



Spruce Grove Newsletter

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, Wolf Lake, MN Vol. 30 No. 3 July - August 2025

Assurance

We live in a world of uncertainty as is plainly seen. One only needs to read or watch the news and we are inundated with news of weather related events, accidents, politics, wars, rumors, protests, etc... In a world where change is certain and the assurance of future prosperity uncertain we need something that is sure. Paul in writing to the Thessalonians says that assurance is found in the Gospel. When everything looks dark and one wonders where to turn, the Gospel, like a lighthouse on the shores of a stormy sea, shines its assuring light into our hearts and lives. We need its comfort and message of grace and so does our world. When Paul along with Silvanus and Timothy writes to the church in Thessalonica he speaks to them of this assurance that came to them through the gospel.

KJV 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God. For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: So that ye were examples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak anything. For they themselves show of us what manner of entering in we had unto

you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

This church in Macedonia was established on the finished work of Christ. They were as Paul writes “in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ.” This identifying statement is of great importance because there is only one way we can have full assurance in this world and that is to be found “in Christ”. To be in Christ means to have assurance that no matter what this world throws at you everything is going to be okay because we have been granted life through Him. God in His great grace has elected to save us through the gospel. Therefore it is the gospel, the good news about Jesus, that brings to us the greatest assurance. It is the assured believer that makes the greatest impact on his world. The Thessalonians observed not only the message of Paul and the others but their confidence in the gospel’s message as they endured persecution for it (see Acts 16 and 17). The Thessalonians endured afflictions as well as they received the Word with happiness of the Holy Spirit which was a testimony to the other believers in Macedonia and Achaia. Their example didn’t just impact the people in Thessalonica but the whole Greek Peninsula which includes places like Berea, Corinth, Athens, and Phillipi. The message of the gospel impacted them and they repented turning from the worship of idols to serve the living and true God. We need to be confident and assured of our standing with our God and then we can truly be His ambassadors to this world. We who were dead have been made alive and now in Christ are new creations, “old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.” We have been turned to a new and living way by the work of the Jesus on the cross and through His Powerful Resurrection. We are of all people most blessed! I encourage you

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this day be assured again of the power of the gospel and its message of forgiveness, life, and salvation. It is this assurance that will speak volumes to the people you encounter in your life as we live in full confidence of Christ in us the hope of glory. Paul writes beautifully in Romans of the assurance we have in Christ:

Romans 8:31-39 *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

Annual Meeting Notice

The Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, September 8, 2025, at 7:30 P.M. at the church. All members are urged to attend. Secretary, Rosten Aho

Fall Schedule

Worship Services

Starting Sunday, September 7th, 2025, 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 7th, 2025 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 7th, 2025 starting at 10:00 A.M. This class meets in the fellowship hall.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Our assurance is in Christ Jesus our Lord! Amen and Amen!

God's Peace, Pastor Dennis Hannu

Birth Announcements

Jared & Kimberly Nevala announce the birth of their 3rd child.

Tell Franklin Nevala was born on May 22, 2025. Tell weighed 8 pounds 14 ounces and was 21.5 inches tall.

Tell was welcomed by his parents and sisters Remi & Raaya. His grandparents are Harvey & Patricia Aho of rural Wolf Lake and Marilyn Nevala of rural Frazee.



Charles & Leila Aho announce the birth of their 9th child.

Cordelia Katherine Aho was born on June 18, 2025 at Astera Health Hospital in Wadena, MN. Cordelia weighed 7 pounds 12 ounces & was 20 inches tall.

Cordelia is welcomed by her parents and siblings: Bridget, Rafe, Everett, Quinn, Gail, Winifred, Urho & Asa. Her grandparents are Victor Sr. & Lola Aho of Menahga and Dan & Anne Coponen of MI.

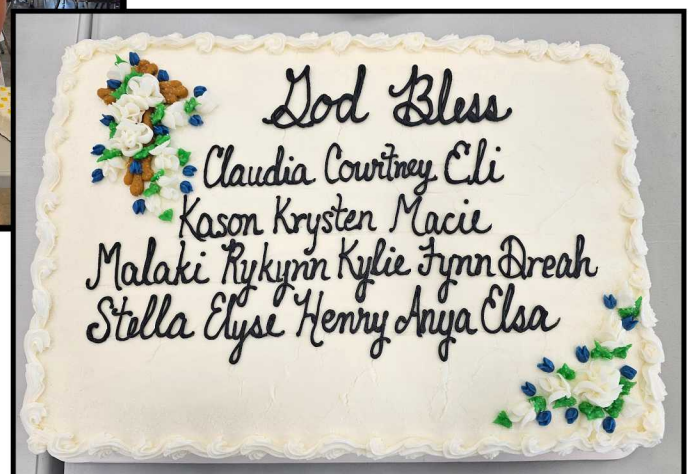


Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church Confirmation Class of 2025



