



Spruce Grove Newsletter

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, Wolf Lake, MN Vol. 21 No. 4 July - August 2016

Bless the Lord

The Hebrew word barakh, which is usually translated “bless” means “to bestow ability for success” (from the greater person to the lesser) or “to praise a person’s ability for success” (from the lesser person to the greater). It refers to bending the knee or to kneel: to bless God as an act of adoration, to bless man as a benefit to him. To bless the Lord is to speak of His greatness, His mercy, His kindness, and His grace. The list could go on and on.

The psalmist speaks of this wonderfully in KJV Psalm 103 <A Psalm of David.> *Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle’s. The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed. He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel. The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children’s children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them. The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure. Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the LORD, O my soul.*

Another way to consider blessings is to look at the contradictory word which is cursing. When we bless someone we are speaking well of them and when we curse someone

we are speaking evil about them. David in this psalm speaks highly of the Lord, he blesses the Lord. In fact he reminds himself and us as the reader/hearer of this psalm that we are to do this with all of our being. We are to praise God with all of our might and strength in essence with our very lives, because our lives belong to Him. We read in this psalm that things have changed for us as far as our standing with God is concerned. We who are fallen have been restored. We who are mortal have been given immortality. We who are sinful have had our sins removed. We who deserve punishment because of our rebellion have received a pardon. God in His kindness has exercised mercy toward us and not just a little mercy but mercy that is eternal. We have received blessing from our God even though we deserved a curse. God speaks His grace into our lives through the finished work of Christ: His shed blood covers our sins and His powerful resurrection lifts us from the realm of death and cursing into the realm of life and blessing. We are of all people most blessed because “As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.” We bless God because He has taken us out of our oppression and has not rewarded us according to our sins, but rather He took our sins and laid them on His Son so that we would be made right through Him: 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.”

So come church and bless the Lord. Speak of Him who is our Redeemer and Savior. Speak of Him who doesn’t give you what you deserve but rather what you don’t. Speak of Him who would be just in exercising His wrath toward us who are sinners, but chose instead to exercise His mercy toward us. Come into his courts with thanksgiving and into His throne room with praise. Come to the place where we find grace to help in time of need, the place where we find mercy and forgiveness. Come to the author and finisher of your faith. Come to Jesus who endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. There you will find mercy, there you will find grace, there you will find forgiveness, and there you will find rest for your weary soul. Come church and let us “Bless the Lord.”

God’s Peace, Pastor Dennis Hannu

Birth Announcements



Jamin & Gina Aho announce the birth of their fifth child. Claire Dorothy was born on May 22, 2016 at Essentia Hospital in Detroit Lakes. Claire weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces and was 21 inches tall.

Claire was welcomed home by her parents and 4 sisters: Avery, Maija, Krysten & Callie.

Claire's grandparents are Reino & Peggy Aho and Pete & Linda Levijoki all of rural Wolf Lake.

Curtis & Ruby Aho announce the birth of their first child.

Aria Rose was born on June 8th, 2016 at Lakewood Health Hospital in Staples. Aria weighed 7 pounds & 11 ounces and was 20 inches tall.

Aria's grandparents are Raymond & Janet Aho of rural Wolf Lake and Scott & Jolene Tumberg of New York Mills, MN.



Nate & Carrie Aho announce the birth of their 2nd child. Reyna Fay was born on June 2nd, 2016 at Essentia Hospital in Detroit Lakes.

Reyna weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces and was 20 inches tall.

Reyna was welcomed home by her parents and brother, Samuel. Reyna's grandparents are Joshua & Deborah Aho of rural Wolf Lake, MN and Craig & Lisa Sunnarborg of Battle Ground, WA.



Victor Jr. & Stacy Aho announce the birth of their ninth child. Vienna Faith was born on June 16, 2016 at Tri-County Hospital in Wadena. Vienna weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces and was 19.5 inches tall.

Vienna was welcomed home by her parents and 8 siblings: Victor III, Alec, Arabella, Izaiah, Yana, Helena, Soren & Vaniah.

Vienna's grandparents are Victor Sr. & Lola Aho of Menahga and Byron & Mary Saari of Ironwood, MI.

