



Spruce Grove Newsletter

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, Wolf Lake, MN Vol. 26 No. 4 September-October 2021

The Prodigal Son/The Gracious Father

Luke 15:11 - 32 ¹¹ *And he said, A certain man had two sons: ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. ¹³ And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. ¹⁵ And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶ And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. ¹⁷ And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, ¹⁹ And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. ²⁰ And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. ²² But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: ²³ And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry. ²⁵ Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one*

of the servants, and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. ²⁸ And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and entreated him. ²⁹ And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: ³⁰ But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. ³¹ And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. ³² It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

This is perhaps one of the best known parables of Jesus. There are many people who identify with the younger son of this parable, the one who is called the prodigal, as they themselves have left the father's house and returned back after some time. They have wasted their lives in sin and debauchery and have returned back into the graces of the father. Some identify with the older son, the one who stayed at the father's house and remained a religious and upright person. Although it is easy to find ourselves identifying with one of the sons in the parable, I wonder if when we do that, we are missing the main point of this parable. Jesus tells this parable along with the two previous ones as an answer to the complaint that was being made by the Pharisees and scribes: "This man receives sinners and eats with them." This parable illustrates for us the graciousness of our Father, it could actually be

continued on next page

called the parable of the gracious Father as the father shows tremendous grace toward both sons as he deals with them. Jesus is showing unto the Pharisees the nature of their God. God is the Father in this parable, who is indeed merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He shows grace unto the younger son in restoring him completely after he had turned his back on the Father and went his own way. He shows grace unto the older son by coming out to him and calling him unto himself and explaining clearly to him the reason for the celebration. The problem that we often have with our Father is that He is gracious, the older son could not understand this kind of grace, surely this rebellious, wild, sinful younger son needed to suffer the consequences of his actions but instead he is completely restored into the household. We as well have been restored into the household of God, sinners though we are, because of the gracious Father. Jesus explains in this parable that God is the gracious Father who sent His Son into this world in order to call us to himself because we all need to be brought unto repentance. We are all sinners in need of the grace of God, this is what the Pharisees could not understand, Jesus receives sinners and hangs out with them in order to reveal unto them His grace and restore them unto a right relationship with the Father. When one sinner repents, the angels rejoice and there is great joy in heaven!

God's Peace, Pastor Dennis Hannu

Annual Meeting Notice

The Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, September 13, 2021, at 7:30 P.M. at the church. All members are urged to attend.
Secretary, Rodney Aho

Birth Announcements

David & Loretta Olson announce the birth of their twelfth child.

Candace Maria Olson was born on July 8, 2021 at Tri-County Hospital in Wadena,

MN. Candace weighed 7 pounds 14 ounces and was 19.5 inches tall.

Candace was welcomed by her parents, sisters: Tirzah, Keziah & Talitha and brothers: Silas, Samuel, Daniel, Mathias, Asher, Joel, Nathaniel & Philip. Candace's grandparents are Victor Sr. & Lola Aho of Menahga, MN and Wanda Olson of South Dakota.



Matt and Alethea Karlsen announce the birth of their 2nd child.

Kamila Joy Karlsen was born on July 27, 2021 at home. Kamila weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces & was 21.5 inches tall.

Kamila was welcomed by her parents and brother Declan. Her grandparents are Paul & Esther Impola of rural Sebeka.



Levi & Andrea Yliniemi announce the birth of their 5th child.

Kenly Renee Yliniemi was born on August 5th, 2021 at CHI St. Joseph's Hospital in Park Rapids, MN. Kenly weighed 8 pounds, 10 ounces and was 20 inches tall.

Kenly was welcomed home by her parents and brothers: Brody, Flynn and Mason and sister, Ailey. Her grandparents are DarLayne Yliniemi of Menahga and Ken & Pam Holgate of rural Frazee.



Baptisms



Royce Jay Aho, son of Marlin & Ashlyn Aho of Wolf Lake, was baptized on Sunday, May 16, 2021, by Pastor Dennis Hannu. His sponsors are Jason & Amy Aho of rural Menahga, Andreas Aho of rural Menahga, and Allen & Annessa Hannu of SC. His grandparents are Joshua & Deborah Aho of rural Frazee and Roger & Priscilla Matson of SC. His great-grandparents are Doug & Donna Coponen of SC.



