



Spruce Grove Newsletter

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, Wolf Lake, MN Vol. 27 No. 5 November - December 2022

Christ the King

Christ the King Sunday comes at the end of the Pentecost season and just before the beginning of the Advent season. As we come to the end of the Pentecost season and start the cycle over again as far as the church year is concerned, Christ the King Sunday reminds us that indeed our worship is centered on our King. He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending. Our church year as well as our lives begin and end with Him. Christ the King is our king indeed and our very lives depend completely and totally on Him.

But what does this king look like to us? What do the scriptures say? What does he bring to us? The prophet Jeremiah says in chapter 23:5-6 *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.*

When I think of a king or what a king may look like, I think of someone who is strong and mighty. He would have a presence about him that would be intimidating and in the same breath comforting as he would assure his people that he would take care of them. A great king would keep his people safe from their enemies and also provide for their daily necessities. They would feel secure just knowing that he is ruling and watching over them in every way possible. He would take care of the bad guys and bring justice where needed. This is perhaps how we might perceive a king and his rule. But this king is much different than we would ever imagine. He doesn't come with an army and riding on a great horse with his sword drawn to destroy his enemies. He doesn't execute judgment and justice as an earthly king might by calling a counsel and pronouncing verdicts of guilty and terms of punishment. No, He takes the guilty verdict of His people upon Himself, and takes their punishment as well. Luke 23:33-43 *And when*

they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God. And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar, and saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself. And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.

This is Christ the King, the one who is suffering and dying on the cross between two criminals. This is Christ the King who in His death brings an end to the tyrannical reign of sin in our lives. This king looks nothing like we might imagine him to look. His crown is made from thorns and His royal robes are nowhere to be seen. His armies are nonexistent and even His followers have forsaken Him and fled. He hangs dying and suffering the abuse of His subjects. The ones who should be singing His praises are mocking him instead. They tell Him to save Himself not realizing that He in His dying is saving them.

It is Christ the King, whose judgment and justice brings what no other king on this earth can, because He is able to give to the criminals and sinners of this world salvation. Notice the malefactors hanging on

continued on next page

the crosses on either side of Jesus. They were receiving what they deserved because of their crimes, but when one of the criminals asks Jesus to remember him when He comes into His kingdom he acknowledges that Jesus is indeed a king who is suffering unjustly. Jesus speaks words to him that indicate His kingship: "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." Only Christ the King can make such a statement. Only Christ could exonerate one who acknowledges himself as guilty. It is through this King that we as well will be accepted into paradise because He takes away the one thing that would prevent our acceptance, our sin. He does this by suffering and dying on the cross shedding His blood, thus forgiving our sin debt and declares that we are indeed righteous. Indeed what our king has done no other king could ever do. He has brought us into a new existence, He became sin so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 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.

Our King takes our sentence to death upon Himself in order to bring us into life itself. This is indeed who our King is, what He looks like, and what He has brought to us. Christ is indeed our King!

God's Peace, Pastor Dennis Hannu

Grandchild Announcements

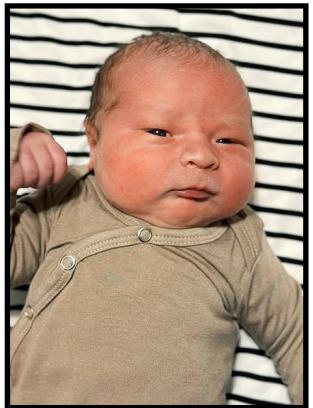
Pastor Dennis & Miriam Hannu announce the birth of a grandson. Albert Drake Anderson was born on October 14, 2022 to their daughter Emily and her husband Drake of Rapid City, SD. Albert's other grandparents are Brett & Larae Anderson.

Victor Sr. & Lola Aho announce the birth of a granddaughter. Cedar Mae Aho was born on October 19, 2022 to their son Max and his wife Ashley of Seguin, Texas. Cedar's other grandparents are Fiore & Heather Marrelli.

