



Spruce Grove Newsletter

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, Wolf Lake, MN Vol. 16 No 2 March-April 2011

Worshipping During Lent

We are entering into the season of Lent in the church year. The epiphany of our Lord has been considered and preached on for the last eight Sundays, and now we enter into this season of fasting, prayer, and repentance. This is a time of preparation for Easter.

The season of Lent begins on March 9, 2011 and goes through April 23, 2011, forty days not including Sundays (Sundays are the days of resurrection). Although Lent is not mentioned in the scripture it has a long standing tradition in the church. The forty days are often looked at as symbolic to the forty days that Jesus fasted in the wilderness before He was tempted by the devil. The Lent season was seen as a time of repentance and denial of self. All Christians were to examine self and remember what it cost their Savior to save them. It was also a time of instruction for those who wanted to become members of the Christian Church. During Lent they learned the Christian doctrine by studying the Creed, they were then baptized and served the Lord's Supper on Easter Eve or Easter itself.

At the time of the Reformation, some Christians wanted to eliminate Lent since you could not find it in the scripture. Martin Luther said it should still be observed. He said "Lent, Palm Sunday, and Holy Week shall be retained, not to force anyone to fast, but to preserve the Passion history and the Gospels appointed for that season" (LW 53:90).

This is how I have looked at the season of Lent, not necessarily as a time of denial and fasting, but rather as a time to consider what our Lord has done and what He went through on this earth for us. The things we may decide to deny ourselves on this earth can never compare to what Jesus laid aside when He came to redeem us. Philippians 2:6-8⁶ "*Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:*"⁷ "*But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*"⁸ "*And being found in fashion*

as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross".

The gospel of Matthew 4:1-11 gives the account of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. After He is hungry, having fasted for 40 days, the devil comes and tempts Jesus to make bread from the stones. Jesus tells him in verse 4⁴ "*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*". Satan tried to get Jesus to act independently of God like he was able to with the first Adam, but Jesus who is the Second Adam (1 Corinth. 15:45) would not. He always acted in concert with the Father, He always did His will, He did what we could not and that is He pleased the Father. This is who we worship during Lent, the One who was victorious over the devil. This is what the Lent season and the scriptures that we read during this season are all about. It is about Jesus come in the flesh, reversing the curse, crushing the head of the serpent.

As the temptation plays out this is what we see, Jesus defeating the devil for us. When the devil brings Him unto the pinnacle of the temple and says in verse 6 "*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*". The devil distorts the scripture. He uses it for his own means pulling this verse out of its context. Jesus says in verse 7⁷ "*Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God*". When the devil brings Him into a high mountain and shows Jesus the kingdoms of the world and says in verse 9 "*All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me*". He demonstrates himself to be the liar that he is and Jesus says in verse 10 "*Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve*". The devil leaves Jesus and angels came and served Him. *continued*

You see, the devil never stood a chance. Three times Jesus told him and demonstrates for us, you do not act independently from God.

When Adam fell in the Garden of Eden he acted independently and brought the curse of sin on all mankind. When Jesus came, He did not act independently. He remained faithful and for this we will be eternally thankful. He was faithful unto death and now gives unto us this gift of His faithfulness. He overcame the devil for us and went on to defeat him completely on the cross. He rose again and He lives and reigns and when we are found in Him, we live and reign and are doing quite well.

This is why we set aside this time of Lent in our calendar and gather to worship on Wednesday evenings, because of Jesus and His victorious work for us on this earth. It is okay if we feel compelled to give up something for the Lent season in our devotion to Him, but let us always remember that it is not what we do during this season that makes it holy, it is what He has done.

So as we gather to worship during this season and look forward again to Easter let us celebrate the new life that we have in Jesus. This is why we worship because He is worthy and because He died and rose again. Worshipping during Lent is not about our fasting, prayers, or even our attempts at repentance. It is about the One who fasted, prayed and made repentance possible for us by His gracious work on our behalf. Come let us Praise Him during this season!