Ember Lynn Aho, daughter of Alvin & Alisha Aho of rural Osage, was baptized on Sunday, June 20, 2021, at the Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church by Pastor Dennis Hannu. Her sponsors are Kyle & Macey Aho of rural Frazee and Elise Matson of SC. Her grandparents are Raymond & Janet Aho of rural Frazee and Roger & Priscilla Matson of SC. Her great-grandparents are Jennie Hanson of rural Frazee and Doug & Donna Coponen of SC.



Theodore Hollis Aho, son of Reid & Ashley Aho of rural Osage, was baptized on Friday, July 9, 2021, at the Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church by Pastor Dennis Hannu. His sponsors are Rosten & Tori Aho of rural Frazee and Brycen & Samantha Krook of NH. His grandparents are Nola Aho of rural Frazee and Eric & Patsie Krook of NH.

Fall Cleaning

We will be doing an interior & exterior fall cleaning of the church on **Saturday, October 2nd** starting at 10:00 AM. For those who won't be able make it on the 2nd, it would be appreciated if you could come earlier in the week, the list of jobs to be done is in the church kitchen.

Please help where you can.

Grandchild Announcements

Raymond & Janet Aho announce the birth of a granddaughter.

Natalia Deanna Aho was born on May 30, 2021 to their son Chet and his wife Ashley of NH.

Nathan and Stephanie Siltala announce the birth of a granddaughter.

Delilah Ann Jacobson was born on June 12, 2021 to their daughter Shania and her husband Jordan of Howard Lake, MN.

Tim & Sarah Aho announce the birth of a grandson. Atlas Rainn Aho was born on June 20, 2021 to their son Kent and his wife Alyssa of TX.

Julius and Terrie Aho announce the births of 2 grandsons.

Barrett Tom Aho was born on July 17, 2021 to their son Joel and his wife Kayse of Detroit Lakes, MN.

Benji Arthur Waggoner was born on August 11, 2021 to their daughter Leah and her husband Jake of NE.

Weddings

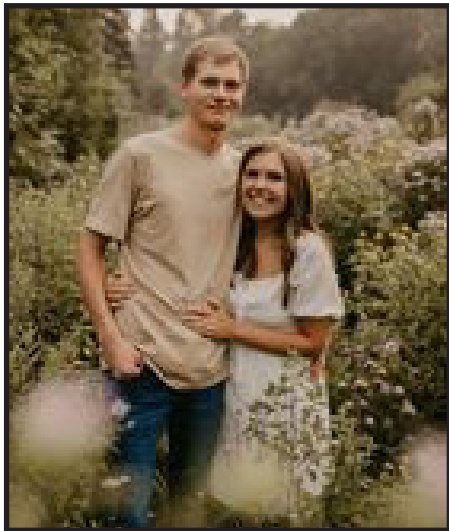


Kaisa Aho and Michael Alderson were united in marriage on Saturday, August 7th at the Spruce Grove Church.
The couple is living in NH.



Tamar Aho and Kent Leukema were united in marriage on Saturday, August 28th at Spruce Grove Church.

Engagements

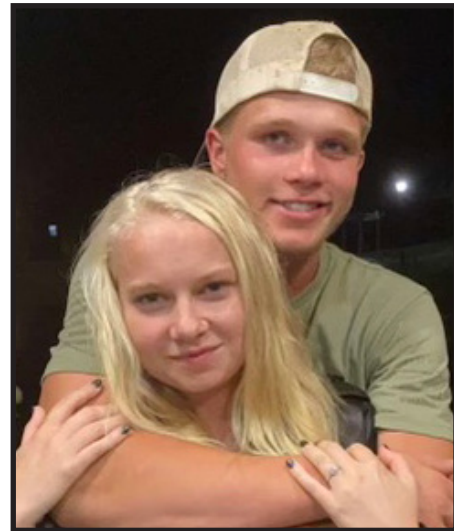


Micah Aho and Emeri Bertram announced their engagement on May 31, 2021.

Micah is the son of Victor Sr and Lola Aho of rural Menahga. Micah lives in rural Menahga and is in farming.

Emeri is the daughter of Jeffrey & Marla Bertram of NH and lives in NH.

Their wedding is being held on October 9, 2021 in NH.



Silas Olson and Jo-Lynn Somero announced their engagement on August 10, 2021.