Birth Announcements

Raul & Shelby Aho announce the birth of their second child.

Simo Ronald Aho was born on October 13, 2022 at Essentia Health-St Mary's Hospital in Detroit Lakes, MN. Simo weighed 10 pounds 3 ounces and was 21 inches tall.



Simo is welcomed by his parents and brother Arvo. Simo's grandparents are Nola Aho of rural Frazee and Ronald & Carolyn Munger of rural Menahga.

Lyle & Rebecca Matson announce the birth of their 12th child.

Lewis Edwin Matson was born on November 9, 2022 at Perham Health in Perham, MN. Lewis weighed 9 pounds 2 ounces and was 22 inches tall.



Lewis is welcomed by his parents and siblings: Canton, Garin, Alessandra, Eve, Natalie, Henry, Sylvia, Eloise, Muriel, Glynnis & Harris.

His grandparents are Victor Sr. & Lola Aho of Menahga, MN and Jack & Ann Matson of WA.

Sunday School Teachers

Preschool: Katie Aho

Kindergarten: Jolene Aho

1st Grade: Luke Aho & Raul Aho

2nd Grade: Stephanie Siltala

3rd Grade: Tyrone Aho

4th Grade: Nate Aho

5th Grade: David Olson

6th Grade: Loren Impola

7th Grade: Neil Aho

8th Grade: Justin Impola

9th Grade: Pastor Dennis Hannu

Birth & Adoption

Chet & Dayna Anderson announce the adoption of their third child. Edgar Reuben Anderson was born on October 8, 2020 at the Park Rapids Hospital and weighed 7 pounds and was 19.5 inches tall. Edgar was welcomed into the Anderson home as a foster child on October 9, 2020 by Chet & Dayna, brother Oscar and sister Selma.



His grandparents are Reuben & Ellen Tumberg of rural Sebeka and Paul & Virginia Anderson of SC.



Edgar's adoption was finalized on September 22, 2022 at the Hubbard County Courthouse.

We thank the Lord for the gift of Edgar to the Anderson family!



Blood Drive

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at Spruce Grove Church on Thursday, December 22nd from 1:30 to 6:00 PM.

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

Remember in Prayer

- Family of Les Hanson
- Family of Huldy Sannes
- Canton Matson
- Carsyn Olson
- Harvey & Patricia Aho
- Reuben Tumberg
- Reino Aho
- Rodney & Hannah Aho Family
- Mickie Howard
- Hazel Aho
- Marlene Walters
- 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

Advent & Christmas Services

Advent Services will be held at the church Wednesdays, November 30, December 7th, 14th and 21st at 7:30 PM.

Our Christmas Service will be on Sunday, December 25th at 11:00 AM.

Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 18th, 2022 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 4th & 11th and 18th at 9:00 AM.



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11/13 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Sarah Sound: Alvin	11/14 7:30 Board Meeting	11/15	11/16 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	11/17 Sunday School Teachers Meeting 7:30	11/18	11/19 Youth Group 8:00 P.M.
11/20 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Ramona Sound: Nate	11/21	11/22	11/23	11/24 Thanksgiving Day	11/25 Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Betsy Sound: Tyrone Coffee Group # 2	11/26
11/27 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Guest Speaker: Caleb Maunu Organist: Patricia Sound: Neil Dinner Following the Service Group A	11/28	11/29 Green Pine Acres Nursing Home Service 2:00 PM	11/30 Advent Service 7:30 P.M Organist: Carrie Sound: Alvin Coffee Group # 3	12/1	12/2	12/3 Youth Group 8:00 P.M.
12/4 Sunday School 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service & Holy Communion 11:00 AM Organists: Megan & Sarah Sound: Nate	12/5	12/6	12/7 Advent Service 7:30 P.M Organist: Deborah Sound: Tyrone Coffee Group # 4	12/8	12/9	12/10
12/11 Sunday School 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Carrie Sound: Neil	12/12 7:30 Board Meeting	12/13	12/14 Advent Service 7:30 P.M Organist: Ramona Sound: Alvin Coffee Group # 5	12/15	12/16	12/17 Youth Group 8:00 P.M.
12/18 SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM Sunday School 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Betsy Sound: Chet Dinner Following the Program	12/19	12/20	12/21 Advent Service 7:30 P.M Organist: Patricia Sound: Neil Coffee Group # 6	12/22 Bloodmobile 1:30 to 6:00 PM	12/23	12/24
12/25 CHRISTMAS DAY Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Sarah Sound: Tyrone	12/26	12/27 Green Pine Acres Nursing Home Service 2:00 PM	12/28	12/29	12/30 Spruce Grove Youth Weekend 12/30/2022 to 1/1/2023	12/31
1/1 Worship Service & Holy Communion 11:00 AM Organists: Ramona & Betsy Sound: Nate	1/2	1/3	1/4	1/5	1/6	1/7 Youth Group 8:00 P.M.
1/8 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Deborah Sound: Neil	1/9 7:30 Board Meeting	1/10	1/11 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	1/12	1/13 Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Megan Sound: Alvin Coffee Group # 7	1/14

