



Spruce Grove Newsletter

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, Wolf Lake, MN Vol. 31 No. 1 February - March 2026

The Tempter Defeated

¹ Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. ² And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. ³ And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. ⁴ But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. ⁵ Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. ⁷ Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. ⁸ Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; ⁹ And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. ¹⁰ Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. ¹¹ Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him. Matthew 4:1-11

Whenever I read of the temptation of Jesus by the devil I am reminded of the great victory that was accomplished by Jesus in defeating the devil in this epic battle. I am also reminded of my great inability to go against such a worthy foe as the great dragon, the old serpent called the Devil, and Satan (see Revelation 12:9). It is for this reason that Jesus is lead into the wilderness to face off with the enemy of our soul. The devil had won a great victory over mankind in the Garden of Eden when

at his persuasion man fell into sin. When the first Adam fell into sin, he plunged the entire human race into his predicament. All who were born into this world after that were born into sin. Romans 5:12-14 “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: ¹³ (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam’s transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.” The first Adam had faced off with the devil and had lost, and the consequences of that loss are still felt today in a world that is filled with pain, sorrow, sickness, and death. Into this fallen world comes the Second Adam or the Last Adam and He also faces off with the devil, but the outcome is vastly different. Where the first Adam fails the Second Adam does not, Jesus faces the temptations of the devil and defeats him by the Word of God saying three different times: “It is written”. The first Adam acted independently of God, but the Last Adam does not as He defeats Satan decisively by overcoming all his temptations acting in concert with the will of the Father. The results of this victory are astounding because what we had lost in the Fall has now been given back to us. Romans 5:17-19 “For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. ¹⁹ For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.” It was necessary that

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Jesus go through the temptation in the wilderness in order that He would right the wrongs of the first Adam. Jesus as the Second or Last Adam defeats the devil for us, reversing the Fall and bringing restoration to the fallen race of Adam. We now live in the victory of Last Adam who overcame the devil in the wilderness and then defeated him soundly in His death and resurrection. God be praised for His marvelous grace and the free gift that brings to us life and not just any old life, Eternal Life!

God's Peace,

Pastor Dennis Hannu

Special Services

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church will be holding Special Services from Friday, February 27th through Sunday, March 1st, 2026. Dale Niskanen and Nathan Juntunen 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.

Everyone is invited to attend.

Lent & Easter Services

Lent Services will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18th at 7:30 PM. The services will continue on Wednesdays throughout February and March.

The Maundy Thursday Service is April 2nd, Good Friday Service is April 3rd and Easter is April 5th.

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.

Baptisms



Kenna Joy Aho, daughter of Tristan & Isabella Aho of rural Frazee, was baptized on December 14, 2025 at the Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church by Pastor Dennis Hannu. Her sponsors are Grayson & Kameron Somero of NC, Gavin Motuzas of rural Frazee, and Avery Aho of rural Frazee. Her grandparents are Jared & Jolene Aho of rural Frazee and Matthew & Kate Somero of NH. Her great-grandparents are James & Pauline Somero of MA, Patricia Lambert of NH, Deborah Aho of rural Frazee, and Marilyn Nevala of rural Frazee.



Lena Katharine Simonson, daughter of Reid & Samantha Simonson of Menahga, was baptized on Sunday, January 4, 2026 at the Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church by Pastor Dennis Hannu. Her sponsors are Jonah Simonson of Wolf Lake and Cassia Heim of Longview, WA. Her grandparents are Kent Simonson of Wolf Lake and Michael & Amy Heim of Longview, WA.

Guest Speakers

~ Cody Lake will be our guest speaker for the Wednesday, March 4th Lent Service.

~ Gerry Southerton will be our guest speaker on Sunday, March 8th.

~ Joel Baker will be our guest speaker on Sunday, March 29th. Dinner will be served following the service.

