



Spruce Grove Newsletter

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, Wolf Lake, MN Vol. 30 No. 5 December 2025

Take the Name of Jesus With You

The name that would be given to the Christ child is announced to Joseph in Matthew's gospel record and to Mary in the gospel of Luke. Joseph received the announcement by a heavenly messenger in his dream: Matthew 1:20-21 "But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

Mary received the announcement by a heavenly messenger as well: Luke 1:30-31 "And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS."

The name Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Joshua. Jesus literally means Savior, and as Matthew records, for He Himself will save his people from their sins. The name of Jesus is above every other name for there is no other name under heaven whereby men can be saved (Acts 4:12). It is this name that will bring everyone to their knees in confession that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:9-10). It is this name that strikes fear in the demonic forces and has defeated once and for all Satan himself, that great accuser of the brethren. Luke 10:17-20 "And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all

the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." The name of Jesus is the name that remains with us always and the one we take with us wherever we go. It is this name that identifies us as His own children for we have been joined to Him. It is this name that calms our fears and brings us hope in all of life's circumstances and into this New Year.

It is this message that the song writer Lydia Baxter expresses in her hymn "Take the Name of Jesus With You". She was born on September 8, 1809, in Petersburg, New York. Lydia was a zealous Christian worker despite being bed-ridden for much of her life. Her home was known as a gathering place for preachers, evangelists, and Christian workers, who came to her for inspiration and advice. Her friends used to say that a visit to her sickroom was not so much to give her encouragement and comfort as to receive some buoyancy for their own spirits. Mrs. Baxter was an avid student of the Bible and loved to discuss the significance of scriptural names with her friends. But the name that meant everything to her was the name of Jesus. When questioned about her cheery disposition in spite of her physical difficulties, she would reply, "I have a very special armor. I have the name of Jesus. When the tempter tries to make me blue or despondent, I mention the name of Jesus, and he can't get through to me anymore." "Take the Name of Jesus with you" is said to have been written by Lydia on her sick bed just four years before her death on June 22, 1874, in New York City. (101 More Hymn Stories by Kenneth W. Osbeck)

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Here are the lyrics to the hymn: "Take the name of Jesus with you, child of sorrow and of woe; It will joy and comfort give you, Take it, then, wher-e'er you go. Take the name of Jesus ever, As a shield from every snare; If temptations round you gather, Breathe that holy name in prayer. O the precious name of Jesus! How it thrills our souls with joy, When his loving arms receive us, And his songs our tongues employ! At the name of Jesus bowing, Falling prostrate at His feet, King of kings in heaven we'll crown Him, When our journey is complete." 'Precious name, O how sweet! Hope of earth and joy of heaven; Precious name, O how sweet! Hope of earth and joy of heaven.'"

Loved ones, as we begin this New Year 2026 A.D. also known as the year of our Lord let us take the name of Jesus with us wherever we go. Let us speak His name into the lives of the people we encounter at home, at work, at school, etc, by the things we say and do. God bless you this year and always with that amazing testimony of the name above every name: the name of Jesus, our Savior, our Redeemer, our Lord, and our God.

God's Peace, Pastor Dennis Hannu

Advent & Christmas Services

Advent Services were held at the church Wednesdays, December 3rd, 10th and will continue on the 17th at 7:30.

Our Christmas Service will be on Thursday, December 25th at 10:30 AM.

Birth Announcements

Rodney and Hannah Aho announce the birth of their 10th child.

Brielle Mona Aho was born on October 23, 2025. Brielle weighed 8 pounds 14 ounces & was 20 inches tall.

Brielle is welcomed by her parents and siblings: Isabelle, Olivia, Claudia, Holly, Elliot, Rochelle, Mikayla, Tyler (2021) and Kaelyn. Her grandparents are Deborah Aho of rural Frazee and Warren & Pirjoliisa Ketola of NH.



Brandon & Lynnette Hanson announce the birth of their 1st child.

Celia Sharon Hanson was born on November 14, 2025 in Fergus Falls. Celia weighed 8 pounds 6 ounces & was 21.5 inches tall.

Celia's grandparents are Marsha Hanson of Ponsford, MN and Bruce & Sharon Estola of MI.



Grandchild Announcements

Dennis & Miriam Hannu announce the birth of a granddaughter. Charlotte Ruth Hannu was born on October 4, 2025 to their son Allen & his wife Annessa of SC.