Funeral



Hulda "Huldy" (Yliniemi) Sannes, age 80, of Frazee, MN, went home peacefully to be with her Lord and Savior on Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at her Rose Lake home, in the loving care of her family and Red River Valley Hospice.

Huldy was born on July 24, 1942 at St. Mary's Hospital in Detroit Lakes, MN to Isacki and Aili (Haanpaa) Yliniemi. The sixth of seven surviving children, she grew up on the family farm homestead near Wolf Lake, MN. She attended Frazee Public School, graduating in May, 1960.

After high school Huldy attended Minnesota State University at Moorhead, pursuing an education degree as a math teacher. She completed the four-year degree in three years and was the first in her family to obtain a college degree, later going on to earn a Master's degree in Mathematics. During her senior year at Moorhead State, she met the love of her life, Bruce Sannes, and they were married on June 20th, 1964. The new couple taught school together in Wyoming and several towns in Minnesota before moving back to the Frazee area in the late 1960s. After buying property on Rose Lake, they built their dream home where they raised their three children Christopher, Talitha (Tali), and Davin. She loved to open up their home to friends and family, especially on Independence Day, when she would host a large celebration each year with music, fellowship, and fresh fish from the lake. Huldy and Bruce also hosted Bible studies, family get-togethers, and summer Bible camps to share the blessing of the lake with others. Huldy loved to be active and work with her hands. She taught her children to work hard by requiring them to do physical work outdoors every day over the summer, and she could often be found building furniture, working on a remodeling project, or gardening. She loved to swim and most summer days she and her children could be found enjoying the lake, making underwater rock paths, playing water games, or fishing. Winters were spent in the fish house where she was a champion spearer. She kept her kids from falling in the hole by promising she wouldn't let them drown, she'd just spear them in the leg and pull them out! She loved to spend time outdoors hunting, fishing, and growing her own food which, she then canned or froze to feed her family. Huldy's relationship with Jesus was very important

to her. She was an active participant and speaker with Stonecroft Ministries and Christian Women's Club during the 1980s and 1990s, traveling around the region to give her personal testimony. Huldy loved the ministry opportunities she had, speaking all over the state. At one of the speaking engagements, she met her daughter's future mother-in-law long before she had met her future son-in-law. Huldy was encouraged when women told her how her testimony had impacted their faith journey. She wanted everyone to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior, and openly shared her faith with others. When her children were older, Huldy returned to teaching, first by privately tutoring students in mathematics, and then taught English language learners in Frazee through Community Education. Beginning in 1989, she worked at Rural MN CEP WorkForce Center as a caseworker and later as a Team Leader. She loved helping people find gainful employment, teaching job and life skills, and having a close network of friends and colleagues in the office. She retired in 2009, and enjoyed golf, gardening, spending time with her grandchildren, and solving a daily crossword puzzle. For many years, she organized the "Rose Bud Looper," an unofficial summer athletic event complete with colorful t-shirts at which family and friends would swim, bike, run or walk a 9.2k loop near their home. She was a gifted and patient teacher. Countless students, including her grandchildren, benefited from her willingness to share her time and knowledge.

