



Spruce Grove Newsletter

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, Wolf Lake, MN Vol. 11 No 1 January-February 2006

“Pressing on toward the prize”

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13-14).”

A new year has begun. The past year is history. However, history is important. History is a record of past events. Historians interpret causes of events and assess their importance. Hopefully understanding the past will help build the future, and perhaps avoid some of the errors of the past. Knowing history can also be a comfort to us in times of difficulty and trials for Solomon tells us that **“there is no new thing under the sun.”**

How does it affect us as children of God? The Word of God is the oldest historical record of mankind. The Bible informs us of God, our creator; His Son Jesus Christ, our redeemer; and the Holy Spirit, our sanctifier. Through these three we know God, His nature, His work, and His working in His people today.

Those that work with cultures that have no written Word of God, experience difficulties that for many of us are difficult to comprehend. When people have no knowledge of Scriptures or even its existence, witnessing presents a real challenge.

Through many centuries God has led His people through difficult times as well as times of ease. The eleventh chapter of Hebrews tells us of the people of faith who gave up everything they had in this life to serve the Lord even if it cost them their life. **“They obtained a good report through faith...”** (Heb.11:39). Throughout history, the church has flourished during the most difficult times.

Many of us may feel troubled and fearful of what lies ahead. As we look ahead in the New Year, we face many uncertainties and challenges.

-We face the ongoing war between nations where many are losing their lives and livelihood

-We face the ongoing war of lives lost through

abortion. Over 47 million babies have been killed since 1973 in the United States.

-We face the ongoing war against the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco that damages the health and destroys the life and minds of thousands of young people and the not so young.

-We face the ongoing war of a new generation rejecting the values and faith of their parents and grandparents. Many live in immorality. A generation brought up with an entertainment mentality who seek for more thrills and things for themselves rather than serving the Lord and others.

-We have experienced more natural disasters the past year than perhaps ever before in our memory.

Much concern and heartache fill the hearts of the believers, with conflict from the world, within the churches and within our own hearts. What is our hope for the future? What will the New Year bring?

It often seems like Satan is victorious but let us never forget that Jesus has overcome the world, death and the devil.

We can be comforted by the words of Apostle Paul in our text who leaves the trials and problems behind, and presses onward for that high prize found in Christ Jesus.

Jesus comforted His disciples by saying, **“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world”** (John 16:33).

Luther says, *“Why should you fear? Why should you be afraid? Do you not know that the prince of this world has been judged? He is no lord, no prince anymore. You have a different, a stronger, Lord, Christ, who has overcome and bound him. Therefore let the prince and god of this world look sour, bare his teeth, make a great noise, threaten, and act in an unmannerly way; he can do no more than a bad dog on a chain, which may bark, run*

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

here and there, and tear at the chain. But because it is tied and you avoid it, it cannot bite you. So the devil acts toward every Christian. Therefore everything depends on this that we do not feel secure but continue in the fear of God and in prayer; then the chained dog cannot harm us... (What Luther Says Vol.1 page 402)

As believers our lives are reflected in the song written by Oskar Ahnfelt,

"I Look Not Back"

*I look not back; God knows the fruitless efforts,
the wasted hours, the sinning, the regrets.*

*I leave them all with Him who blots the record,
An graciously forgives, and then forgets.*

*I look not forward; God sees all the future,
The road that, short or long, will lead me home, And
He will face with me its every trial,
and bear for me the burdens that may come.*

*I look not round me; then would fears assail me,
So wild the tumult of earth's restless seas,
So dark the world, so filled with woe and evil,
So vain the hope of comfort and of ease.*

*I look not inward; that would make me wretched;
For I have naught on which to stay my trust.
Nothing I see save failures and shortcomings,
And weal endeavors, crumbling into dust.*

*But I look up—into the face of Jesus,
For there my heart can rest, my fears are stilled;
And there is joy, and love, and light for darkness,
And perfect peace, and every hope fulfilled.*

Jesus is our security, and heaven is our home. When despair and sin weigh us down, we can hear the voice of Jesus say, "I love you, I died for you. Believe all your sins forgiven in My Name and Blood which I shed for you. I have been victorious over death! Be glad and rejoice!

May we also press toward the mark for the high calling of God in Christ Jesus! Have a Blessed New Year!

