



Spruce Grove Newsletter

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, Wolf Lake, MN Vol. 30 No. 2 May - June 2025

Sinner and Saint

Perhaps one of the most difficult things for us to grasp as believers in Jesus Christ is the paradox of being fully justified in the merits of Jesus and so declared a saint and yet at the same time a sinner. John writes in his letter: 1 John 1:8-10 “⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.” Paul writes in Romans 7:15-20 “¹⁵For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. ¹⁶If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. ¹⁷Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. ¹⁸For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. ¹⁹For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. ²⁰Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.” These passages declare affirmatively that we are in fact sinners and remain sinners our entire lives. The 51st Psalm says in verse 5 “Behold, I was shaped in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.” Paul writes in 1 Timothy 1:15 “This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.” He uses the present tense verb “to be” indicating that this is how he still sees himself. I could go to several other passages that would identify us as sinners, but these will suffice for now. The reality of us being sinners is very clear from the scripture. On the flip side the reality of us being saints is very clear from the scriptures as well. Paul uses this designation often in his letters as he writes to the various churches for example in Colossians 1:1-4 “¹Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus

our brother, ²To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints.” The church is referred to as the saints throughout the letter to the Colossians and elsewhere based solely on the work of Jesus Christ. Colossians 1:12-18 “¹²Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: ¹³Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: ¹⁴In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

¹⁵Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: ¹⁶For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: ¹⁷And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.” The reason we believe that we are saints and at the same time sinners is because the Bible tells us that. Every day we need Jesus and His grace and are constantly reminded in the Word of God of that reality. Our perfection is found in Jesus, not in our ability to stop sinning. We understand ourselves to be dead indeed unto sin but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. We will never be able to quit sinning because we are sinners and that’s what sinners do, but thankfully because of the blood of Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven, and we are now saints no longer under the condemnation of that sin.

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Romans 8:1-4 “¹There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: ⁴That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

God's Peace,
Pastor Dennis Hannu

Summer Schedule

Starting Sunday, June 1st, 2025, services will begin at 10:30 AM on Sunday mornings for the months of June, July and August.

Hebrews 4:14-16 “¹⁴Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. ¹⁵For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

Sunday School Picnic

The Sunday School Picnic will be held on Sunday, June 22nd, 2025 at the Wolf Lake Waterfront Park following the worship service at the church.

Birth Announcements

Damon & Bethany Howard announce the birth of their 2nd child.

Willis Matthew Howard was born on January 14, 2025 at the Astera Health Hospital in Wadena, MN. Willis weighed 8 pounds 10 ounces and was 21 inches tall.



Willis was welcomed by his parents and brother Clark. His grandparents are Jeremy & Katie Howard of Menahga and Brian & Miranda Seppanen of WA.

Ryan & Chelsea Aho announce the birth of their 8th child.

Teague Hudson Aho was born on April 1, 2025 at Sanford Hospital in Fargo, ND. Teague weighed 7 pounds 12 ounces & was 21.25 inches tall.



Teague is welcomed by his parents and brothers: Ted, Lars, Brekken, Roman, Nikolai and Keaton and sister, Mira. His grandparents are Harvey & Patricia Aho of rural Frazee and Gerald & Martha Pinoniemi of Menahga.

Tyler & Lynn Lindsay announce the birth of their 1st child.

David Tyler Lindsay was born on March 26, 2025 at Sanford Hospital in Fargo, ND. David weighed 4 pounds 11 ounces and was 18 inches tall.



His grandparents are Paul & Esther Impola of rural Sebeka and Natalie Franklin and Gary Lindsay.

Andrew & Laureena Keranen announce the birth of their 9th child.

Bodi Henry Keranen was born on April 11, 2025 at the Essentia-St. Mary's Hospital in Detroit Lakes. Bodi weighed 5 pounds 15 ounces and was 19 inches tall.



