



## Spruce Grove Newsletter

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, Wolf Lake, MN Vol. 31 No. 2 April - May 2026

### Ascension and Graduation

Graduation is a time of transition for students as they leave the familiar pattern of high school and begin a new chapter in their lives. Many graduates will leave home and begin their lives of independence from dad and mom. This will be a time of excitement and a time of trepidation as well. It is a time when the graduate is faced with new responsibilities. This new chapter in life brings with it new challenges as the graduate begins college or a career. It is a time of transition that hopefully will bring success and happiness.

The ascension of our Lord was also a time of transition for the disciples of Jesus. For three and half years they had walked with Him and now He was about to leave them. They had been as it were in school. They had walked with their master and Lord. He taught them the ways of the kingdom of God and instructed them in the ways of righteousness. But now Jesus was going to leave them, He was ascending to His Father and their Father.

The Gospel of Luke records the events leading up to the ascension and the actual ascension. It is recorded in Luke 24:44-53 “And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. And he led

them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.”

The transition for the disciples would have been hard if not for the power from on high with which they would be empowered with, namely the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised His disciples that even though He would leave them physically, He would still be with them. John 16:7 “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.” The Holy Spirit would lead them all in truth and give them the strength to withstand opposition and to spread the gospel message as Jesus had taught them. On the day of Pentecost the disciples were indeed empowered from on high and went out and proclaimed the message of the risen Lord to their countrymen and many believed their message and came to a saving knowledge of Jesus the Christ. The transition in the disciple’s lives was important, for it is because of them and their work by the power of the Holy Spirit that the message of the gospel reached into our lives and we have been changed, transitioned from death unto life, because of their witness unto us through the word of God. The Bible that we read and study brings to us the witness of this transitional period in the disciple’s lives. It is because of this that we also praise and bless God (speak well of Him) v.53. Their testimony and lives testify of God’s goodness and grace.

When a student graduates from high school they face change in their life, a time of transition.

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It is comforting to know for the graduates that as believers in Christ the promises of the Bible apply to them. Their life will change but God will never leave them. He has promised to be with us throughout our lives. Whether we are in high school, college, or working; He promises to be with us always even unto the end of the world. I would encourage you dear graduates to read your Bibles daily, read of the promises that are there for you as face this transition in your life.

This transition is an exciting time in your life. A time of change not only for you, but for your family and friends as well. And even if this means you have to move away from your family and friends, yet God is with you. God Bless you graduates and may your future be filled with success and joy. Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in everything, and stay away from evil. 1Thessalonians 5:23-24 "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."

God's Peace, Pastor Dennis Hannu

### Summer Schedule

Starting Sunday, June 7th, 2026 worship services will begin at 10:30 AM on Sunday mornings for the months of June, July and August.

### Sunday School Picnic

The Sunday School Picnic will be held on Sunday, June 7th, 2026 at the Wolf Lake Waterfront Park following the worship service at the church. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### Guest Speaker

~ Tyler Johnson will be our guest speaker for or Friday, May 8th and Sunday, May 10th worship services.

### Birth Announcements

Nathaniel & Carrie Aho announce the birth of their 6th child.

Carissa Ruth Aho was born on February 10, 2026 at the Detroit Lakes Hospital. Carissa weighed 8 pounds 8 ounces & was 20.5 inches tall.



Carissa is welcomed by her parents, brothers; Samuel, Stephen, George, Dawson and sister Reyna. Carissa's grandparents are Deborah Aho of rural Wolf Lake, MN and Craig & Lisa Sunnarborg of Battle Ground, WA.

Jonah & Andrea Howard announce the birth of their 1st child.

Leya Lucille Howard was born on February 10, 2026. Leya weighed 8 pounds 13 ounces & was 22 inches tall.

Leya's grandparents are Jeremy & Katie Howard of rural Menahga and Markus & MaryAnn Honga of Menahga.



Darren & Sonya Keranen announce the birth of their 6th child.

Essi Irene Keranen was born on March 21st, 2026 at Perham Health Hospital. Essi weighed 8 pounds 13 ounces & was 20.75 inches tall.

Essi is welcomed by her parents & siblings: Matix, Charity, Arber, Camille and Merritt.

Essi's grandparents are Arnold Keranen of rural Wolf Lake and Matt Traffic of New Ipswich, NH.