Pastor Dennis Hannu



Grandchild Announcements

Reuben and Ellen Tumberg announce the birth of a grandson. Hank Edward was born to Alan and Nora Bergman of Clatskanie, OR. Other grandparents are Ed and Jerrie Lynn Bergman of Clatskanie, OR.

Harvey and Patricia Aho announce the birth of a granddaughter. Harlow Ann was born to Shawn and Heather Muhonen of Nampa, ID. Other grandparents are Michael and Norma Muhonen of Tri-Cities, WA.

Birth Announcement

Tim and Sarah Aho are proud to announce the birth of their son, Carter Reino.

Carter was born on February 5, 2011 at Essentia Health in Detroit Lakes, MN and weighed 8 lbs, 9 oz and measured 21 inches long.

Grandparents are Reino and Peggy Aho of Wolf Lake, MN and Rick and Betty Estola of Ironwood, MI. Great grandmother is Elsie Aho of Wolf Lake.



Benefit Dinner

A benefit dinner was held on February 20, 2011, for Job and Katie Aho and family. Job shattered both heels and broke his wrist in a construction accident in November.



There were about 400 people who attended the dinner. Additional funds were donated by the East Ottertail and Becker County branches of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

If you would like to help out Job and Katie and their family during Job's recovery, please send checks to: Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, PO Box 45, Wolf Lake, MN 56544. Please earmark the checks "Job Aho".

News & Notes

- Pat Aho traveled to New Hampshire to visit her children and their families.
- Harvey and Patricia Aho traveled to Idaho to be with their daughter Heather and husband Shawn for the birth of their granddaughter.
- Pastor Elmer and Miriam Yliniemi spent a number of weeks in Arizona.
- A number of couples gathered at the church on February 18th for a Valentine's party.
- The church ladies held a bake sale at the Wolf Lake Lions Hall as part of the Wolf Lake Winterfest.
- A Valentine's tea was held on February 14th for the church ladies.
- There will be no Sunday School on March 13th, due to the winter services.

Milestones

Raphael Aho - 92nd Birthday

March 22nd, 2011

Elsie Aho - 88th Birthday

April 19th, 2011

Winter Services

You are invited to attend Winter Services at Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church. Services will be held March 11th, 12th, and 13th. Pastor Arvo Onermaa from Hancock, MI and Pastor Ron Holmgren from Hockinson, WA will be the guest speakers.

Service Schedule:

Friday, March 11: 7:30 PM

Saturday, March 12: 7:30 PM

Sunday, March 13: 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM

Dinner will be served after the morning service.

Thank You

Dear Family and Friends,

Once again we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to each and everyone who attended and/or contributed to Job's benefit. Saying thank you doesn't seem to be enough, we really do feel blessed to be a part of God's kingdom. May God bless you all for your kindness.

In Love and God's Peace

Job, Katie and family

Remember in Prayer



"...pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16)

- Billy Nelmark with ongoing testing and health concerns.
- The Yliniemi family in the loss of Ruth Ann Ylineimi.
- Elsie Aho with health concerns.
- Glenn Yliniemi with pneumonia.
- Job Aho recovering from a work accident.
- Joan Koskela with health concerns.

➤ Continue to remember in prayer:

National Leaders	Eli Niemi
Our Missionaries	Natalie Matson
Our Children & Youth	Lila Yliniemi
Our Military	Violet Yliniemi
Our Elderly	Shirley Yliniemi
Martha Aho	Art Latto
Della Nelson	Pastor Charlie Bergstedt
Esther Hendrickson	Byron Saari

Russell and Eunika Aho's 3-month old daughter Jade was hospitalized on February 10, 2011 and was diagnosed with spinal bacterial meningitis. She is currently at the Children's Hospital in Minneapolis and is still receiving treatment.

There has been an account set up to help Russell & Eunika with hospital expenses. For anyone who would like to donate, checks can be made payable to: Jade Aho Benefit Account, and sent to: Heart of the Lakes Credit Union, P.O. Box F, New York Mills, MN 56567



For more information on how Jade is doing and to send her and her parents an encouraging note, please visit: www.caringbridge.org/visit/jadeaho

Lenten Services

Lenten services begin on Wednesday, March 16, 2011 and continue through Easter, which is April 24, 2011.