Silas is the son of David and Loretta Olson of rural Menahga and is employed by Aho Concrete in SC

Jo-Lynn is the daughter Cindy and the late Hank Somero of NH. Jo-Lynn is employed by Chick-Fil-A and lives in SC.

Their wedding is being held on October 23, 2021 in SC.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9/5 Worship Service & Holy Communion 11:00 AM Organists: Ramona & Betsy Sound: Tyrone	9/6	9/7	9/8 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	9/9	9/10 Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Megan Sound: Avin Coffee Group # 8	9/11
9/12 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Sarah Sound: Neil	9/13	9/14	9/15 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	9/16	9/17	9/18 Youth Group 8:00 P.M.
9/19 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Patricia Sound: Nate	9/20	9/21	9/22 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	9/23	9/24 Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Deborah Sound: Tyrone Coffee Group # 9	9/25
9/26 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Carrie Sound: Alvin	9/27	9/28	9/29 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	9/30	10/1	10/2 Fall Cleaning 10:00 AM Youth Group 8:00 P.M.
10/3 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service & Holy Communion 11:00 AM Organists: Deborah & Megan Sound: Chet	10/4	10/5	10/6 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	10/7	10/8 Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Betsy Sound: Neil Coffee Group # 10	10/9
10/10 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Pastor Appreciation Day Dinner Following Service Group # 1 Organist: Ramona Sound: Tyrone	10/11	10/12	10/13 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	10/14	10/15	10/16 Youth Group 8:00 P.M.
10/17 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Sarah Sound: Neil	10/18	10/19	10/20 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	10/21	10/22 Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Patricia Sound: Nate Coffee Group # 1	10/23
10/24 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Carrie Sound: Alvin	10/25	10/26	10/27 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	10/28	10/29 Song Service 7:30 PM Organist: Coffee Group # 2	10/30 Youth Group 8:00 P.M.
10/31 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Sound: Nate	11/1	11/2	11/3 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	11/4	11/5	11/6 Youth Group 8:00 P.M.

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church Confirmation Class of 2021



Blaise William Anderson -Son of Brock & Ramona Anderson,
Brayden Keith Aho -Son of Keith & Jamie Aho, Pastor Dennis Hannu,
Clay Alan Aho -Son of Jamie & Tamara Aho, Arabella Noel Aho - Daughter of Victor Jr. & Stacy Aho

Remember in Prayer

- Family of Elma Impola
- Family of Jill Traffie
- Family of Linda Aho
- Family of Clifford Koskela
- Family of Byron Saari
- Mickie Howard
- Family of Rev. Elmer Yliniemi
- All of those affected by COVID-19
- Eva Salo
- Hazel Aho
- Ava Woodard
- Marlene Walters
- Shirley Kangas
- Jennie Hanson
- Armas & Pat Aho
- Jamie Aho
- 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



Fall Schedule

Starting Sunday, September 5, 2021, Worship Services will begin at 11:00 AM on Sunday mornings until next June.

First Day of Sunday School

The first day of Sunday School is Sunday, September 12th starting at 10:00 AM! All children three years and up are invited to attend. Invite a friend.

Adult Bible Class

The Adult Bible Class will also resume on Sunday, September 12th, 2021 starting at 10:00 A.M. This class meets in the fellowship hall.

Milestones

Missed Milestones

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Sirkka Seppala | ~ 91st Birthday | - 7/12/2021 |
| Nola Aho | ~ 65th Birthday | - 7/11/2021 |
| Raymond Aho | ~ 70th Birthday | - 7/26/2021 |
| Reino Aho | ~ 70th Birthday | - 7/26/2021 |
| * * * * * | | |
| Shirley Kangas | ~ 85th Birthday | - 9/3/2021 |
| Dalton Aho | ~ 10th Birthday | - 10/23/2021 |
| Jamin Aho | ~ 40th Birthday | - 9/10/2021 |
| Jolene Aho | ~ 40th Birthday | - 9/15/2021 |
| Patricia Aho | ~ 60th Birthday | - 10/12/2021 |

Showers

Showers were held at the church for:

Kaisa Aho
Bridal Shower



Kimberly Nevala
Baby Shower



Tamar Aho
Bridal Shower



Shelby Aho
Baby Shower



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.

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.

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/ Sebekka: 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
15275 Co. Hwy 45
Menahga, MN 56464

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