**2026 Graduates**



**Bridget Aho**  
Daughter of  
Charles & Leila Aho  
**Menahga High School**



**Drew Aho**  
Son of  
Jared & Jolene Aho  
**Menahga High School**



**Izaiah Aho**  
Son of  
Victor Jr. & Stacy Aho  
**Menahga High School**



**Joanna Aho**  
Daughter of  
Jamie & Tamara Aho  
**Aspen Academy**



**Maija Aho**  
Daughter of  
Jamin & Gina Aho  
**Menahga High School**



**Olivia Aho**  
Daughter of  
Rodney & Hannah Aho  
**Menahga High School**



**Tyrell Aho**  
Son of  
Keith & Jamie Aho  
**Menahga High School**



**Drew Christiansen**  
Son of  
Joe & Jasmine  
Christiansen  
**Acellus Academy**



**Roman Howard**  
Son of  
Jeremy & Katie Howard  
**Menahga High School**



**Logan Sauvola**  
Son of Nathan Sauvola  
& Tanya Crook  
**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*

## Baptisms



Leya Lucille Howard, daughter of Jonah & Andrea Howard of Menahga, was baptized on Sunday, April 19, 2026, at the Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church by Pastor Dennis Hannu. Her sponsors are Damon & Bethany Howard of Menahga, Rosten & Tori Aho of rural Frazee, and Kaitlyn Honga of Menahga.

Her grandparents are Jeremy & Katie Howard of rural Menahga and Markus & MaryAnn Honga of Menahga. Her great-grandparents are Julius & Terrie Aho of rural Sebeka, Victor & Lola Aho of rural Menahga, Curtis & Sarah Howard of Menahga, Ron & Naomi Honga of Menahga, and Steve & Gloria Videen of Crookston.



Carissa Ruth Aho, daughter of Nathaniel & Carrie Aho of rural Frazee, was baptized on Sunday, April 19, 2026, at the Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church by Pastor Dennis Hannu. Her sponsors are Calvin & Kaitlyn Impola of rural Sebeka and Luke & Kaylee Aho of rural Frazee.

Her grandparents are Deborah Aho of rural Frazee and Craig & Lisa Sunnarborg of Battle Ground, WA. Her great-grandparent is Nancy Sunnarborg of Cloquet, MN.

## Weddings



Jacob Aho & Lydia Parks were married on April 11, 2026 in Plymouth, MN.

The couple is living in rural Frazee, MN.



Nicole Siltala and Landon Muhonen were married on March 14, 2026 at Spruce Grove Church.

The couple is living in New Hampshire.

## Grandchild Announcements

Lyle & Rebecca Matson announce the birth of 2 grandchildren.

Gilbert Benjamin Rhoades was born to their daughter Eve and her husband Ryan of Hermiston, OR on February 10, 2026.

Suede Thea Matson was born to their son Garin and his wife Nyirah of Seguin, TX on March 24, 2026.

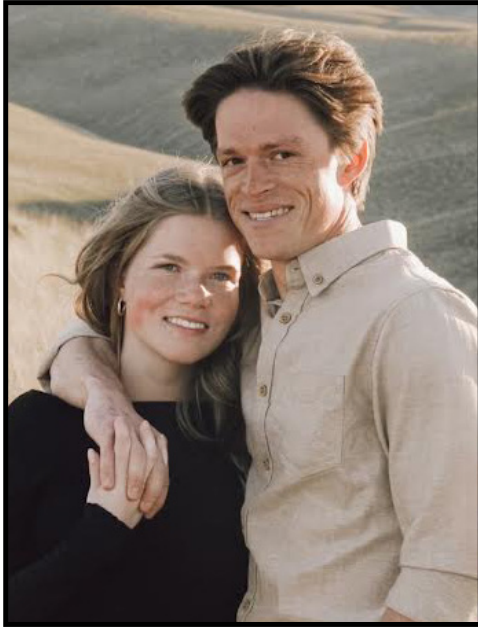
## Engagement Announcements

Tirzah Olson and Laban West were engaged to be married on March 27th, 2026.

Tirzah lives in Inman, SC and is the daughter of David & Loretta Olson of rural Menahga.

Laban is the son of Tim & Amanda West of Prosser, WA.

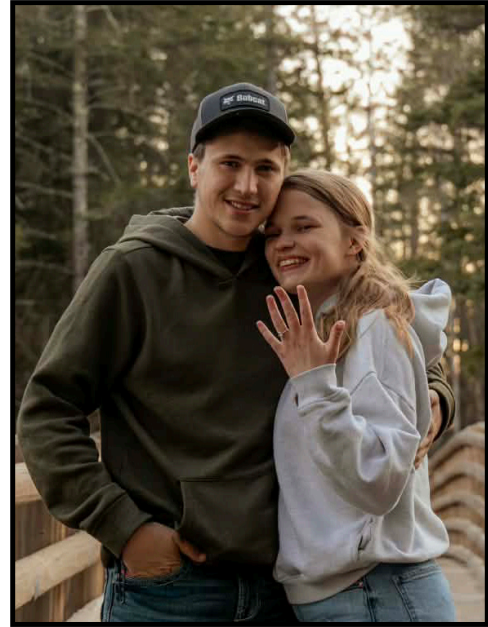
They are planning an August 2026 wedding.



