



Spruce Grove Newsletter

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, Wolf Lake, MN Vol. 28 No. 5 November - December 2023

The Advent of our Lord

Isaiah 40:1-11 KJV *Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. ² Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins. ³ The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: ⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. ⁶ The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field: ⁷ The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. ⁸ The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. ⁹ O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! ¹⁰ Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. ¹¹ He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.*

During the Advent season this passage from Isaiah is commonly read and preached on as well. It speaks to the first coming of Jesus into this world, what we refer to as his First Advent. Advent simply means coming, as in the coming of anything into being. At this time of the year we celebrate the coming of our Lord into our world as a man, His Incarnation, God becomes flesh and dwells among us. This message as portrayed from the pen of Isaiah the prophet is a

message of comfort. He says so plainly in this text that we in our fallenness our like grass that sprouts up for a while and then withers away. The futility of our existence in this world is then understood in the number of days, months, and years that we live here. The result of our rebellion against God has caused us to have this limited existence. The result of our sin is that we now have an expiration date, as the result of sin is death. Like the ancient Israelites we have the sentence of captivity looming over us and the enemy so to speak is at the gate. It can appear at times that the battle is going to overtake us and we are going to be lost in our captivity and sin. The message of the Advent season brings a new message into this sin cursed world and that is the message of comfort. What is this comforting message that we hear; it is the declaration of a double forgiveness. This double forgiveness speaks to us the comforting message that our sin debt is covered and we are no longer walking under the condemnation of it. We are doubly comforted with the coming of our Savior into this world. Our sins are forgiven and our warfare is ended. During this Advent season we have the privilege of announcing this marvelous message to our world; "Behold your God!" Come see Him as He makes Himself known to you in His first Advent, in His Incarnation. Be comforted this season again with the declaration of the forgiveness of your sins; Be of good cheer brothers and sisters, your sins are forgiven in the name and shed blood of Jesus. Enjoy this Advent season as we celebrate once again the coming of our Savior into this world and await with great anticipation His Second Advent. The warfare is ended and we are just waiting to experience that it in all of its fullness. We wait confidently because we have received double for all our sins in His first Advent.

God's Peace, Pastor Dennis Hannu

Advent & Christmas Services

Advent Services will be held at the church Wednesdays, December 6th, 13th and 20th at 7:30 PM.

Our Christmas Service will be on Monday, December 25th at 10:30 AM.

Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 17th, 2023 at the church at 11:00 A.M. Dinner will be served following the program.

Program practices will be at 9:00 AM on December 3rd & 10th and 17th at 9:00 AM.

Guest Speakers

Ryan Kandoll will be our guest speaker on Friday, November 10th and Sunday, November 12th.

Rusty Seppanen will be our guest speaker on Sunday, November 19th.

Dinner will be served following the Sunday Services.

Baptism



Via Elise Leukuma, daughter of Kent & Tamar Leukuma of Williston, ND, was baptized on Sunday, October 15, 2023, at the Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church by Pastor Dennis Hannu. Her sponsors are Rosten & Tori Aho of rural Frazee, Derek & Layla Borth of rural Menahga, and Carl & Bridget Kauppila of Utah. Her grandparents are Victor & Lola Aho of rural Menahga and Charles & Jill Leukuma of Orono, MN.

Wedding

Kameron Rose Aho and Grayson Jay Somero were married on September 16th, 2023 at Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, They are now living in North Dakota.



Anniversary Celebration



A 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration Open House was held on October 15th at Spruce Grove Church hosted by their children & their families.

Birth Announcements

Victor Jr. & Stacy Aho announce the birth of their 12th child.

Nadia Anne Aho was born on August 16, 2023 at Astera Health Hospital in Wadena, MN. Nadia weighed 8 pounds 7 ounces and was 20 inches tall.



Nadia is welcomed by her parents and siblings: Victor III, Alec, Arabella, Izaiah, Yana, Helena, Soren, Vaniah, Vienna, Havana & Kolter. Her grandparents are Victor Sr. & Lola Aho of Menahga and Mary Saari of Ironwood, MI.

Marlin & Ashlyn Aho announce the birth of their sixth child.

Celise Deborah Aho was born on October 2, 2023 at Astera Health Hospital in Wadena, MN. Celise weighed 8 pounds 5 ounces and was 20 inches tall.



Celise is welcomed by her parents and siblings: Sienna, Emery, Kalia, Zayic and Royce. Her grandparents are Joshua & Deborah Aho of rural Frazee and Roger & Priscilla Matson of SC.

Grandchild Announcements

Pastor Dennis & Miriam Hannu announce the birth of a granddaughter. Kathrine Joy was born on July 29, 2023 to their son and his wife Annessa of South Carolina.

Nola Aho announces the birth of a granddaughter. Maddyn Sue Aho was born on August 15, 2023 to her son Rylan and his wife Lindsay of Menahga, MN.

Ryan & Chelsea Aho announce the birth of their seventh child.