Pastor Elmer Yliniemi

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church Wolf Lake, MN 56593---Phone#218-538-6540

Pastor-Elmer Yliniemi	V. Chm.- Harvey Aho
19505 Co. Hwy. 39	Tel.-218-538-6640
Frazee, MN 56544	Sec.-Joshua Aho
Tel-218-538-6615	Tel.-218-538-6719
Chairman-Raymond Aho	Treas.-Jeremy Howard
Tel.-218-538-6735	Tel.-218-564-4483
Sunday School Superintendent -Jason Aho	
Newsletter Editor - Miriam Yliniemi	

Grandpa's Reflections

"The Unborn"

Psalm 139:13-15

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the secret place"



We saw all the people standing on the Capitol Building steps. And on the Court House steps. They were all bundled up against the snowy cold winter temperatures. Some were old folks in warm parkas, parents with their small children bundled up in snow suits, teenagers hardly dressed for winter at all wearing sneakers in the snow, and even a baby or two completely covered by blankets in their strollers with snow crusted wheels.

They all had their heads bowed and were praying.

They were praying for all the little children who would never get to be born. The babies taken from their mothers before they were even given names.

They were praying for all the children that would never be someones friend, would never grow up to be in school, would never play on the playground and laugh with each other.

They were praying for all the mom's and dad's that would never get to tuck the children into bed at night or read them a bedtime story. For all the mom's who would not get to make bread on Saturday's with their child. For the dad's who would not get to show their child how to put a worm on a hook for fishing.

They were praying for all the Grandpas and Grandmas who would not get to give candy to their grandchild. The grandparents who would not get to see the child run to them and give them hug and say, "aaaah hi, I love you, grandpa!"

They were praying for all the ministers, doctors, teachers, carpenters, and farmers that would never be.

Then we saw the other group of people across the street! They were yelling and making fun of the people who were praying.

Grandpa said, "We better hurry and get out of the car. We have to stand with God's people who are on the steps today. All we have to do is stand up for God." They got out of the car and joined the people on the steps.

January 22, 2006: Minnesota March for Life

Love Grandpa

Wedding Invitation

Amanda and Neil

The children that God has entrusted to us have together with the Lord reached a decision to unite their lives as one with Him and to place their love and future in His hands.



We invite you to worship with us and witness their vows on February 11th, 2006

At 11:00 a.m.

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church
Reception to follow ceremony at the Church
Kenny and Pam Holgate
Joshua and Deborah Aho

Engagement

Reuben and Nola Aho announce the engagement of their daughter Krista Sue to Jed Richard Estola, son of Rick and Betty Estola of Ironwood, MI.

Jed is employed as a computer draftsman in Ironwood. A June wedding is being planned.



Milestones

1/19/06 - **Deborah Aho** – 50th Birthday
1/30/06 – **Hazel Yliniemi** – 65th Birthday



2/4/06—**MaryAnn Salmonson** –70th Birthday
2/9/06 – **Eleanor Yliniemi** – 65th Birthday

Funeral

Darlene Schultz, 66, of Frazee, died Friday, December 9, 2005 at MeritCare Hospital in Fargo.



Darlene Mae Raich was born to Jack and Isabelle (Skippingday)Raich on April 4, 1939. She was raised and educated at Cass lake, MN, and married Delbert Schultz March 31, 1960 near Wolf Lake. They have lived on the farm in Toad Lake Township since 1970.

Darlene is survived by her husband, Delbert Schultz of Frazee; four sons, Floyd (Cheryl); of Osage, Michael of Detroit Lakes, Ronald (Vickie) of Frazee and David of Mahanomen; two sisters and one brother; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at 6 p.m. Saturday, December 17 at the David-Donhower Funeral Home in Detroit Lakes, with Rev. Elmer Yliniemi officiating. Interment will be in Balmi Cemetery, Wolf Lake, in the spring.

Guest Speakers Scheduled

Pastor Chuck Bylkas of South Range, MI

Friday evening, January 20 – 8:00 P.M

Sunday Morning, January 22, 11:00 A.M.

Jesse Aho from Hancock MI

Friday evening, January 27–8:00 P.M.

Sunday Morning, January 29, 11:00 A.M.

Invitation to “Young married Couples”

Seven young couples met at the church Tuesday evening, January 10, to plan for the needs of the many young couples in the church. They will begin with a series of Bible Studies on “Keeping your Covenant.” The first lesson will be based on Genesis 2:18-24, entitled “Receiving your Spouse.” *Oneness in marriage requires receiving your spouse as God’s perfect provision for your needs.*

The group will meet every other Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. starting January 17, at the church. All young couples are invited and urged to attend. This will be a great opportunity to study the Word of God and grow together in Christ as well as develop close friendships and support one another as you raise your families. Babysitting will be provided at the church

Radio Broadcast

Echoes of Mercy broadcast – KWAD – Wadena

Sundays 8:05 a.m.- English--- 9:00 a.m.- Finnish

Elmer Yliniemi–Jan. 1st, 15th & 29th ;Feb. 12th & 26th.

Don Salo – Jan. 8th & 22nd ; Feb. 5th & 19th.