August Aho and Deaken Beavins were engaged to be married on April 21st, 2026.

August is the daughter of Job & Katie Aho of rural Frazee and Deaken is the son of Jeff Beavins of Mahnomen, MN.

They are planning an early fall 2026 wedding.



### Milestones

Megan Aho	~ 40 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	- 4/14
Krisslyn Aho	~ 10 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	- 4/21
David Yliniemi	~ 83 <sup>rd</sup> Birthday	- 4/18
Marvin Jurva	~ 92 <sup>nd</sup> Birthday	- 5/4
Darlayne Yliniemi	~ 81 <sup>st</sup> Birthday	- 5/5
Diane Niemi	~ 86 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	- 5/9
Wilho & Diana Aho		
	~ 59 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	- 5/13
Bruce Sannes	~ 86 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	- 5/21

### 2026 Convention

The 2026 Apostolic Lutheran Church Convention will be hosted by Eastside Apostolic Lutheran Church of Greer, SC. The conventions dates are July 29- August 2nd and will be held at North Greenville University, Tigerville, SC.



## *Come and Dine*

### **Women's Spring Retreat May 15-17**

Presented by: Central Minnesota Christian Women  
and Margaret Feinberg (via video)

**At Camp Emmaus 14248 374th Street, Menahga, Minnesota**

"Taste and See that the Lord is Good" Psalm 34:8

Friday, May 15 @ 4 p.m. supper @ 5. Session 1 @ 6.

Saturday starts with breakfast @ 7:30.

Sessions and many activities will continue all day long!

**Cost: \$80 with 2 nights lodging or  
\$40 without lodging.**

**Please register, by May 1**

by contacting: Linda Levijoki @ 605-880-8834

Miriam Hannu @ 218-639-9068

Remember to bring: Bible, sleeping bag/bedding,  
Towel and personal toiletries (if lodging).  
Snacks are always welcome but not necessary!

## Funeral



Gloria Gwendolyn (Johnson) Juntunen, age 96, of Menahga, MN, passed away peacefully on Sunday, April 12, 2026, at Rose Haven Assisted Living in Menahga.

Gloria was born on November 2, 1929, to Oscar and Maime (Peterson) Johnson in Kingston, Minnesota. She attended country school until the eighth grade went on to earn her GED. Gloria was united in marriage to Reuben Juntunen in 1972. Gloria and Reuben enjoyed the mild weather of Vallejo, California and exploring its many attractions. After Reuben retired, they moved back to Menahga, MN, where they built a house, garage, and of course a sauna. In their elderly years the couple sold their acreage and moved into Woodside Manor. After Reuben's passing, she moved into Rose Haven Assisted Living, where she was comfortable and well cared for.

Gloria was a woman of great faith and was a longtime member of Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church. She volunteered at church school in Vallejo and taught Sunday school for many years at Nimrod Lutheran Church. She loved children and enjoyed taking care of her many nieces, nephews, and friends' children. Gloria liked baking her own bread, cookies, cakes, pies, and cinnamon rolls, as well as many homemade meals. She was an avid gardener and seamstress and taught all her

children to sew. She also liked to read and do puzzles and crossword puzzles. Gloria loved dogs and had many over the years including Tuffy, Sam, Lady, Thatcher, and Maggie.

Gloria is survived by her children, Gwen Boyd, Bonnie (Jeff) Thompson, ViAnn (Merle), and Lauri Hanson; siblings, Glenda Dobson, Marlene Tangen, Jeanette (Marv) Jurva, and Dean Johnson; grandchildren: Tanya Jungclaus, Shane Lenling, Kory Peterson, Vanessa Tullis, Danielle Tullis, Lucas Archer, and Jewel Burhite; great grandchildren: John Every III, Taylor Walters, Marissa Baldwin, Austin Fahey, Emmi Haaby, Mason Peterson, Millie Peterson, Tatiana Gray, DeAijah Tullis, Amiyah Hurt, and Darryne Hurt III; and many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Reuben; her parents, Oscar and Maime; an infant son, Joseph; a son, Merrick Tullis; a son-in-law, Frank Boyd; brothers-in-law, Blaine Dobson, and Arnie Tangen; sister-in-law, Shari Johnson; granddaughters: Shannon Jungclaus, and Lacey Povlitzki; siblings, Lloyd Johnson, Joyce (Tracy) Johnson, Dennis (Cookie) Johnson, Bob (Shirley) Johnson, and Betty (Bob) Cowle.