Huldy is survived by her husband of 58 years, Bruce; daughter Talitha (Jason) Sannes-Venhuizen, Frazee, MN; two sons Christopher (Sarah) Sannes, St. Paul, MN and Davin (Jennifer) Sannes, Mount Horeb, WI; seven grandchildren Jeremy (Sherri) Sannes-Venhuizen, Veronica Sannes, Tovin Sannes-Venhuizen, Jana Sannes-Venhuizen, Jevin Sannes, Tevia Sannes-Venhuizen, Enavi Sannes; two great-grandchildren; three sisters, Helen Laine, Hazel Yliniemi, and Patricia (Arlan) Ervasti; sisters-in-law Miriam Yliniemi and Gail Cranston; brother-in-law Terry Monson; numerous beloved nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers Elmer, Roy (Hazel M), and James Edward; sister-in-law Judy Monson; brothers-in-law Art Laine and Gary Cranston; and three infant siblings.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, with Pastor Dennis Hannu officiating.

Funeral



Leslie "Les" Duane Hanson slipped from time into eternity at 7:45 in the morning on November 7 at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN with his dear wife by his side. He was 70 years, one month, and one day old.

Les was born October 6, 1952 in Watertown, SD, the third child of Donald and Jennie Hanson. The son of a farmer, Les knew, from the time he could first think, that when he grew up, he was going to be a farmer. As a child, he and his brothers often played under the fuel tanks on the farm, his brothers making a mess, and Les setting up fields with neat, straight rows. He began working at a young age, putting money aside to purchase his future farm. One of his first jobs was hauling hay for his Uncle Dale, but he was happy to get his first factory job, as that meant overtime, and Les worked as much overtime as he could get. When Les was 17, he took a trip to Washington, where his attention was captured by a pretty, curly-haired girl, and after a few hints from her two older brothers, he worked up the courage to write her a letter. Thus began their long correspondence. It was the Vietnam era, and in April of 1972, Les began Army basic training in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Following basic training, he transferred to Fort Sill, Oklahoma for six weeks of AIT (Advanced Individual Training) in Pershing Missiles, the largest nuclear missile the Army had at that time. He then spent two years guarding those missiles in Germany, learning to ski in the Alps during his time off. Les has said, "The Pershing's motto was 'Mission Accomplished' and thank God, we never had to fire a missile. We accomplished our mission."

The love letters continued throughout that time, and upon completing his military service, Les moved to Washington, where he spent a year building the first home for himself and his future bride. On July 15, 1975, Les married his "honey," Marsha, in a small, backyard ceremony at her oldest sister Joan's house. In the fall of 1977, Les's life-long dream of owning a farm came true; he purchased land in northern Minnesota. In March of 1978, Les, with Marsha and their cherished two little girls by his side, set off to begin their new life on the Ponsford prairie. The farm had plenty of room for Les's dreams to grow. All that it needed was a farmer willing to work hard and determined not to quit. Solid Oak Farm had both in Les. The family also grew, adding two more

joyfully received little girls, and then six years later, the prairie was abuzz; the Hansons had a BOY!

By the grace of God, Les spent 45 years living out his dream of raising a family on a farm. With the help and support of his loving wife Marsha, he raised cattle, fixed old equipment and fixed it again, farmed in two states, remodeled the house, took agriculture classes and marketing courses, overhauled multiple tractors, maintained temperamental old irrigators, made do with what he had, all while raising and loving his family so very well. He was a conservationist, a plumber, a builder, a mechanic, a welder, a carpenter, an electrician—a jack of all trades, and proficient at most. He was a farmer. In 2011, after 33 years of planning and saving, a dream came to fruition when he was finally able to build his beautiful, warm shop. He told Carmelle, just last summer, "I just can't believe it. I thank God every time I step foot inside." During the last year of his life, Les found great pleasure in teaching an interested granddaughter about farming. The final decade of Les's farming life contained some of his most rewarding working years, as his only son became his partner in the farm operation. Les considered it an immeasurable blessing to entrust the tending of Solid Oak Farm to his treasured son Brandon. He knew he was leaving it in capable hands.