Grandchild Announcements

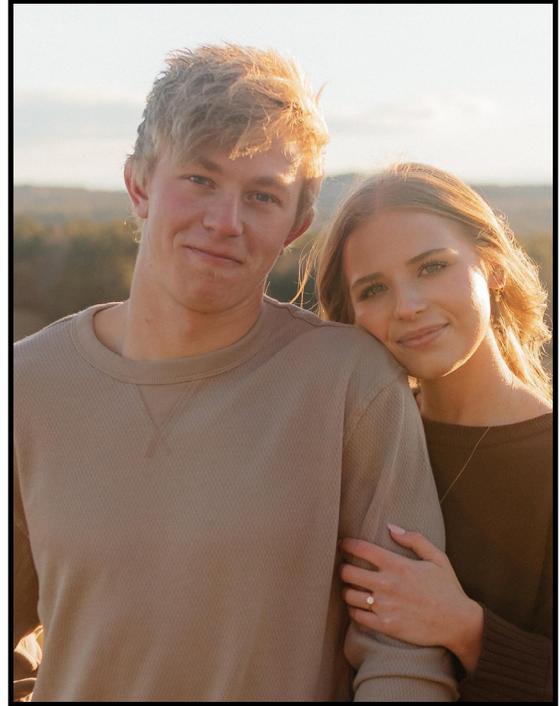
Paul & Esther Impola announce the birth of a granddaughter. Elsie Marie Mattila was born on December 13, 2025 to their daughter Lois & her husband Jerome of WA.

Harry & Lori Aho announce the birth of a granddaughter. Lettie Olga Reiter was born to their daughter Lenae and her husband Justin of Detroit Lakes on December 12th, 2025.

Milestones

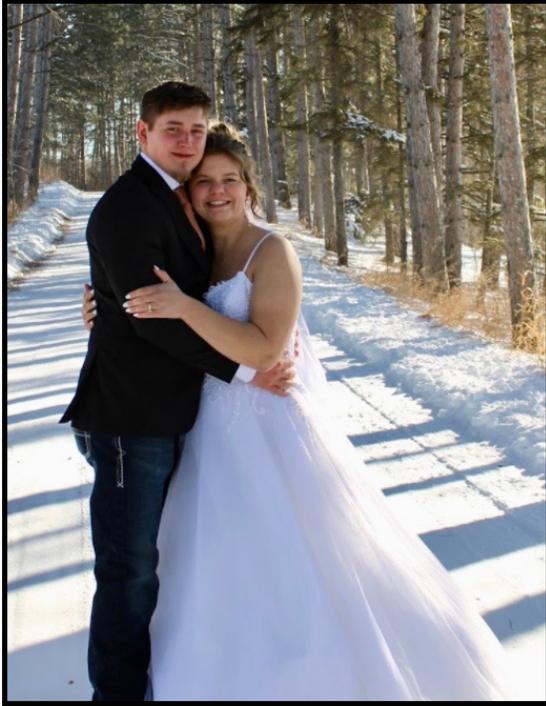
Diana Aho	~ 78 th Birthday	- 2/4
Lars Aho	~ 10 th Birthday	- 2/6
Joel Olson	~ 10 th Birthday	- 2/7
Eleanor Yliniemi	~ 85 th Birthday	- 2/9
Neil & Amanda Aho	~ 20 th Anniversary	- 2/11
Irene Koskela	~ 85 th Birthday	- 2/16
Miriam Yliniemi	~ 88 th Birthday	- 2/19
Gail Aho	~ 10 th Birthday	- 3/11
Jeanette Jurva	~ 85 th Birthday	- 3/20
Royal Howard	~ 10 th Birthday	- 3/27

Wedding Invitation



Together
Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Siltala and
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Muhonen invite you to the
wedding of
Nicole Stephanie
and
Landen Scott
March 14th, 2026 at 3:00 PM
at Spruce Grove Church
Reception & Dinner to follow ceremony

Wedding



Landon Keranen and Hannah Salmen were married on December 13th, 2025.
The couple is living in rural Wolf Lake, MN.

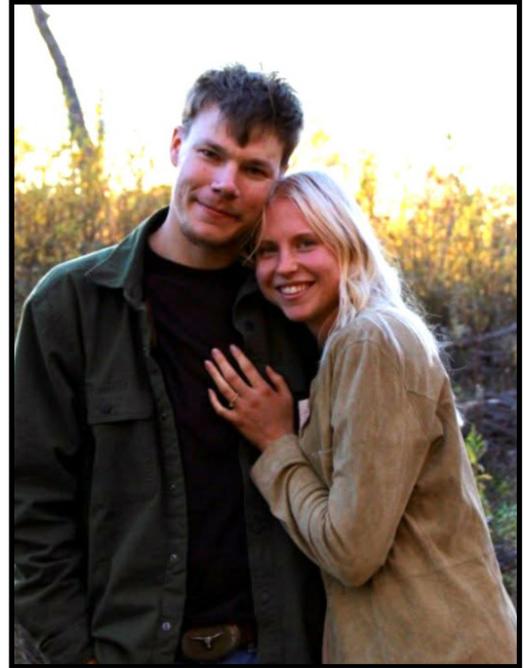
Engagement Announcement

Marcail Sauvola & Carter Kumpula were engaged to be married on September 28, 2025.