Front Row: Pastor Dennis Hannu, Malaki Job Aho-Son of Job & Katie Aho, Kason Michael Aho-Son of Keith & Jamie Aho, Eli Henry Aho-Son of Andrew & Patricia Aho, Fynn Allen Bakke-Son of Chris & Dustie Bakke, Henry Jack Matson-Son of Lyle & Rebecca Matson

Back Row: Elyse Marie Keranen-Daughter of Andrew & Laureena Keranen, Stella Rose Howard-Daughter of Jeremy & Katie Howard, Kylie Jade Anderson-Daughter of Brock & Ramona Anderson, Drea Jasmine Christiansen-Daughter of Joseph & Jasmine Christiansen, Krysten Mae Aho-Daughter of Jamin & Gina Aho, Courtney Joan Aho-Daughter of Nick & Megan Aho, Claudia Aura Aho-Daughter of Rodney & Hannah Aho, Macie Kate Aho-Daughter of Job & Katie Aho, Elsa Marie Simonson-Daughter of Kent Simonson, Rykynn Christine Aho-Daughter of Adrian & Tamra Aho, Anya Annette Muhonen-Daughter of Phil & Toni Muhonen



Baptism



Ailo Raul Aho, son of Raul & Shelby Aho of rural Frazee, was baptized on Sunday, June 8, 2025, at the Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church by Pastor Dennis Hannu. His sponsors are Rosten & Tori Aho of rural Frazee, Alexi Aho of rural Frazee, and Noah Munger of Menahga. His grandparents are Nola Aho of rural Frazee and Ronald & Carolyn Munger of Menahga.

Milestones

Layla Borth	~ 30th Birthday	- 7/24
Keith & Jamie	~ 20th Anniversary	- 7/30
Nicole Siltala	~ 20th Birthday	- 8/8
Armas & Pat Aho	~ 53rd Anniversary	- 8/12
Holden Aho	~ 10th Birthday	- 8/12
Adrian Aho	~ 40th Birthday	- 8/20
Reino Hendrickson	~ 77th Birthday	- 8/29
Shirley Kangas	~ 89th Birthday	- 9/3
Emery Aho	~ 10th Birthday	- 9/10

Remember in Prayer

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



JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7/13 Worship Service 10:30 AM Organists: Patricia Sound: Neil	7/14 Board Meeting 7:30 PM	7/15 VBS 10:00 to 12:30	7/16	7/17 VBS 10:00 to 12:30	7/18	7/19
7/20 Worship Service 10:30 AM Organist: Deborah Sound: Tyrone	7/21 VBS 10:00 to 12:30	7/22	7/23 VBS 10:00 to 12:30 VBS Program 7:00 PM	7/24	7/25	7/26 Aho-Seppala Wedding 6:00
7/27 Worship Service 10:30 AM Organist: Patricia Sound: Raul	7/28	7/29	7/30	7/31	8/1	8/2
8/3 Worship Service & Holy Communion 10:30 AM Organist: Patrica & Kaisa Sound: Nate	8/4	8/5	8/6	8/7	8/8 Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Ramona Sound: Neil Coffee Grp # 10	8/9
8/10 Worship Service 10:30 AM Organist: Sarah Sound: Tyrone	8/11 Board Meeting 7:30 PM	8/12	8/13	8/14	8/15	8/16
8/17 Worship Service 10:30 AM Organist: Ramona Sound: Raul	8/18	8/19	8/20	8/21	8/22 Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Megan Sound: Nate Coffee Grp # 1	8/23
8/24 Worship Service 10:30 AM Organist: Patricia Sound: Neil	8/25	8/26 GPA Service 2:00 PM	8/27	8/28	8/29 Song Service 7:30 PM Organist: Sarah Coffee Grp # 2	8/30
8/31 Worship Service 10:30 AM 10:30 AM Guest Speaker Organist: Deborah Sound: Tyrone	9/1	9/2	9/3	9/4	9/5	9/6
9/7 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Carrie & Sarah Sound: Raul	9/8 Annual Meeting 7:30 PM	9/9	9/10 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	9/11	9/12 Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Ramona Sound: Tyrone Coffee Grp # 3	9/13
9/14 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Patricia Sound: Neil	9/15	9/16	9/17 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	9/18	9/19	9/20 Youth Grp 8:00 P.M.
9/21 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Deborah Sound: Raul	9/22	9/23 GPA Service 2:00 PM	9/24 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	9/25	9/26 Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Megan Sound: Tyrone Coffee Grp # 4	9/27