Nola Aho announces the birth of a granddaughter. Harlow Noelle Seppanen was born on October 20, 2025 to her daughter Karen and her husband Brent of SD.

Raymond & Janet Aho announce the births of 2 grandchildren.

Eden Grace Aho was born on October 20, 2025 to their son Jonathan & his wife Lindsay of NH.

Hollis Theodore Aho was born on December 6, 2025 to their son Chester and his wife Ashley of NH.

Paul & Esther Impola announce the birth of a granddaughter. Anna Esther Impola was born on October 31, 2025 to their son Naaman and his wife Lila of MI.

Baptisms



Bodi Henry Keranen, son of Andrew & Laureena Keranen of rural Menahga, was baptized on Sunday, October 19, 2025, by Pastor Dennis Hannu. His sponsors are Dane & Shannon Keranen of MN and Madelyn Keranen of rural Menahga. His grandparents are Reino & Peggy Aho of rural Frazee and Arnold Keranen of rural Menahga.

Ronan Cole Rux, son of Logan & Riana Rux of rural Menahga, was baptized on Sunday, November 16, 2025, at the Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church by Pastor Dennis Hannu. His sponsors are Nathan DiPasqua of Fargo, ND, Riley Aho of Hawley, MN, and Sabrina Rux of rural Frazee. His grandparents are Job & Katie Aho of rural Frazee and Mike & Sandi Rux of rural Frazee. His great-grandparents are Dale Rux, Roy & Rita Slupe, Janet & Raymond Aho, and Marilyn Nevala.



Brielle Mona Aho, daughter of Rodney & Hannah Aho of rural Menahga, was baptized on Sunday, November 16, 2025, at the Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church by Pastor Dennis Hannu. Her sponsors are Derek & Layla Borth of rural Menahga, Rosten & Tori Aho of rural Frazee, and Victor Jr. & Stacy Aho of rural Menahga. Her grandparents are Warren & Pirjoliisa Ketola of Rindge, NH and Deborah Aho of rural Frazee.



Ames Reino Olson, son of Joseph & Stacie Olson of rural Menahga, was baptized on November 23, 2025, at the Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church by Pastor Dennis Hannu. His sponsors are Madelyn Keranen of rural Menahga and Tyler & Lynn Lindsay of Audubon. His grandparents are Reino & Peggy Aho of rural Frazee and Allen & Brenda Olson of rural Menahga. His great-grandparent is Gloria Beck of rural Menahga.



Kinsley Ann Meech, daughter of Neil & Moriah Meech of Nimrod, was baptized on November 23, 2025, at the Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church by Pastor Dennis Hannu. Her sponsors are Brandt & Grace Malone of Nimrod and Adrian & Tamra Aho of rural Frazee. Her grandparents are Reino & Peggy Aho of rural Frazee and Todd & Patty Meech of Nimrod. Her great-grandparents are Susan Knoll of Park Rapids, Robert Meech of Nimrod, and Douglas & MaryAnn Haverinen of rural Sebeka.

Wedding

Riley Aho and Nathan DiPasqua were married on November 30, 2025.

Riley is the daughter of Job & Katie Aho and Nathan is the son of Tim & Aida Byrne of New York. The couple is living in Hawley, MN.



Engagement Announcement



Jacob Aho & Lydia Parks were engaged on November 7, 2025.

Jacob is the son of Tim & Sarah Aho and is a dairy farmer. Lydia is the daughter of Dave & Joan Parks of Corcoran, MN.

A spring 2026 wedding is being planned.

SPRUCE GROVE NEW YEARS YOUTH WEEKEND

Walking with Jesus
Micah 6:8

The Spruce Grove Church Youth are hosting a Youth Weekend to celebrate the coming New Year!

Sunday,
December 28, 2025
to
Wednesday,
December 31, 2025

Speaker: Jesse Aho

Youth age 14 and older are invited to join us.