Keaton Tyrel Aho was born on September 6th, 2023 at Perham Health Hospital, Perham, MN.



Keaton weighed 8 pounds & was 20.5 inches tall.

Keaton is welcomed by his parents and brothers: Ted, Lars, Brekken, Roman & Nikolai and sister, Mira. His grandparents are Harvey & Patricia Aho of rural Frazee and Gerald & Martha Pinoniemi of Menahga.

Alvin & Alisha Aho announce the birth of their sixth child.

Gage Alvin Aho was born on October 24th, 2023 at home.

Gage weighed 9 pounds 4 ounces & was 21.5 inches tall.



Gage is welcomed by his parents and siblings: Koen, Benson, Krisslyn, Dillon and Ember. His grandparents are Raymond & Janet Aho of rural Frazee and Roger & Priscilla Matson of SC.

Sunday School Teachers

Preschool: Jolene Aho

Kindergarten: Tamra Aho & Marcail Sauvola

1st Grade: Raul Aho

2nd Grade: Stephanie Siltala & Luke Aho

3rd Grade: Tyrone Aho

4th Grade: Nathaniel Aho

5th Grade: David Olson

6th Grade: Loren Impola

7th Grade: Neil Aho

8th Grade: Justin Impola

9th Grade: Pastor Dennis Hannu

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11/5 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service & Holy Communion 11:00 AM Organists: Ramona & Betsy Sound: Nate Pastor Appreciation Dinner Following Service -Group A	11/6	11/7	11/8 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	11/9	11/10 Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Megan Sound: Raul Coffee Group # 4	11/11
11/12 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Deborah Sound: Neil Guest Speaker: Ryan Kandoll Dinner Following Service - Group B	11/13 7:30 Board Meeting	11/14	11/15 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	11/16 Sunday School Teachers Meeting 7:30 PM	11/17	11/18 Youth Group 8:00 P.M.
11/19 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Patricia Sound: Tyrone Guest Speaker: Rusty Seppanen Dinner Following Service - Group C	11/20	11/21	11/22 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	11/23 Thanksgiving Day	11/24 Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Ramona Sound: Alvin Coffee Group # 5	11/25
11/26 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Sarah Sound: Raul	11/27	11/28 GPA Service 2:00 PM	11/29 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	11/30	12/1	12/2 Youth Group 8:00 P.M.
12/3 Sunday School 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service & Holy Communion 11:00 AM Organists: Megan & Carrie Sound: Alvin	12/4	12/5	12/6 Advent Service 7:30 P.M Organist: Patricia Sound: Raul Coffee Group # 6	12/7	12/8	12/9
12/10 Sunday School 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Deborah Sound: Nate	12/11 7:30 Board Meeting	12/12	12/13 Advent Service 7:30 P.M Organist: Carrie Sound: Neil Coffee Group # 7	12/14	12/15	12/16 Youth Group 8:00 P.M.
12/17 SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM Sunday School 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Betsy Sound: Dinner Following the Program	12/18	12/19	12/20 Advent Service 7:30 P.M Organist: Sarah Sound: Raul Coffee Group # 8	12/21	12/22	12/23
12/24 Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Ramona Sound: Nate	12/25 CHRISTMAS DAY Service - 10:30 AM Organist: Patricia Sound: Tyrone	12/26 GPA Service 2:00 PM Blood Drive 3:30 to 6:00	12/27	12/28	12/29	12/30
12/31 Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Megan Sound: Neil Guest Speaker: Dinner Following Service - Group D	1/1	1/2	1/3 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	1/4	1/5	1/6 Youth Group 8:00 P.M.
1/7 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Svc & Communion - 11:00 AM Organists: Sarah & Betsy Sound: Tyrone	1/8 7:30 Board Meeting	1/9	1/10 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	1/11	1/12 Worship Svc 7:30 PM Organist: Deborah Sound: Nate Coffee Group # 9	1/13

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



Blood Drive

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at Spruce Grove Church on Tuesday, December 26th from 3:30 to 6:00 PM.

To schedule a time to donate, please contact Lori Aho.

YOUTH WEEKEND

Theme: Forgiven
Romans 4:7

The Spruce Grove Church Youth is hosting a Youth Weekend for New Years! December 28th - December 31st. Youth age 14 and older are invited to join us.

Cost is \$20 per person, with a max of \$40 per family. Hope to see you in Wolf Lake!

* If you are able to house youth, or provide food or snacks, please speak to any of the youth.

Milestones

Missed Milestone

Joshua Aho

~ 70th Birthday - 10/22

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Gloria Juntunen

~ 94th Birthday - 11/2

Armas Aho

~ 80th Birthday - 11/5

Flynn Yliniemi

~ 10th Birthday - 11/6

Alec Aho

~ 20th Birthday - 11/8

Ellen Tumberg

~ 76th Birthday - 11/10

Grace Howard

~ 20th Birthday - 11/10

Reuben Tumberg

~ 86th Birthday - 11/14

Matix Keranen

~ 10th Birthday - 11/14

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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