Bodi was welcomed by his parents and siblings: Landon, Dane, Madelyn, Elyse, Micah, Reed, Lexi and Alex. His grandparents are Reino & Peggy Aho of Wolf Lake and Arnold Keranen of Wolf Lake.

Engagement Announcements

Arabella Aho and Drew Seppala were engaged to be married on February 17, 2025

Arabella is the daughter of Victor Jr & Stacy Aho of Menahga and is employed by A & W Restaurant and Half Moon Resort.

Drew is the son of Steven and Stephanie Seppala of Rindge, NH is employed by Double S Construction in NH.

A summer 2025 wedding is being planned.

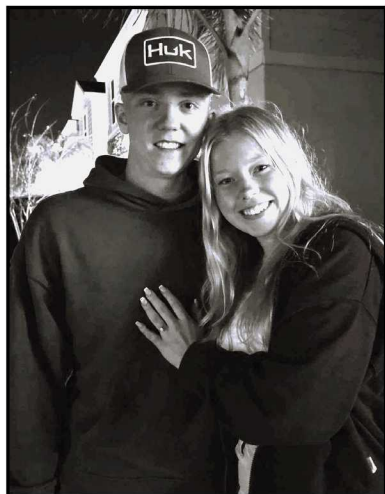


Blaise Anderson and Brooke Seppala were engaged to be married on March 1, 2025.

Blaise is the son on Brock and Ramona Anderson of Menahga.

Brooke is the daughter of Curtis and Angela Seppala of Rindge, NH.

An August 2025 wedding is being planned in New Hampshire.



Victor Aho III and Josephine Furlong were engaged to be married on March 9, 2025.

Vicotr is the son of Victor Jr. & Stacy Aho and is employed by A-N-A Concrete.

Josephine is the daughter of Joseph & Heather Furlong of Rindge, NH.

A summer 2025 wedding is being planned.



Weddings

Dane Keranen & Shannon Randall were united in marriage on Saturday, March 29, 2025.

The couple is living in Arkansas.



Jonah Howard & Andrea Honga were united in marriage on Saturday, April 5, 2025 at Spruce Grove Church.

The couple is living in rural Menahga.



2025 Graduates



Anjalie Aho
Daughter of
Jason & Amy Aho
Menahga High School



August Aho
Daughter of
Job & Katie Aho
Menahga High School



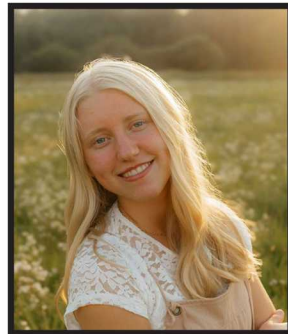
Avery Aho
Daughter of
Jamin & Gina Aho
Menahga High School



Haylee Aho
Daughter of
Neil & Amanda Aho
**Menahga High School
& Minnesota
Community and
Technical College
Liberal Arts Associate**



Isabelle Aho
Daughter of
Rodney & Hannah Aho
Menahga High School



Mackenzie Anderson
Daughter of
Brock & Ramona
Anderson
**Menahga High School
& Anoka-Ramsey
Community College**
Certificate in Integrative
Health & Healing



Madelyn Keranen
Daughter of
Andrew & Laureena
Keranen
Menahga High School

*And whatsoever ye
do, do it heartily, as to
the Lord, and not unto
men; knowing that of the
Lord ye shall receive the
reward of the inheritance:
for ye serve the Lord
Christ.
Colosians
3:23-24*



Natalie Matson
Daughter of
Lyle & Rebecca Matson
Menahga High School



Paul Mosteller
Son of
Eldon & Marie
Mosteller
Sebekka High School



Emmie Siltala
Daughter of
Nate & Stephanie Siltala
**Holdingford High
School**



Vera Simonson
Daughter of
Kent Simonson
Menahga High School

Baptism



Blake Daniel Ingvalson, son of Andrew & Jolie Ingvalson of rural Frazee, was baptized on Sunday, March 23, 2025 at the Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church by Pastor Dennis Hannu. His sponsors are Tim & Sarah Aho of rural Frazee. His grandparents are Lee & Bonnie Ingvalson of rural Frazee and Reino & Peggy Aho of rural Frazee.