Service Dates:

Wednesdays: March 16th, 23rd & 30th
April 6th and 13th at 7:30 PM
Maundy Thursday, April 21st at 8:00 PM
Good Friday, April 22nd at 8:00 PM
Easter Sunday, April 24th at 11:00 AM

2011 Apostolic Lutheran Church Convention

The 2011 Apostolic Lutheran Church Convention will be held July 7-10, 2011.

Business meetings and worship services will be held at the Sports Development Complex (SDC) on the campus of Michigan Technological University in Houghton, MI.

The Apostolic Lutheran Churches of the Copper Country have joined together to host the convention and meetings. The opening service will be held at the Zion Lutheran Church in Hancock, MI on Wednesday, July 6, 2011 at 7:00 PM. Services will continue Thursday, July 7 through Sunday, July 10 at the Michigan Tech University Campus.

It is recommended that lodging arrangements be made as soon as possible as this is a busy time of the year in the area.

Spruce Grove Church Cookbooks

The new Spruce Grove Church Cookbook (#2) has been printed, if you would like to purchase a cookbook, please contact Amanda or Hannah Aho.

The first Spruce Grove Church cookbook (#1) has also been reprinted.

The cost is \$12.50 per book, shipping is \$2.50 per book if you need it shipped. Make checks payable to Spruce Grove Church Ladies and send to: Amanda Aho, 15610 490th Ave., Menahga, MN 56464.

Please earmark the check "cookbook". Also specify how many and which cookbook(s) you would like to purchase: cookbook #1 or cookbook #2.

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church

15272 Co Hwy 45, Wolf Lake, MN 56593

Phone: (218)538-6540

Pastor's Office Hours:

Tues-Fri 9:00 am to Noon or by Appointment

Pastor: Dennis Hannu H:(218)837-5871 C:(218)539-0098

Church Board

Chairman: Raymond Aho (218)538-6735

Vice Chairman: Harvey Aho (218)538-6640

Secretary: Neil Aho (218)538-6690

Treasurer: Jeremy Howard (218)564-5381

Members: Armas Aho (218)564-4397

Jamin Aho (218)334-2376

Joshua Aho (218)538-6719

Andrew Keranen (218)538-6677

Victor Aho Jr. (218)564-5222

Financial Secretary: Emma Aho (218)841-1997

Sunday School Superintendent:

Jason Aho (218)538-6732

Newsletter Editor: Dayna Anderson (218)564-5093

EASTER WORD SCRAMBLE

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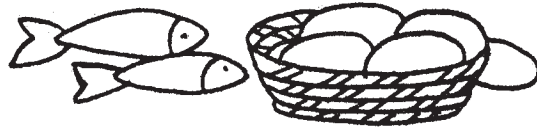
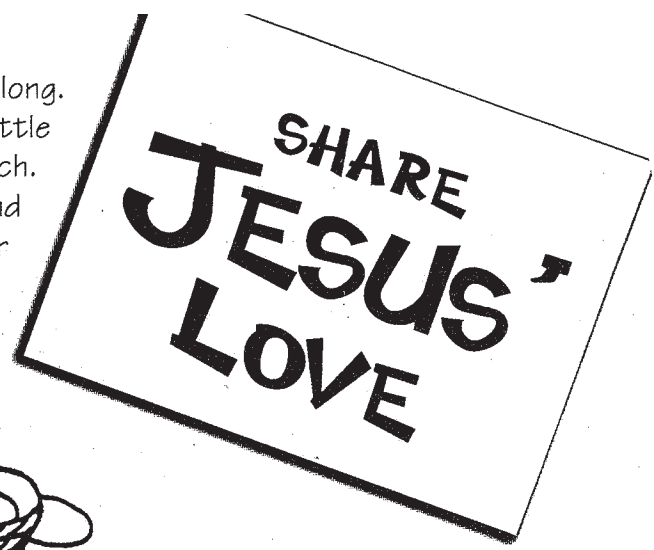
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One day Jesus talked to a big crowd of people all day long. The people got hungry. The disciples had no food for them. A little boy let Jesus share his lunch. Jesus blessed the boy's lunch. It grew and grew until there was enough to feed everyone and have leftovers too. Jesus helps us share His love by sharing our things with others.