Scenes from Jamin Aho and Gina Levijoki Wedding



Mr. And Mrs. Jamin Aho following ceremony



Reino and Peggy Aho (Parents of Jamin) and Thomas Aho (brother of groom and usher) at reception



Jolene Aho and Alethea Impola serving the wedding cake baked by Terrie Aho

A large number of guests from across the country and Canada attended the wedding and reception on Sat. December 10.

Sunday School Christmas Program 2005



Jason Aho, Sunday School Superintendent getting students ready for program. Theme for the program this year was "Jesus, Savior of the World"



The First graders singing the "Bethlehem Lullaby"



Group singing at the end of the program

News and Notes

- ❖ **Harry and Lori Aho** and all their children flew to NH to spend Christmas with her mother and other relatives.
- ❖ **Joshua and Deborah Aho** and several of their family members traveled to NH over vacation to attend the reception for Rodney and Hannah Aho who will be making their home here starting in January.
- ❖ **Many guests** attended services at the church over Christmas vacation who had come to celebrate Christmas with their families from NH, SC, WA, WI, MI, and other areas in MN.
- ❖ A bridal shower was held for **Amanda Holgate** on January 9, at the church.
- ❖ The **youth** gathered at the Church on December 31 to welcome the New Year by singing and sharing. They met at the Reino Aho home on Jan. 11th for Bible Study.
- ❖ Pastor **Elmer and Miriam** attended the meeting for Pastor's and their wives in Superior, WI, January 8-10. They plan to go on vacation to AZ this month.
- ❖ **Marge and Ray Kumma** returned from spending Christmas with their children in Seattle and hosted the first Bible Study of the New Year on January 4.
- ❖ **Mindy and Jared Niemela** and children of NH arrived January 4, to visit her parents, Armas and Pat Aho and other relatives.
- ❖ **Mark Tumberg** has enrolled at the Seminary in hancock and will begin his studies on January 23. May the Lord lead and guide him.
- ❖ **The Reuben Tumberg Family** traveled to WA to meet their new grandchild born to Nora and Alan Bergman in December.
- ❖ **Our sympathies to Marge Kumma and her family** in the loss of her brother to cancer in Minneapolis.
- ❖ **Brock and Ramona and son and Jared Aho** left for WA to work there until spring when they will resume their jobs here . They will be coming here for the wedding of Neil and Amanda.

Church Website

You are invited to check out the church website at:

www.sprucegrovechurch.org

The Newsletter is now available on the web. New pictures are added weekly from events at the church. Sermons from the church as well as from last summer's Convention can be accessed or downloaded.

Remember in Prayer



"...pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a
5:16)

- Pray for wisdom and God's guidance for our leaders and protection for those in the military.
- Pray for those doing mission work in various parts of the world, and for our churches, that the Word of the Lord would go forth.
- Pray for safety for all travelers during the icy conditions we have been experiencing.
- We praise the Lord for the miraculous protection God provided for the 5 boys in the accident that totaled out the car on the icy road on January 7.
- Continue to remember in prayer:

Martha Aho
Anna Alanen
Elnora Matson
Mildred Kangas
Edna Keranen
Dela Nelson

Lila Yliniemi
Violet Yliniemi
Shirley Yliniemi
Esther Hendrickson
Alice Ristinen
Steve Ristinen

Services via Telephone:

The services at the church are available by telephone. It is free to everyone who can dial up any of the following exchanges as local calls:

Menahga-564-2030
Wolf Lake-538-2030
Sebeka- 837-2030
Verndale 445-2030
Nimrod-472-2030



By dialing one of the above numbers just when the service begins you will be prompted to give the pin number. You should then be able to hear the service. If these numbers are long distance numbers, you will have long distance charges. Pin numbers are in bold type as follows for the services in the month of. December (Unfortunately you have to have a different assigned pin number for each service):

January 1, 2006 - Sunday -11:00 A.M.—**01894**
January 8, 2006 - Sunday -11:00 A.M.—**01904**
January 13, 2006 - Friday -8:00 P.M.—**02350**
January 15, 2006 - Sunday—11:00 A.M.—**01930**
January 20, 2006 -Friday—8:00 P.M.—**42447**
January 22, 2006 - Sunday-11:00 A.M.—**01982**
January 27, 2006 - Friday - 8:00 P.M.—**02358**
January 29, 2006 - Sunday 11:00 A.M.—**02028**
February 5, 2006 - Sunday - 11:00 A.M.—**00698**
February 11, 2006 -Wedding -11:00 A.M.—**00744**
February 12, 2006 - Sunday- 11:00 A.M.—**00736**
February 19, 2006 - Sunday- 11:00 A.M.—**00768**
February 24, 2006 - Friday - 8:00 P.M.—**00792**
February 26, 2006 - Sunday- 11:00 A.M.—**00776**

Correspondence

Convention 2006

To the Apostolic Lutheran Congregations,
God's Peace!