Milestones

~ ~ Missed Milestones ~ ~

Jeannette Jurva	~ 84th Birthday	- 3/20
David Yliniemi	~ 82nd Birthday	- 4/18
Gina Aho	~ 40th Birthday	- 4/24
Clay Aho	~ 20th Birthday	- 4/27

~ ~ Milestones ~ ~

Marvin Jurva	~ 91st Birthday	- 5/4
DarLayne Yliniemi	~ 80th Birthday	- 5/5
David & Loretta Olson	~ 25th Anniversary	- 5/6
Diane Niemi	~ 85th Birthday	- 5/9
Darius Aho	~ 10th Birthday	- 5/11
Wilho & Diana Aho	~ 58th Anniversary	- 5/13
Luke & Kaylee Aho	~ 10th Anniversary	- 5/16
Bruce Sannes	~ 85th Birthday	- 5/21
Tanya Crook	~ 50th Birthday	- 5/24
Reino & Peggy Aho	~ 51st Anniversary	- 5/25
Reuben & Ellen Tumberg	~ 57th Anniversary	- 6/8
Wilho Aho	~ 80th Birthday	- 6/15
Pat Aho	~ 77th Birthday	- 6/20
Peggy Aho	~ 70th Birthday	- 6/28

Birth & Adoption

Chet & Dayna Anderson announce the adoption of their fifth child.

Nolan Paul Anderson was born on September 2, 2024 at the Sanford Hospital in Fargo, ND and weighed 5 pounds 10 ounces and was 18.75 inches tall.



Nolan was welcomed into the Anderson home as a foster child on September 5, 2024 by Chet & Dayna, and siblings; Oscar, Selma, Edgar & Ellen.

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

Nolan's adoption was finalized on February 20, 2025 at the Otter Tail County Courthouse.

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



Confirmation Class

Confirmation Classes will be held Monday, June 9th to Friday, June 13th, 2025. Classes will be held at the church from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The Confirmation Service will be held on Sunday, June 15th, 2025 at 10:30 A.M. with dinner following the service.

ALCA Convention

The 2025 Apostolic Lutheran Church of America Convention is being hosted by the Zion Lutheran Church and will be held Thursday, June 26th to Sunday, June 29th, 2025. The services will all be held at the Zion Lutheran Church.

MAY - JUNE 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5/4 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service & Communion 11:00 AM Guest Speaker: Bob Tumberg Organist: Carrie & Sarah Sound: Neil Dinner Following Service: Group D	5/5	5/6	5/7	5/8	5/9 Worship Service 7:30 PM Guest Speaker: Nick Kandoll Organist: Patricia Sound: Tyrone Coffee Grp # 4	5/10
5/11 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Guest Speaker: Gerry Southerton Organist: Sarah Sound: Nate	5/12 7:30 Board Meeting	5/13	5/14	5/15	5/16	5/17 Youth Group 8:00 P.M.
5/18 Last Day of Sunday School Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Deborah Sound: Raul	5/19	5/20	5/21	5/22	5/23 Graduation in Menahga & Sebeka	5/24
5/25 Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Carrie Sound: Tyrone	5/26	5/27 GPA Service 2:00 PM	5/28	5/29	5/30 Song Service 7:30 PM Organist: Sarah Coffee Grp # 5	5/31 Youth Group 8:00 P.M.
6/1 Woship Service & Holy Communion 10:30 AM Organists: Patricia & Deborah Sound: Neil	6/2	6/3	6/4	6/5	6/6	6/7 Youth Group 8:00 P.M.
6/8 Worship Service 10:30 AM Organist: Carrie Sound: Raul	6/9 7:30 Board Meeting	6/10	6/11	6/12	6/13 Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Sarah Sound: Nate Coffee Grp # 6	6/14
Confirmation Classes 9 to 3 Daily 6/9 to 6/13						
6/15 Confirmation Sunday Worship Service & Holy Communion 10:30 AM Organists: Sarah & Carrie Sound: Tyrone Dinner Following Service Grp A	6/16	6/17	6/18	6/19	6/20	6/21 Youth Group 8:00 P.M.
6/22 Worship Service 10:30 AM Organist: Deborah Sound: Rodney Sunday School Picnic at Wolf Lake Waterfront	6/23	6/24 GPA Service 2:00 PM	6/25	6/26	6/27 Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Patricia Sound: Raul Coffee Grp # 7	6/28
ALC Convention 6/26 to 6/29						
6/29 Worship Service 10:30 AM Organist: Sarah Sound: Nate	6/30	7/1	7/2	7/3	7/4 Independence Day	7/5 Youth Group 8:00 P.M.

