



Spruce Grove Newsletter

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, Wolf Lake, MN Vol. 30 No. 1 January - February 2025

Marriage

Many of us have been blessed with great examples of marriage in our lives. The couples have lived together fully committed to each other, taking seriously the lifelong commitment of marriage. Unfortunately, marriage is seen by many, not as lifelong commitment, but rather a contract which can be broken. Couples may enter a marriage thinking they can always bail if things don't work out. This is an age old problem as we see in: Matthew 19:3-6 "The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Jesus would go on to say that because of the hardness of men's hearts divorce was permitted by Moses, but it was not intended to be that way from the beginning of time.

Marriage then is to be seen as something that is holy and ordained by God and should be entered into carefully and with much prayer and consideration. When a young or single person is seeking a mate in this life there are three areas that are important in establishing a relationship. They are spiritual, emotional, and physical. The first and foremost is spiritual. When the couple agrees spiritually, then Jesus will be the foundation of that relationship, and the word of God will be their guide in their marriage (more on this later). An emotional connection is where a couple relates to one another in day-to-day life. It is getting to know each other and how the other responds to various things in life. We are emotional beings and so we experience anger, hurt, loneliness, joy, happiness, love, etc. The third area that is important in a relationship is physical. This is for marriage and is blessed when kept in the parameters of marriage.

These three areas are important in marriage and for those seeking to be married, but the most important is spiritual for without Jesus and his guidance in our marriages and relationships that are headed for marriage and for that matter relationships in general, this whole enterprise can become very difficult, and a lasting marriage may almost seem impossible. So, I am very thankful for God's Word and the instruction that is there for us by the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The area of God's Word we will consider is found in Ephesians 5:21-33 "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband. "

The first thing that often jumps out at us men when we read this passage is the submission of the wives to their husbands, but when we do that, we ignore verse 21 "submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." We in our marriages are to submit to each other, we are to put the other's needs ahead of

continued on next page

our own and this we cannot do apart from working of the Holy Spirit. Submission is a heart change; it does not come forth from our flesh but rather from the spirit which abides in us. We are new creations in Christ and now are instructed to walk in that way, “Ephesians 5:1-2 “Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.”

The submission of the wife to the husband is born out of his love toward her. This is what we see in this passage of scripture. The husband is instructed to love his wife as Christ loves the church. This is the most extraordinary thing as we consider what Christ has done for the church. Jesus comes down to earth and takes all our filth, our sinfulness, and the curse of death which we deserve and dies on the cross in our place so that we may live. He humbled himself in this way because of His love for us. He restores our relationship with the Father and gives us his righteousness. Christ changes us and gives us new life. He sacrifices himself for the church and cleanses it. We have been brought into Christ and He takes care of us.

Likewise, we men are to love our wives and to give our lives up for her, which means we take care of her

by loving her for who she is. We often find ourselves wanting to change them into what we want them to be, which is usually to be more like us. Instead, we are to cherish her and to build her up recognizing that this is what Christ has done for the church, the body of Christ of which we are. We are to love her like we love ourselves.

As stated earlier, submission is mutual. We as members of the body of Christ are to submit to one another, to give up our desires for the sake of the other. In marriage we become one, “the two will become one flesh.” We are two people with different personalities, different likes and dislikes, yet one in the blessing of marriage. We as husbands are to love our wives and our wives in response to that love are called to submission, and this is all done as unto the Lord. This is how God’s Word instructs us in our marriages. When we are obedient to His Word then we with confidence can say “Our marriage will last a lifetime because Jesus is the center of it and we live in submission to Him”. May God Bless our marriages.

God’s Peace,
Pastor Dennis Hannu

Special Services

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church will be holding Special Services from Friday, February 28 through Sunday, March 2nd. Bjorn Lampinen and Andy Johnson will be the guest speakers for the services.

Services will be held Friday evening at 7:30 PM, Saturday evening at 7:30 PM and Sunday at 11:00 AM and 1:45 PM. Coffee will be served after the evening and afternoon services and dinner will be served after the Sunday morning service.

There will also be a seminar presented on Saturday afternoon, please listen to the announcements for the time and topic.

Everyone is invited to attend.