She will be missed by all those who loved her.

The funeral service was held on April 20, 2026, at the Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church in Wolf Lake. The burial was at Huntersville Cemetery. The Cease Family Funeral Home of Park Rapids assisted with the arrangements.

## Remember in Prayer

- Family of Gloria Juntunen
- Family of Egon Lake
- 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



# APRIL - MAY - JUNE 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>4/26</b> Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Megan Sound: Raul	<b>4/27</b>	<b>4/28</b> Green Pines Acres Nursing Home Service 2:00 PM	<b>4/29</b> Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	<b>4/30</b>	<b>5/1</b>	<b>5/2</b> Youth Group 8:00 PM
<b>5/3</b> Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service & Communion 11:00 AM Organists: Deborah & Alyzah Sound: Tyrone	<b>5/4</b>	<b>5/5</b>	<b>5/6</b> Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	<b>5/7</b>	<b>5/8</b> Worship Srvc 7:30 PM Guest Speaker: Tyler Johnson Organist: Megan Sound: Raul Coffee Grp # 9	<b>5/9</b>
<b>5/10</b> Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Guest Speaker Tyler Johnson Organist: Patricia Sound: Nate	<b>5/11</b> 7:00 Board Meeting	<b>5/12</b>	<b>5/13</b> Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	<b>5/14</b>	<b>5/15</b> Women's Retreat 5/15 to 5/17	<b>5/16</b> Youth Group 8:00 PM
<b>5/17</b> Last Day of Sunday School Sunday School 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Ramona Sound: Cody	<b>5/18</b>	<b>5/19</b>	<b>5/20</b> Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	<b>5/21</b>	<b>5/22</b> Graduation in Menahga & Sebeka	<b>5/23</b>
<b>5/24</b> Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Megan Sound: Neil	<b>5/25</b>	<b>5/26</b> GPA Service 2:00 PM	<b>5/27</b> Family Bible Study 8:00 PM	<b>5/28</b>	<b>5/29</b> Song Service 7:30 PM Organist: Sarah Coffee Grp # 10	<b>5/30</b> Youth Group 8:00 PM
<b>5/31</b> Worship Service 11:00 AM Organist: Sound: Tyrone	<b>6/1</b>	<b>6/2</b>	<b>6/3</b>	<b>6/4</b>	<b>6/5</b>	<b>6/6</b> Youth Group 8:00 PM
<b>6/7</b> Worship Service & Holy Communion 10:30 AM Organists: Sound: Cody Sunday School Picnic at Wolf Lake Waterfront	<b>6/8</b> 7:00 Board Meeting	<b>6/9</b>	<b>6/10</b>	<b>6/11</b>	<b>6/12</b> Worship Service 7:30 PM Organist: Sound: Nate Coffee Grp # 1	<b>6/13</b>
<b>6/14</b> Worship Service 10:30 AM Organist: Sound: Raul	<b>6/15</b>	<b>6/16</b>	<b>6/17</b>	<b>6/18</b>	<b>6/19</b>	<b>6/20</b> Youth Group 8:00 PM
<b>Confirmation Classes 9 to 3 Daily 6/15 to 6/19</b>						
<b>6/21</b> Confirmation Sunday Worship Service 10:30 AM Organists: Sound: Neil Dinner Following Service Group B	<b>6/22</b>	<b>6/23</b> GPA Service 2:00 PM	<b>6/24</b>	<b>6/25</b>	<b>6/26</b> Worship Srvc 7:30 PM Organist: Sound: Tyrone Coffee Grp # 2	<b>6/27</b>
<b>6/28</b> Worship Service 10:30 AM Organist: Sound: Nate	<b>6/29</b>	<b>6/30</b>	<b>7/1</b>	<b>7/2</b>	<b>7/3</b>	<b>7/4</b> Youth Group 8:00 PM
<b>7/5</b> Worship Service & Holy Communion 10:30 AM Organists: Sound: Raul	<b>7/6</b>	<b>7/7</b>	<b>7/8</b>	<b>7/9</b>	<b>7/10</b> Worship Srvc 7:30 PM Organist: Sound: Neil Coffee Grp # 3	<b>7/11</b>

### 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](http://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.

Non-Profit Org.  
Permit # 11  
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