Grandchild Announcements

Nola Aho announces the birth of a granddaughter. Maisyn Shae Aho was born on December 2, 2024 to her son Rylan and his wife Lindsay of Menahga, MN.

Victor Sr. & Lola announce the births of 2 grandchildren.

Benjamin Harold West was born on December 17, 2024 to their daughter Erica and her husband Bruce of SD.

Celia Marie Leukuma was born on April 13, 2025 to their daughter Tamar and her husband Kent of ND.

Jared & Jolene Aho announce the birth of a grandson. Peyton Joshua Somero was born on March 26, 2025 to their daughter Kameron and her husband Greyson of NC.

Paul & Esther Impola announce the birth of a grandson. Edmund Arthur Rhoades was born on March 18, 2025 to their daughter Betsty and her husband Richard of SD.

Remember in Prayer

- 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
- Martha Aho
- Sirkka Seppala
- Our Church, our Pastor and Church leaders.
- National Leaders
- Our Widows
- Our Missionaries
- Our Children & Youth
- Our Military
- Our Elderly



Funeral



Ida Aileen (Niemela) Maninga, age 82, of Menahga, MN, passed away on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at Green Pines Nursing Home in Menahga, MN. A memorial service was held on Thursday, February 6, 2025, at Spruce Grove Lutheran Church in Wolf Lake, MN, with a visitation at 10:00 a.m..

Ida was born on May 2, 1942, to Onni and Sally (Kuismi) Niemela in Runeberg Township, MN. She grew up in the Wolf Lake area and graduated from Menahga High School in 1960. She was united in marriage to Emil Maninga on February 4, 1961, and the couple were blessed with three children: Boyd, Peter, and Jane. When Emil was drafted into the United States Army in 1961, they were stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington, and in Nancy, France, later returning to the Ely area, where they resided for ten years. In the early 1970's, they made their home in Menahga. There, Ida worked on the family dairy farm and at RDO for over twenty years until they sold the cattle. She retired from RDO in the late 1990's.

Ida enjoyed both vegetable and flower gardening. She like bird watching and feeding her birds. She and Emil enjoyed traveling the United States together, especially to Yuma, AZ, and California and Hawaii. She also loved fishing and, most of all, cherished spending time with her grandchildren and family.

She will be remembered for her sweet and easy-going nature, her generosity, and her contagious laugh.

She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Emil; two sons, Boyd Maninga (Diane) of St Cloud, MN; and Peter Maninga of Menahga, MN; a daughter, Jane (Kevin) Urvig of Menahga, MN; a sister, Julia Wehmas of Menahga, MN; a brother, Leslie Niemela of Menahga, MN; grandchild: Virginia, Daniel, Peter Jr., Lisa, Trevor, Alex, Zachary, Dylan; four great grandchild, and numerous nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Onni and Sally, a sister, Carol Niemela, and a brother, Billy Niemela.

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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