Marcail is the daughter of Tanya Crook of rural Menahga and Nathan Sauvola of SC. Marcail is employed as a Home Health Aide.

Carter is the son of Craig and Dinah Kumpula of Buffalo, MN and he is a painter.

They are planning a Spring wedding.



Remember in Prayer

- Jenna Mattila
- Family of Martha 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



FEBRUARY - MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
2/8 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Ramona Sound: Tyrone	2/9 7:00 Board Meeting	2/10	2/11 Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	2/12	2/13 Worship Srvc 7:30 PM Organist: Alyzah Sound: Cody Coffee Grp # 6	2/14	
2/15 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Deborah Sound: Neil	2/16	2/17	2/18 Ash Weds 7:30 PM Organist: Sarah Sound: Raul Coffee Grp # 7	2/19	2/20	2/21 Youth Grp 8:00 PM	
2/22 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Patricia Sound: Tyrone	2/23	2/24 Green Pine Acres Nursing Home Service 2:00 PM	2/25 Lent Service 7:30 PM Organist: Cody Sound: Raul Coffee Grp # 8	2/26! Special Services 2/27 to 3/1 Guest Speakers: Dale Niskanen & Nathan		Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Megan Sound: Neil Coffee Grp # 9	Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Sarah Sound: Cody Coffee Grp # 1
3/1 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service & Holy Communion 11:00 AM Organists: Deborah & Patricia Sound: Nate Dinner Following Service: Group C	3/2 Worship Service 1:45 PM Organist Megan Sound: Raul Coffe Grp # 10	3/3	3/4 Lent Service 7:30 PM Organist: Sarah Sound: Neil Coffee Grp # 2	3/5	3/6	3/7 Youth Grp 8:00 PM	
3/8 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Guest Speaker: Gerry Southerton Organist: Ramona Sound: Tyrone	3/9 7:00 Board Meeting	3/10	3/11 Lent Service 7:30 PM Organist: Cody Sound: Raul Coffee Grp # 3	3/12	3/13	3/14 Siltala-Muhonen Wedding 3:00 PM	
3/15 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Patricia Sound: Neil	3/16	3/17	3/18 Lent Srvc 7:30 PM Organist: Alyzah Sound: Tyrone Coffee Grp # 4	3/19	3/20	3/21 Youth Grp 8:00 PM	
3/22 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Megan Sound: Nate Elders Dinner Following Service	3/23	3/24 Green Pine Acres Nursing Home Service 2:00 PM	3/25 Lent Service 7:30 PM Organist: Ramona Sound: Cody Coffee Grp # 5	3/26	3/27	3/28	
3/29 Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Guest Speaker: Joel Baker Organist: Sarah Sound: Tyrone Dinner Following Service: Group D	3/30	3/31	4/1	4/2 Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 PM Org: Sarah & Megan Sound: Raul Coffee Grp # 6	4/3 Good Friday Service 7:30 PM Organist: Deborah Sound: Neil Coffee Grp # 7	4/4 Youth Group 8:00 PM	
4/5 EASTER SUNDAY Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service & Holy Communion 11:00 AM Organist: Patricia & Ramona Sound: Cody Dinner Following Service: Group A	4/6	4/7	4/8	4/9	4/10 Worship Srvc 7:30 PM Organist: Alyzah Sound: Nate Coffee Grp # 8	4/11	

From October 16th-19th, the Spruce Grove Youth Group and a group of chaperones made a trip to the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter in Kentucky. They met up with the Ironwood ALC congregation in WI and rode down together on their charter bus. In total, 56 people from both congregations made the trip down. It was a blessed trip for all who were able to travel down! A huge thanks to those that donated time and finances to make this happen!



The Spruce Grove Youth Group invites all the Elders to attend the **Elders Dinner on Sunday, March 22nd** following the Sunday morning worship service.



From December 28th to 31st, 2025 we held our annual New Years Youth weekend. We had over 80 youth register and attend. Pastor Jesse Aho from Michigan led us with the theme “Walking with Jesus”. The weekend was a success. We would like to express our gratitude to anyone who helped make it happen! Thank you to all those who willingly blessed us with their time, meals, chaperoning or working sound!

May God bless you for all your support! ~ New Years Youth Weekend Committee

Spruce Grove Youth Group



The Sunday School Program was held Sunday Morning, December 14th. Over 130 students participated as well as their teachers & Sunday School Superintendent.



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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Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church
15275 Co. Hwy 45
Menahga, MN 56464