Les was a life-long member of the Apostolic Lutheran Church, first in South Dakota, then in Washington, and finally, in Spruce Grove. He was a quiet, gentle man, with a quiet yet firmly devoted faith. In his final days, even in the haze of severe pain and suffering, he proclaimed over and over his love for Jesus. During his hospitalization, he shared with one of his doctors "I'm the greatest sinner of them all." The doctor responded, "And you have been saved through Christ's redemptive work on the cross." And he was!

Les will be dearly missed by his loving and much loved wife Marsha of Ponsford, Minnesota; his daughters Miranda Seppanen with husband Brian of La Center, Washington, Clarice Traffie with husband Josh of La Center, Washington, Tamara Aho with husband Jamie of Wadena, Minnesota, and Carmelle of Battle Ground, Washington, his son Brandon with wife Lynette of Ponsford, Minnesota, his grandchildren; Bethany with husband Damon Howard, Meredith, Trevor, Clay, Joanna, Gretchen, Irene, Naomi, Philip, Madeline, Nels, Nolan, and Jack; and one soon-to-arrive great grandchild. He will also be missed by his mom Jennie,

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of Menahga, Minnesota; sister Janet with husband Raymond Aho of Wolf Lake, Minnesota; brothers Dan with wife Carol of Battle Ground, Washington; Randy with wife Mary, of Taylors, South Carolina, Tom with wife Wendy of Prineville, Oregon; sister-in-law Diane of South Carolina, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father Donald and brother Terry. Les was a man of solid purpose and quiet strength. He leaves behind a legacy of gentle kindness, abiding love, and deep faith.

Les's final words were, "I love you. I love Jesus. Jesus! Jesus!" And then he closed his eyes. The seed of faith sown in his youth fell on good ground, God gave the increase, and on the final day of Fall Harvest, 2022, God gathered Les into the storehouse of His kingdom—a perfectly finished crop in Christ, safe from any further storms.

Funeral service was held on Saturday, November 13th with Pastor Dennis Hannu officiating.

Milestones

Gloria Juntunen

~ 93rd Birthday - 11/2/2022

Armas Aho

~ 79th Birthday - 11/5/2022

Ellen Tumberg

~ 75th Birthday - 11/10/2022

Reuben Tumberg

~ 85th Birthday - 11/14/2022

Riana Aho

~ 20th Birthday - 11/19/2022

Riley Aho

~ 20th Birthday - 11/19/2022

Ted Aho

~ 10th Birthday - 12/11/2022

Soren Aho

~ 10th Birthday - 12/20/2022

Norah Aho

~ 10th Birthday - 12/27/2022

YOUTH WEEKEND

Theme: Confidence

The Spruce Grove Church Youth is hosting a Youth Weekend for New Years! December 30th -January 1st. Youth age 14 and older are invited to join us. The guest speaker for the weekend will be Gerald Southerton.

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 Alvin Aho or any of the youth.

Guest Speaker

Caleb Maunu will be our guest speaker on Friday, November 25th and Sunday, November 27th. Dinner will be served following the service on Sunday.

Pastor Appreciation

We held our Pastor Appreciation Dinner on Sunday, November 6th.

Thank you Pastor Dennis and Miriam for your willingness to serve our congregation.



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

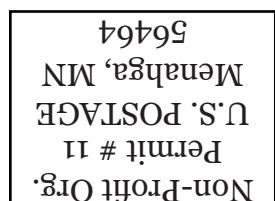
Church Website

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.



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