Birth Announcements

Andrew & Jolie Ingvalson announce the birth of their 4th child.

Blake Daniel Ingvalson was born on December 27, 2024 at the Essentia-St. Mary’s Hospital in Detroit Lakes. Blake weighed 8 pounds 4 ounces and was 20 inches tall.

Blake was welcomed by his parents and sisters: Liv, Gabrielle & Mia. His grandparents are Reino & Peggy Aho of Wolf Lake and Lee & Bonnie Ingvalson of rural Frazee.



Raul & Shelby Aho announce the birth of their 3rd child.

Ailo Raul Aho was born on January 2, 2025 at Essentia-St. Mary’s Hospital in Detroit Lakes. Ailo weighed 10 pounds 8 ounces and was 21 3/4 inches tall.

Ailo was welcomed by his parents and brothers: Arvo & Simo. His grandparents are Nola Aho of Wolf Lake and Ron & Carolyn Munger of rural Menahga.



Lent Services

Lent Services will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5 at 7:30 PM. The services will continue on Wednesdays throughout March and April.

The Maundy Thursday Service is April 17, Good Friday Service is April 18 and Easter is April 20.

Please join us as we gather in worship and fellowship in the weeks leading up to the celebration of Christ's resurrection from the grave.

Grandchild Announcement

Tim & Sarah Aho announce the birth of a grandson. Leo Decker Aho was born on November 20th, 2024 to their son Kent & his wife Alyssa of Texas.

Church Improvement

Over the past 2 weeks the sanctuary, ramp, and entry stairs have had the carpet replaced and as a result of this, we have held worship services in the fellowship hall. Thank you to all those who helped move the pews and tear out the old carpet.

Remember in Prayer

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| • Family of Joshua Aho | • Hazel Aho |
| • Family of Jennie Hanson | • Shirley Kangas |
| • Arvi Aho | • Joan Koskela |
| • Ellen Tumberg | • Martha Aho |
| • Joel Olson | • Sirkka Seppala |
| • Karen Samuelson | • Our Church, our Pastor and Church leaders. |
| • Knaylor Howard | • National Leaders |
| • Family of Patricia Ervasti | • Our Widows |
| • Reba Estola | • Our Missionaries |
| • Jamie Aho | • Our Children & Youth |
| • Marvin Jurva | • Our Military |
| • Canton Matson | • Our Elderly |
| • Mickie Howard | |



Funeral



Jennie Mae Hanson, 92, went to her Eternal Home on December 23rd, 2024. We rejoice with her that her greatest Hope has been made sight.

Jennie was born on February 16th, 1932 to Hugh and Agnes Tiftt in Watertown, South Dakota. She attended school in Watertown until she married Donald Hanson on November

25th, 1948. Her and Donald both came to know Christ soon after. They lived in Watertown for a few years and their family quickly grew. In 1953 they moved to a farm in Henry, SD where they enjoyed 20 years of dairy farming. After moving to Washington where they lived for another 20 years, they moved back to South Dakota where they retired. After her husband passed away in 2013, Jennie moved to Minnesota to be closer to family, where she spent the last 11 years of her life.

Jennie is remembered for her hospitable kindness, her bright smile, and her love for her family. She had a wide variety of hobbies through the years including sewing teddy bears and dolls, crocheting, gardening, building puzzles, collecting teddy bears, camping, and traveling. Jennie loved babies and spending time with children. She attended the Apostolic Lutheran Church and her faith was the most important thing in her life. She was anxiously waiting to go and see Jesus and wanted to make sure others were, too.

Jennie is survived by her children, Janet (Raymond) Aho of Frazee, MN., Danny (Carol) Hanson of Battle Ground, WA., Randy (Mary) Hanson of Taylors, SC., and Thomas (Wendy) Hanson of Taylors, SC., two daughter in-laws Diane and Marsha, one sister in-law Virginia Hanson, 33 grandchildren, 116 great grandchildren, and 12 great great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Donald; two sons, Terry Donald and Leslie Duane; one great-granddaughter, Angel Aho; one great grandson, Sklyer Impola; her parents; 3 half-sisters, Fern, Dolly, and June; and 2 half-brothers, Dean and Kenny;

Visitation was held before the funeral service on Friday, January 3rd at the Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church in Wolf Lake, MN. Burial service was at Mount Hope Cemetery in Watertown, SD.