Baptisms



Lars Ryan Aho, son of Ryan & Chelsea Aho of rural Menahga, was baptized on June 15, 2016 at the home of his parents by Pastor Dennis Hannu. His sponsors are Rosten & Tori Aho of Wolf Lake, James & Gretchen Pinoniemi of Menahga, and Tyrone Aho of Wolf Lake. His grandparents are Harvey & Patricia Aho of rural Frazee and Gerald & Martha Pinoniemi of Menahga.



Joel Tyler Olson, son of David & Loretta Olson of rural Menahga, was baptized on Sunday, June 19, 2016, at the Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church by Pastor Dennis Hannu. His sponsors are Jared & Kendra Sikkila of Osage and Max & Ashley Aho of Menahga. His grandparents are Victor & Lola Aho of Menahga and Wanda Laue of South Dakota. His great-grandparent is Elma Impola of Menahga.

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church Confirmation Class of 2016



Front Row: Cierra Layne Ahlf - Daughter of Marty & Laura Ahlf, Ginger Ruth Aho - Daughter of Harry & Lori Aho, Pastor Dennis Hannu, Annika Joy Aho - Daughter of Jason & Amy Aho, Kaisa Ann Aho - Daughter of Job & Katie Aho

Back Row: Silas David Olson - Son of David & Loretta Olson, Garin Victor Matson - Son of Lyle & Rebecca Matson, Boaz Nathan Siltala - Son of Nathan & Stephanie Siltala, Allen David Hannu - Son of Dennis & Miriam Hannu, Jacob Arvo Aho - Son of Tim & Sarah Aho, Christian Michael Aho - Son of Andrew & Patricia Aho

Remember in Prayer

"...pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16)

- Linda Aho
- Brian Haataja
- Skyla Forcier
- Richard Yliniemi
- Clifford Koskela
- Family of Camri Aho
- Joan Koskela
- Marvin & June Nelmark
- Lila Yliniemi
- Art Latto
- Marge Kumma
- Martha Aho
- Billy Nelmark
- Our Church, our Pastor and Church leaders.
- National Leaders

- Our Missionaries
- Our Children & Youth
- Our Military
- Our Elderly

Praise Reports

- Clifford Koskela-healing from cancer
- Reid Anderson-healing from cancer

Milestones

Micah Aho ~ 20th Birthday - 7/8/2016
Jeremy Howard ~ 40th Birthday - 7/7/2016
Nola Aho ~ 60th Birthday - 7/11/2016
Sirikka Seppala ~86th Birthday - 7/12/2016

Annual Meeting Notice

The Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, September 12, 2016, at 7:30 P.M. at the church. All members are urged to attend.
Secretary, Neil Aho

Sunday School Teachers Meeting

There will be a meeting on Thursday, August 25, 2016 at 8:00 P.M. at the church for Sunday School teachers for the 2016-2017 School Year. Anyone interested in teaching, substituting or assisting, please attend this meeting. If you are interested in teaching and are unable to be at the meeting, please speak to Jethro Impola or Lori Aho.

Fall Schedule

Starting Sunday, September 4, 2016, 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 11th starting at 10:00 AM.! All children three years and up are invited to attend. Invite a friend. All those willing to be teachers or substitute teachers, please talk to Jethro Impola, Superintendent or Lori Aho, Secretary of the Sunday School.

Adult Bible Class

The Adult Bible Class will also resume on Sunday, September 11th, 2016 starting at 10:00 A.M. This class meets in the fellowship hall.

Thank You

Words do not adequately express our thanks and gratitude for all the acts of love we were blessed with from you, our church family during Elias's illness, his death and the weeks following.

May God richly bless you all. Though we miss Elias daily, we are comforted knowing he is "safe in the arms of Jesus".

In Love & God's Peace

Hazel Aho, Catie & Karl & family, Dan & Lori, Rhonda & girls, Pamela & Todd & family, Bob's girls

Wedding Invitation

Mr. & Mrs. Julius Aho request the pleasure of your company to the marriage of their daughter

Leah Marie

to

Jacob Michael

son of Mr. & Mrs. Waggoner

Saturday, August 6th, 2016
at 7 o'clock in the evening.

At Spruce Grove Apostolic
Lutheran Church.

Reception will follow the ceremony.