The Hockinson Apostolic Lutheran Church would like to welcome you to the 2006 Annual Conventions, which will be held in Vancouver, Washington, July 12th, through July 16th.

Services will begin on Wednesday evening, at 7:00 pm, at the Apostolic Lutheran Church in Hockinson Washington, and will continue at the Skyview High School Thursday, July 13th, through Sunday July 16th

Enclosed with this letter is motel and campground information, along with a map and a listing of some area attractions. Please make your reservations early, as some of the motels are holding discounted rates for us through the end of June. Be sure to state that you are with the Apostolic Lutheran Convention, as we have received rates under that name. Just a reminder to the young: The world is watching, please conduct yourselves in a manner that is a reflection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We will be using the Companion Songbooks at the services. They will be available for purchase during the convention at the registration desk.

Please check our website:
www.hockinsonchurch.com for further updates and information.

Psalm 63: 1-5 *O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. Because thy loving-kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips.*

We look forward to having you join us in July, 2006.

Gregg & Vivian Walikainen
Convention Lodging & Registration Committee
The list of motels, attractions and map will be posted on the church bulletin board.

Thank You! *A number of senior citizens have sent notes or have asked to express their thanks via the Newsletter to the carolers and for the fruit baskets they received.*

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 45
Wolf Lake, MN 56593



This letter is written to express the deep appreciation of the Park Rapids Area Schools and School Board Members for your donation of \$1,000 to the Park Rapids Area Schools.

We are glad that all went smooth this summer when you rented the Century School. We relayed your thanks on to the custodians and cooks that helped during the convention.

The assistance of people like you have enabled this school district to accomplish far more than it otherwise could have. On behalf of the parents and students in Park Rapids Area Schools, I thank you again.

*Sincerely,
Glenn Chiodo
Superintendent*

We wish to thank you for the many cards, pictures and gifts we received for Christmas. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

Wishing you God's blessings in the year 2006!

Pastor Elmer and Miriam



Dear Pastor Yliniemi,

...We will be celebrating the Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on January 22, 2006. We at the Pregnancy Resource Center deeply appreciate your shared concern for the life of the unborn and your help in spreading the message of the Sanctity of Human Life. This year's insert features a pregnancy center client's testimony of finding hope and help at her local pregnancy center. We hope it will touch your heart as well as your congregation and inspire all of us to further open our eyes to the tragedy of abortion and the gift of life given by God....

I also would like to ask you to consider taking a special offering for the Pregnancy Resource Center on this Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. We ask this to help keep our ministry doors open as well as to give you an opportunity to help us with our Building Fund. The Pregnancy Resource Center is currently in the process of looking for a larger space to buy. We are located in a small rented office space that we are growing out of and need you through this special offering to help make it happen. Your help in this effort would be greatly appreciated.

May God bless you and your ministry in the upcoming year.

*In Christ,
Sarah Crook, Executive Director*

Book available on line

A Godly Heritage

*Historical view of the Laestadian Revival and
Development of the Apostolic
Lutheran Church in America*

Book can be ordered from Miriam
Yliniemi, 218-538-6615 or on the
website by credit card. See link on
church website

www.sprucegrovechurch.org

Price is \$10.00. Add postage and
handling charge of \$2.50 when
ordering by mail.



January 22nd MCCL March for Life

On Sunday, January 22, 2006, join thousands of
Minnesotans at the State Capitol in St. Paul at 2 p.m. for
the MCCL March for Life. The March commemorates
the deaths of more than 47 million unborn babies killed
by abortion since the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decisions
legalizing abortion on demand for the entire nine months
of pregnancy.

Your presence will help show elected officials and
the public the depth of support for pro-life legislation
protecting women and unborn babies.

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church
Pastor Elmer H. Yliniemi
19505 County Highway 39
Frazee, MN 56544

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Organist Schedule for January and February

January

Sunday, January 1st—Marge/Sarah
Sunday, January 8th—Deborah
Friday, January 13th—Patricia
Sunday, January 15th—Marge
Friday, January 20th—Marge
Sunday, January 22nd—Sarah
Friday, January 27th—Deborah
Sunday, January 29th—Patricia

February

Sunday, February 5th—Deborah/Sarah
Sunday, February 12th—Marge
Sunday, February 19th—Patricia
Friday, February 24th—Sarah
Sunday, February 26th—Deborah

Cleaning groups

January:

Reino & Peggy
Victor & Stacy

February:

Harvey & Patricia
Jamin and Gina

March:

Raymond and Janet
Job and Katie