The Sunday School Program was held Sunday Morning, December 15,
Over 130 students participated as well as their teachers & Sunday School Superintendent.

Engagement Announcement



Dane Keranen and Shannon Randall were engaged to be married on October 4, 2024.

Dane is the son of Andrew and Laureena Keranen and is employed by Apex Underground.

Shannon is the daughter of William and Roxann Randall of Menahga and is an active member of US Air Force serving in Texas.

A spring 2025 wedding is being planned.

Milestones

- Miriam Hannu
~ 50th Birthday - 1/1
- Marsha Hanson
~ 70th Birthday - 1/2
- Karen Samuelson
~ 82nd Birthday - 1/6
- Eve Matson
~ 20th Birthday - 1/19
- Hazel Aho
~ 85th Birthday - 1/21
- Samuel Aho
~ 10th Birthday - 1/26
- Hazel Yliniemi
~ 84th Birthday - 1/30
- Diana Aho
~ 77th Birthday - 2/4
- Matthew Karlsen
~ 40th Birthday - 2/8
- Eleanor Yliniemi
~ 84th Birthday - 2/9
- Irene Koskela
~ 84th Birthday - 2/16
- Miriam Yliniemi
~ 87th Birthday - 2/19

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project



Many hours were spent shopping, removing labels & packing items. The boxes go to 170+ countries. Each child only gets one box in a lifetime. A new Testament in the language of their country is added.



203
Shoeboxes were filled & delivered to the processing station in Detroit Lakes

Thank You to all helpers and people who donated shipping money



Youth Mission Weekend



Thank you to all who participated and helped to make the weekend a success!

A total of 110 young people registered for the event!



The marriage panel is always well attended!

JAN - FEB - MAR 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1/19 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service - 11:00 AM Organist: Carrie Sound: Tyrone	1/20	1/21	1/22 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	1/23	1/24 Worship Svc 7:30 PM Organist: Sarah Sound: Nate Coffee Grp # 1	1/25
1/26 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service - 11:00 AM Organist: Patricia Sound: Raul	1/27	1/28	1/29 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	1/30	1/31 Song Service 7:30 PM Organist: Carrie Sound: Neil Coffee Grp # 2	2/1 Youth Grp 8:00 P.M.
2/2 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service & Holy Communion 11:00 AM Organists: Patricia & Ramona Sound: Tyrone	2/3	2/4	2/5 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	2/6	2/7	2/8
2/9 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Carrie Sound: Raul Guest Speaker: Gerry Southerton Dinner Following Service: Group D	2/10 7:30 Board Meeting	2/11	2/12 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	2/13	2/14 Worship Svc 7:30 PM Organist: Sarah Sound: Nate Coffee Grp # 3	2/15 Youth Grp 8:00 P.M.
2/16 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Ramona Sound: Neil	2/17	2/18	2/19 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	2/20	2/21	2/22 Youth Grp 8:00 P.M.
2/23 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Patricia Sound: Tyrone	2/24	2/25 Green Pine Acres Nursing Home Service 2:00 PM	2/26 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	2/27 Guest Speakers: Bjorn Lampinen & Andy Johnson	Special Services 2/28 to 3/2	
3/2 Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service & Communion 11:00 A.M. Organists: Carrie & Patricia Sound: Raul Dinner Following Service: Group A	3/3 Worship Service 1:45 P.M. Organist: Sarah Sound: Neil Coffe Grp # 10	3/4	3/5 Ash Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Organist: Patricia Sound: Tyrone Coffee Grp # 6	3/6	3/7 Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Sarah Sound: Nate Coffee Grp # 4	3/8 Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Patricia Sound: Tyrone Coffee Grp # 5
3/9 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Ramona Sound: Nate	3/10 7:30 Board Meeting	3/11	3/12 Lent Svc 7:30 P.M. Organist: Carrie Sound: Neil Coffee Grp # 7	3/13	3/14	3/15 Youth Grp 8:00 P.M.
3/16 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Patricia Sound: Raul	3/17	3/18	3/19 Lent Svc 7:30 P.M. Organist: Sarah Sound: Tyrone Coffee Grp # 8	3/20	3/21	3/22

Funeral



Joshua Andreas Aho, 71, a lifelong Wolf Lake area resident, passed away peacefully at his home on December 17th, 2024 from an aggressive form of Lymphoma. He was born in Detroit Lakes on October 22, 1953 to Elsie and Hugo Aho.