Sunday School Teachers 2025-2026

Preschool: Sarah Aho & Alethea Karlsen

Kindergarten: Stephanie Siltala

1st Grade: Haylee Aho & Addison Aho

2nd Grade: Luke Aho & Olivia Aho

3rd Grade: Tyrone Aho & Tamra Aho

4th Grade: Nathaniel Aho

5th Grade: Raul Aho

6th Grade: Loren Impola

7th Grade: Neil Aho

8th Grade: Justin Impola

9th Grade: Pastor Dennis Hannu

DECEMBER 2025 - JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12/14 Sunday School 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM 11:00 AM Organist: Patricia Sound: Cody Dinner Following the Program	12/15	12/16	12/17 Advent Service 7:30 P.M Organist: Carrie Sound: Neil Coffee Grp # 2	12/18	12/19	12/20
12/21 Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Megan Sound: Raul	12/22	12/23	12/24	12/25 CHRISTMAS DAY Service - 10:30 AM Organist: Deborah Sound: Tyrone	12/26	12/27
12/28	12/29	12/30	12/31	1/1	1/2	1/3
Youth Weekend 12/28 to 12/31						
Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Megan Sound: Nate Guest Speaker: Jesse Aho Dinner Following Service - Grp B		GPA Service 2:00 PM				
1/4 Worship Srvc & Communion - 11:00 AM Organists: Patricia & Ramona Sound: Neil	1/5	1/6	1/7 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	1/8	1/9 Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Megan Sound: Nate Coffee Grp # 3	1/10
1/11 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service - 11:00 AM Organist: Deborah Sound: Tyrone	1/12 7:30 Board Meeting	1/13	1/14 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	1/15	1/16	1/17
1/18 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service - 11:00 AM Organist: Sarah Sound: Cody	1/19	1/20	1/21 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	1/22	1/23 Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Alyzah Sound: Neil Coffee Grp # 4	1/24
1/25 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service - 11:00 AM Organist: Patricia Sound: Raul	1/26	1/27 GPA Service 2:00 PM	1/28 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	1/29	1/30 Song Service 7:30 PM Organist: Deborah Coffee Grp # 5	1/31
2/1 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service & Holy Communion 11:00 AM Organists: Megan & Sarah Sound: Nate	2/2	2/3	2/4 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	2/5	2/6	2/7

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project



Miriam Yliniemi made numerous shopping trips for bargains all yr. The items were brought to the church. School items were put in pencil pouches. Labels and packaging removed. Boxes assembled/Alvin Aho, youth Leader, assisting. Nate Aho family stacked boxes



Nola Aho was a super item Packer. Items at left are items Packed for a 14 year old Boy box

The Boxes are delivered to 173 countries as a mission effort. Over 11 Million were sent Nationally, each included a children's story of Jesus and a New Testament/in their language. A child gets only one box in a lifetime. They were delivered to Detroit Lakes by Haley Aho, Madelyn Keranen and Vera Simonson, Miriam Yliniemi and IsakYliniemi. From there to Fargo and then to NC, from there to the various destinations.



Christmas Carolers
Youth Group Christmas Carolers were enjoyed on Sunday December 7, when several groups of Youth traveled to many homes to sing and deliver a Christmas treat.
Thank You!
You are appreciated.

200

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

Thank You to all helpers and people who donated shipping money!

Remember in Prayer

- Family of Martha Aho
- Family of Sirkka Seppala
- Family of Ida Maninga
- Family of Joshua Aho
- 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



Pastor Appreciation

We held our Pastor Appreciation Dinner on Sunday, October 19th.

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



Milestones

Jason Aho ~ 50th Birthday	-12/1
Janet Aho ~ 76th Birthday	-12/4
Raymond & Janet Aho	
~ 51st Anniversary	- 12/7
Jamin & Gina Aho	
~ 20th Anniversary	- 12/10
Beck Olson ~ 10th Birthday	- 12/18
Chael Nevala ~ 10th Birthday	- 12/26
Jared & Jolene Aho	
~ 25th Anniversary	- 12/30
Melory Aho ~ 10th Birthday	- 12/31

Raul Aho ~ 30th Birthday	- 1/2
Jasmine Christiansen ~ 40th Birthday	- 1/4
Karen Samuelson ~ 83rd Birthday	- 1/6
Jack Aho ~ 10th Birthday	- 1/8
Victor Jr. & Stacy Aho	
~ 25th Anniversary	- 1/13
Deborah Aho ~ 70th Birthday	- 1/19
Calvin & Kaitlyn Impola	
~ 10th Anniversary	- 1/20
Hazel Yliniemi ~ 85th Birthday	- 1/21
Mason Yliniemi ~ 10th Birthday	- 1/30

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 KKKIN 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.

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church
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