Wedding



Joel Aho & Kayse Salo were united in marriage on June 25, 2016 at St. Lawrence Church in New York Mills, MN. They will be living in Detroit Lakes, MN.

Engagement Announcement

Emily Hannu & Drake Anderson announced their engagement on July 2, 2016.

Emily lives in Menahga and is the daughter of Pastor Dennis & Miriam Hannu of rural Sebeka. Drake lives in Rapid City, SD and is the son of Bret & LaRae Anderson of rural Wolf Lake, MN and is in the United States

Air Force, stationed in South Dakota. A September 2016 wedding is being planned.



News & Notes

- A Benefit Dinner was held at Spruce Grove Church on Sunday, July 10, 2016 for Brian Haataja. Brian had his hip replaced on March 25 with a 6 week recovery, how-ever 5 weeks in, he broke his femur and had to go back to have his hip replaced again along with other repairs due to this break. Brian continues to do physical therapy trying to regain strength and balance so he can return to work. Brian works for Hubbard County. We ask you to pray for him as he continues to heal.
- Marlin & Ashlyn Aho & family traveled to SC.
- James & Delfi Aho & son Julius have returned from spending a couple months in Italy.
- Pastor Dennis & Miriam Hannu traveled to NH.
- Pastor Dennis & Miriam Hannu & family traveled to SC & MI.
- Elissa Redetzke & Emily Hannu & Lane traveled to MI.
- Pastor Elmer & Miriam Yliniemi & Isak traveled to SC.
- Deborah Aho traveled to NH.
- Hannah Aho & children traveled to NH.
- Jennie Hanson & Molly Impola & children traveled to SD.
- Dara Sikkila traveled to NH & SC.
- Chet & Dayna Anderson traveled to SC.
- Calvin & Kaitlyn Impola traveled to AK.
- Leila Aho & children traveled to MI.
- Lynn & Betsy Impola traveled to MI.

Some of the visitors the last few months were:

- Lee & Lynnette Stenersen & family from WA.
- Sarah Seppala from SC.
- Ruth Farrey from WA.
- Mark & Shari Aho from NH.
- Terry & Renee Aho from NH.
- Miranda Seppanen & children from WA.
- Clarice Traffie & children from WA.
- Bruce & Chris Sarkela from FL.
- Carmelle Hanson from WA.
- Bruce & Hannah Barney & family from Chisholm, MN.
- Will & Jennifer Yliniemi & family from WI.
- Bruce & Erica West & family from SD.
- Paul & Dorothy Benjamson from MI.
- Marc & Alice Ruotsala from MI.
- Jimmy & Clara Estola & family from MI.
- Todd & Rhonda Niskanen from SC.

- David & Wanda Aho from NH.
- Dave & Karen Impola and children and 2 grandchildren from WA.
- Jim & Linda Impola from MI.
- Marisa Aho from NC.
- Roy & Mary Aho & family from NH.
- Randon & Tyra Aho & family from SC.
- KJ & Catie Sagedahl from MN.
- Brent & Karen Seppanen & family from SD.
- Bruce & Sharon Estola & family from SD.
- Timo Estola from WI.
- Jed & Krista Estola & family from MI.
- Kyle Aho from NH.

Thanks to those who visit here, we are truly blessed.

Grandchild Announcements

Armas & Pat Aho announce the birth of a granddaughter. Carly May Aho was born on May 31st to their son Michael & his wife Caitlin of Rindge, NH.

Carly's other grandparents are Jim & Diane Cooper of Rindge, NH.

Joshua & Deborah Aho announce the birth of a granddaughter. Alaina Elsie Aho was born on July 5, 2016 to their son Luke and his wife Kaylee of Rindge, NH.

Alaina's other grandparents are Dean & Martha Bertram of NH.

Welcome

A very special welcome to Jeff & Rosy Kinnunen and their son Devon. The Kinnunen's moved here from South Carolina in early spring and are living in Menahga.

A very special welcome to Seth & Linda Matson and their 7 children: Zedekiah, Obadiah, Reuben, Patience, Gideon, Rauha & Simon. The Matson's moved here from Washington in early summer and are living in the Backus area.

Guest Speakers

On Friday, August 12th, 2016 and Sunday, August 14th, Jerry Devries will be speaking at Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church. The service begins at 8:00 P.M. on Friday evening and at 10:30 A.M. on Sunday morning.