Spruce Grove Church Vacation Bible School 2025

LESSONS

ACTIVITIES

CRAFTS

SNACKS

10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Tuesday, 7/15 & Thursday, 7/17

Monday, 7/21 & Wednesday, 7/23

Program on Wednesday, 7/23 at 7:00 PM



FINDING JONAH

You can run But you can't Hide



Join us as we learn about how God found Jonah!

Come 1 day or all 4!

Students ages 3 to 12 are welcome!!

Spruce Grove Church ~ 15275 Cty Hwy 45, Menahga ~ 218-538-6540

Funeral



Martha Irene Aho, age 70, beloved daughter, sister, aunt, great aunt and great-great aunt, passed away peacefully into Glory on Monday, May 19, 2025 at Rose Haven Assisted Living in Menahga where she had been residing the past 10 years.

Born January 17, 1955 at St. Mary's Hospital in Detroit

Lakes, MN, Martha was the 10th child of Hugo and Elsie (Kumma) Aho's 13 children.

Martha attended Wolf Lake Elementary school and graduated in 1974 from Menahga High School.

Following high school, Martha found satisfaction working in the restaurant industry and being a caretaker in various states. She spent time in Florida and New Hampshire before coming back to Minnesota where she settled and cared for several aunts and uncles in their latter days/years.

She was a favorite of many of her nieces, nephews and God Children and could often be found bantering with them, or catching a ride to the store with one of them to pick up a few goodies.

Remaining to cherish Martha's memory are her sisters, Elvi Ketola, Alice (Marcus) Ruotsala, Esther (Paul) Impola, and brothers, Raymond (Janet), Reino (Peggy), Harry (Lori), Harvey (Patricia) Aho; sisters-in-law, Hazel, Nola, Deborah; brothers-in-law, Larry Salo and Jesse Fraki; along with Many More relatives and friends.

Preceding her in death are her parents (Hugo and Elsie), brothers, Elias, Reuben, and Joshua; sisters, Eva Salo and Gladys Fraki; brothers-in-law, Stephen Kurtti and Walter Ketola.

Martha was a woman of faith and life-long member of the Apostolic Lutheran Church.

Her visitation was at the Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church on Friday, May 23, 2025 with funeral service following with Pastor Dennis Hannu officiating. Burial was at Balmi Cemetery.

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him." 1 Corinthians 2:9

Funeral



Sirkka M. Seppala, age 94, of Menahga, MN, passed into eternal life on Thursday, May 22, 2025, at the Green Pine Acres Nursing Home in Menahga, MN.

Sirkka was born on July 12, 1930, to Julius and Sandra (Peltomaa) Lind, in Pori, Finland

She was united in marriage to Mauri Olavi "Ole" Seppala on October 29, 1950, in Pori, Finland, and to this union had two children, Rita and Matt. Times were hard in Finland following the war and good paying jobs were hard to find. They received a letter from Sirkka's great aunt and uncle urging them to come to America to help on the farm. In 1959, they packed their few belongings and boarded a ship bound for America with their young family. They would settle in Menahga. Life on her aunt and uncles farm was not easy and with the help of wonderful neighbors, and a lot of hard work, were able to buy a farm of their own. Sirkka also found work at many different places throughout the years.

Sirkka was blessed with many talents. She was an expert skier who won many awards. She would also spin her own wool and crochet clothing. During Finland's war with the Soviets, she made the clothing for the soldiers. She passed her knowledge of crocheting, embroidering, and tatting to her daughter. She also enjoyed time with Rita painting many beautiful scenic pictures and weaving rugs on her homemade loom.

Sirkka was a generous person, always offering her favorite peppermint candy to the staff of the assisted living center where she lived. She always mentioned how good they were to her, and she was thankful for them. Sirkka was a faithful member of Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church and loved the Lord with all her heart.

She will be lovingly remembered by her son, Matt (Mijung) of Fort Worth, Texas; a grandson, Micheal; a granddaughter, Anna; and a great-grandson Matthew.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Ole; her beloved daughter, Rita; and her brother, Antti Lind.

Funeral Services were held on Friday, May 30, 2025, at Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church. The burial was at Jim Cook Cemetery.

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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