumberg
~ 83rd Birthday - 11/14/2020
- Darren Keranen
~30th Birthday - 11/30/2020
- Keith Aho
~ 40th Birthday - 12/22/2020

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

***For those interested, "A Godly Heritage: Historical View of the Laestadian Revival and the Development of the Apostolic Lutheran Church in America" this book is now available on Amazon both as an e-book and in paperback.

Remember in Prayer

- Family of Rev. Elmer Yliniemi
- Family of Josie Aho
- All of those affected by COVID-19
- Ava Woodard
- Family of Ardelle Somero
- Family of Curtis Samuelson
- Family of Olavi Seppala
- Shirley Kangas
- Seth Aho Jr.
- Jennie Hanson
- Pat Aho
- Elma Impola
- 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

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: Harvey Aho (218)230-3797
Secretary: Rodney Aho (218)538-6724
Treasurer: Neil Aho (218)639-4967
Members: Armas Aho (218)564-4397
Victor Aho Sr. (218)564-4353
Andrew Keranen (218)252-1293
Reid Aho (218)282-3050
Chet Anderson (218)564-5093

Financial Secretary & Newsletter Editor:

Dayna Anderson (218)539-0304

Sunday School Superintendent:

Jason Aho (218)538-6732

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.

Telephone Services

Services can be listened to over the telephone, please check the newsletter for details.

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. 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.

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