Alan Estola will be our guest speaker on Sunday, August 21st, 2016. Service will be at 10:30 A.M.

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.

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.

Reminder: When there is a funeral at the church, there is usually a need for desserts and bars for after the meal.

Radio Broadcast

Echoes of Mercy broadcast KWAD Wadena 920 & 1430 AM Sundays: 8:05 A.M. 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.

Telephone Services

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

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

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church
15275 Co. Hwy 45
Menahga, MN 56464

JULY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Youth Group 7:30 P.M.
3 Worship Service & Communion 10:30 AM Organists: Sarah & Megan Sound: Chet	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5	6	7	8 Worship Service 8:00 PM Organist: Betsy Sound: Tyrone Coffee Group # 3	9
10 Worship Service 10:30 AM Organist: Deborah Sound: Neil	11 7:30 Board Meeting	12	13	14	15	16 Youth Group 7:30 P.M.
17 Worship Service 10:30 AM Organist: Deborah Sound: Chet	18	19	20	21	22 Worship Service 8:00 PM Organist: Betsy Sound: Tyrone Coffee Group # 4	23
24 Worship Service 10:30 AM Organist: Ramona Sound: Jason	25	26 Green Pine Acres Nursing Home Service 2:00 PM	27	28	29 Song Service 8:00 PM Organist: Sarah Sound: Nate Coffee Group # 5	30
31 Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Organist: Patricia Sound: Alvin						

The numbers to dial to listen to the services over the telephone are:

Wolf Lake: 538-1030 Menahga: 564-1030
Aldrich: 445-1030 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 #. Then it will ask for your name, this is optional, you can either say your name and press # or just stay on the line and it will connect you after about 5 seconds.

July Cleaning Group

Reid & Ashley Aho
Jamin & Gina Aho
Darren & Sonya Keranen
Seth Aho
Luke & Kaylee Aho

* Just a reminder, the coffee group #'s are on the calendar to remind you are serving. There is a possibility of those numbers changing because of church cancellations, so please double check with the head of the kitchen to make sure it is your turn to serve.

AUGUST 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Waggoner-Aho Wedding 7:00 PM
7 Worship Service & Communion 10:30 AM Organists: Deborah & Ramona Sound: Chet	8 7:30 Board Meeting	9	10	11	12 Guest Speaker: James Devries Worship Service 8:00 PM Organist: Sarah Sound: Tyrone Coffee Group # 6	13
14 Worship Service 10:30 AM Guest Speaker: James Devries Organist: Betsy Sound: Jamin	15	16	17	18	19	20 Youth Group 7:30 P.M.
21 Worship Service 10:30 AM Guest Speaker: Alan Estola Organist: Megan Sound: Neil	22	23	24	25 8:00 Sunday School Teachers Meeting	26 Worship Service 8:00 PM Organist: Patricia Sound: Nate Coffee Group # 7	27
28 Worship Service 10:30 AM Organist: Deborah Sound: Alvin	29	30 GPA Nursing Home Service at 2:00 P.M.	31	9/1	9/2	9/3
9/4 Worship Service & Communion 11:00 AM Organists: Ramona & Sarah Sound: Jason	9/5	9/6	9/7 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	9/8	9/9 Worship Service 8:00 PM Organist: Megan Sound: Tyrone Coffee Group # 8	9/10
9/11 Sunday School 10:00 A.M. Worship Service 11:0 AM Organist: Betsy Sound: Chet	9/12 7:30 Annual Meeting	9/13	9/14 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	9/15	9/16	9/17 Youth Group 7:30 P.M.

The numbers to dial to listen to the services over the telephone are:

Wolf Lake: 538-1030 Menahga: 564-1030
Aldrich: 445-1030 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 #. Then it will ask for your name, this is optional, you can either say your name and press # or just stay on the line and it will connect you after about 5 seconds.

August Cleaning Group

Harry & Lori Aho

Loren & Karla Impola

Rosten & Tori Aho

Russell & Eunika Aho

Luke & Renata Nevala

* Just a reminder, the coffee group #'s are on the calendar to remind you are serving. There is a possibility of those numbers changing because of church cancellations, so please double check with the head of the kitchen to make sure it is your turn to serve.