Joshua attended elementary school in Wolf Lake. After graduating from Menahga High School in 1971, he continued to work on the family farm with his brother, Raymond. In 1973, Joshua and five of his brothers became partners in the dairy business known as Aho Bros & Co., which later became Aho Brothers Inc. Joshua, a hardworking man, maintained and repaired equipment, did field work, plowed snow and did chores in the barn.

On October 19, 1974, Joshua married Deborah Fay Salmonson at the Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church in Spruce Grove Township. They recently celebrated their 50th anniversary. This union was blessed with nine children. Joshua loved his family and the Lord most of all. He was an active member of the Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, and also served as a Sunday School Teacher, Sunday School Superintendent and Board Member for many years.

Joshua appreciated the beauty of the forest and valued the variety of trees. He planted trees and took care of them. He spent most of his winters in the woods, by logging out the largest trees and leaving the smaller ones to grow. It was satisfying for him to see the different woods he harvested be made into boards, trims, and paneling; then used in homes and was pleased when some of it was used in the narthex of the Spruce Grove Church! He also made firewood and had a local machinist build

a wood processor out of a combine for him. Although his favorite pastime was work, he enjoyed reading the Bible, devotionals, and books (fiction and nonfiction). He read to his children nearly every day. After his retirement in 2019, he continued to work in the woods, did projects in his shop, plowed snow and helped out family and neighbors when he could. He also enjoyed getting together with the family at the lake.

Joshua is survived by his wife, Deborah Aho; children, Jason (Amy) Aho of Menahga, MN; Marla (Neal) Kandoll of Castle Rock, WA; Jared (Jolene) Aho of Frazee, MN; Rodney (Hannah) Aho of Menahga, MN; Neil (Amanda) Aho of Menahga, MN; Ramona (Brock) Anderson of Menahga, MN; Nathaniel (Carrie) Aho of Frazee, MN; Marlin (Ashlyn) Aho of Frazee, MN and Luke (Kaylee) Aho of Frazee, MN; 47 (1 preborn) grandchildren; 3 great grandchildren (1 preborn); siblings, Elvi Ketola, Alice (Marc) Ruotsala, Raymond (Janet) Aho, Reino (Peggy) Aho, Martha Aho, Esther (Paul) Impola, Harry (Lori) Aho, Harvey (Patricia) Aho; brother-in-laws, Larry Salo and Jesse Fraki; sister-in-laws, Hazel Aho and Nola Aho.

Joshua was preceded in death by his parents, Hugo and Elsie; brothers: Reuben Aho and Elias Aho; sisters: Eva Salo and Gladys Fraki; brother-in-laws: Stephen Kurtti and Walter Ketola and grandson, Tyler Aho.

Joshua, beloved husband and devoted father, will be dearly missed by his wife, children and spouses, grandchildren, great grandchildren, a host of relatives, neighbors, and friends.

If you wish to view Joshua's services online, the web address is sprucegrovealc.org, go to watch sermons and select a link. The visitation was held on Dec. 19, 2024 with the program starting at minute 27. The memorial service was held on December 20, 2024. Interment was at Balmi Cemetery.

Thank You

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all you've done to help Joshua, me and our family in the last couple of months. You have given us gifts of: time, your presence, encouragement, thoughts, prayers, cards, plants, food, support, and gift cards. There were so many helping hands that got us through the visitation, funeral service and burial, including the meal and refreshments after the visitation and the cleanup of all the facilities of the church afterwards. Your generous memorial gifts will be given to nonprofit organizations that Joshua supported. Please know that we are grateful and blessed by you dear brothers and sisters in Christ. Please continue to pray for us.

Love and God's Peace, Deborah and family

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/ 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.

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