Find these things to share in the letters below.



PAIL SWING PAINTS SANDWICH

DOG KITTEN BAT BALL BICYCLE

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C	R	I	N	G	E	V	A	M	O
K	D	Q	F	S	S	W	I	N	G
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I	N	O	B	I	C	Y	C	L	E
C	J	S	V	M	H	G	J	P	N

Church Website

You are invited to check out the church website at:

www.sprucegrovechurch.org

New pictures are added often. Services are live online and are also recorded and may be accessed any time.

Note: If you personally do not want your picture to be on the internet website, please let Jason Aho know.

Directions to watch services online:

1. Go to church website www.sprucegrovechurch.org and click on watch sermons or services via video web cast.
2. If there is a service live when you get to this point, click play, if there is not a live sermon at the time, you will see a message that says (off air) at the bottom of the screen.
3. At this point you will either have to wait until a service starts or you have the option to watch recorded services on video.
4. If you have questions, call 218-639-4967 or 218-538-6540 and ask for Neil.

Radio Broadcast

Echoes of Mercy broadcast ó KWAD ó Wadena
Sundays 8:05 A.M. - English--- 9:00 A.M. - Finnish
sponsored by Spruce Grove, Menahga and New York
Mills Apostolic Lutheran Churches

The newsletter is also available online at sprucegrovechurch.org, if you prefer not to receive the newsletter by mail, please e-mail sgalcnewsletter@gmail.com and ask to be removed from our mailing list.

Church Clean-up

We will be doing an interior spring cleaning at the church on March 4th and 5th starting at 10:00 am on both days. For those who won't be able make it on the 4th or 5th, it would be appreciated if you could come earlier in the week. The list of jobs to be done is in the church kitchen on the desk

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church
60077 500th Street
Sebeka, MN 56477

APRIL 2011

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10 Adult Bible Class 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Pin # 48060 Organist: Deborah	11	12	13 Lenten Service 7:30 PM Pin # 48108 Organist: Megan	14	15	16																																																																																																		
17 Adult Bible Class 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Pin # 48144 Organist: Jolie	18	19	20	21 Maundy Thursday Worship Service & Communion 8:00 PM Pin # 48156 Organists: Deborah & Jolie	22 Good Friday Worship Service 8:00 PM Pin # 48266 Organist: Megan	23																																																																																																		
24 Easter Adult Bible Class 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Dinner following service Pin # 48344 Organist: Patricia	25	26 Worship Service Menahga Nursing Home 2:00 PM	27 Family Bible Study 7:30 PM	28	29 Song Service 8:00 PM Organists: Jolie & Megan	30																																																																																																		
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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	218-564-2030
Wolf Lake	218-538-2030
Sebeka	218-837-2030
Verndale	218-445-2030
Nimrod	218-472-2030

By dialing one of the above numbers just when the service begins you will be prompted to give the pin number. If these numbers are long distance numbers, you will have long distance charges. Pin numbers are in bold type on the calendar above for upcoming services.

Cleaning Group for April:

Job & Katie	Nola
Raymond & Janet	Chet & Dayna
Eldon & Marie	Jeremy & Katie
Jared & Kendra	

MARCH 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																			
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13 <i>Daylight Savings</i> Winter Services Worship Service 10:30 AM Dinner following service Worship Service 1:30 PM Coffee following service Pin # 47510 Organists: Deborah, Megan	14	15	16 Lenten Service 7:30 PM Pin # 47540 Organist: Megan	17	18	19																																																																																			
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Nimrod	218-472-2030

Cleaning Group for March:

Victor & Stacy	Reino & Peggy
Pete & Linda	Jamin & Gina
Harvey & Patricia	Keith & Jamie
Charlie & Leila	

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