



Spruce Grove Newsletter

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, Wolf Lake, MN Vol. 11 No 7 October-November 2006

The Truth will make you Free!

“I promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, nothing but the truth, so help me God.” These words are spoken by witnesses in a court of law with one hand placed on the Bible.

Unfortunately many still lie even after this oath. Some high ranking individuals in politics and business who are caught and found guilty are punished by the law.

The early church already faced the same evil, soon after Pentecost. **“But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, Ananias why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land”** (Acts 5:1-11)

Ananias and Sapphira were found guilty of lying. They thought they were lying to Apostle Peter and the believers in Jerusalem but Peter says, “Thou hast not lied unto me, but unto God” (Verse 4b).

Truth is one of the attributes of God! Jesus says, “God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth”(John 4:24). Jesus also says of Himself, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: No man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). When we lie, we offend God and someday each of us will give an account of ourselves before God (Romans 14:12).

We don’t know much about this couple whose names were Ananias and Sapphira. In Acts 5:3, we are told that Satan had filled their hearts to lie to the Holy Ghost. Even as believers, Satan tries to make us stumble, for there is no truth in Him. Satan is the father of lies! Jesus says in John 8:44, “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of you father ye will do. He is a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” These words were spoken to the Pharisees (John 8:13).

Peter gives this warning to the Christians of his day, and to us today, when he says, “Be sober, be vigilant because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (I Peter 5:8). Paul tells us, “Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light” (II Corinthians 11:14).

What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira? Were they greedy? Were they stingy? Their sin was lying to God and God’s people by trying to make themselves appear more generous than they really were. We all know that certain actions are considered good and bring the praise of men which our flesh seeks. Why was their punishment so harsh? Who of us today would be alive if we were punished by death for every untruth uttered because we wanted to appear better than we really are?

Lying and hypocrisy can destroy the church by preventing the Holy Spirit from working. It also destroys our testimony about Christ. An example had to be set for the early church that it must be founded on the truth.

This lie was not from fear of consequences or even an overwhelming temptation. There was no command that they had to sell their land and give everything. It was a deliberate act of hypocrisy in which they agreed to do something that would appear like something it was not.

The church is made up of sinners. We daily sin in thought and deed because we are sinners in need of a Savior. Jeremiah already tells us that “the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it (Jeremiah 17:9)? When we recognize our sin, we can rejoice that the gospel about God’s great mercy toward us through the blood of Christ can cleanse and renew us.

But the warning is given to us, to be children of truth. John writes, “I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

it, and that no lie is of the truth" (1 John 2:21). Paul writes to the Roman Christians, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? (Romans 6:1-2)."

"The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (John 1:17). For Apostle John, grace and truth go hand in hand. God's boundless grace does not wipe out the attribute of truth.

We live in a highly competitive world and are tempted to not tell the whole truth so we can get the upper hand in our situation. The gains we make from lying are not worth much, compared to the blessings received from telling the truth. When we tell the truth we are never trapped in a lie. We don't need a good memory if we tell the truth.

If you have a habit of stretching the truth, being untruthful in little things or have deceived someone, confess it to that person and to God and put it away in the precious Name and Blood of Jesus Christ. It may be humbling, but it is the first step to restoring integrity in your life!

"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). Pastor Elmer Yliniemi

Thank You Note

I thank my God upon every remembrance of You!
(Philippians 1:3)

I would like to Thank each one of you that had a part in my surprise birthday celebration. I felt overwhelmed thinking of all the plans that had gone on without my knowledge.

The book of memories was a "big surprise". Thank you to each of you that took the time to write a note. Thank you to all who sent or brought a card or gift. Thank you to all who came to the celebration. Your encouragement and thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

A special thank you to the people who worked in the kitchen, prepared food and those that participated in the program. May God bless you for your kindness and generosity. It was a memorable day! Elmer

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

Fraze, MN 56544 Sec.-Marty Ahlf

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-218 538-6732

Newsletter Editor - Miriam Yliniemi

Grandpa's Reflections

"Now"

"For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."(II Cor. 6:2)



Laughing voices came from the water around the dock as Grandpa walked out of the house and out on the deck. His heart smiled as he looked out at the grandkids playing in the water on what may be the last nice day of summer. But then he noticed the figure sitting near the chimney of the outdoor fireplace.

"Hey, what are you doing over here all alone while everyone is swimming?" Grandpa asked, as he pulled up a yard chair next to him.

"I've got school work," he answered in a glum rather angry voice without looking up. "I was supposed to do my math yesterday, but mom said I could choose and do it later if I wanted."

"I'll bet that seemed like a great choice... yesterday." Grandpa said. "I've made that same mistake over and over and over again in my life. It is always so easy to put things off to another time."

"Time is one of God's greatest mysteries," Grandpa mused.

"Yesterday... today... tomorrow...I certainly don't understand it.

Peter said that 'One day is like one-thousand years and one-thousand years is like one day to God'. And how can God already know everything I will ever do and I still have the freedom to choose each minute of each day?"

Grandson looked up from his tablet. "Well, I know that I wish it was yesterday and I had done my math," he said with conviction.

"Yep!" Grandpa agreed. "One thing I've learned is that if you know you should do something, do it now! It's a law, like the law of gravity... Anything you put off will be harder to do when you finally get around to it. And that doesn't just mean choices like homework.

That means accepting Jesus as your savior, forgiving people, and setting things right,"

"Hey! We could name it 'The law of Now!'" Grandson said.

"Or maybe we could call it 'The law of Doing your Homework quickly and quietly!'" Grandpa said, with a laugh. "Nope, your title is better. We'll call it the 'Law of Now!' Now, I'll leave you to hurry up and finish so you can swim, now, and not have to wait until next summer."

Love Grandpa

Bible Study

Bible Study was held at the Ray and Marge Kumma home on September 27. You are all invited to attend the Bible studies which are held every other Wednesday at 7:30 P.M. If you would like to host a Bible study in your home, let Pastor Elmer know. Next meeting will be hosted by Gloria Juntunen on October 11. We are studying 1,2 & 3rd John.



Remember in Prayer



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

- **Steve Blomberg** who is recovering after a successful kidney transplant at Mayo clinic.
- The **Jeremy Howard family**, Victor & Lola Aho family, and Curtis & Sarah Howard family. May the Lord continue to uphold and sustain them.
- **Reuben Aho** and the family as he goes through his chemo treatments. Pray for healing.
- **Eva Salo** who has undergone cancer treatment in South Carolina.
- **Tyler Ahlf** who had the misfortune of breaking his leg.

Continue to remember in prayer:

Leaders of our Nation	Esther Hendrickson
Edna Keranen	Mildred Kangas
Our missionaries	Dela Nelson
Our military	Alice Ristinen
Martha Aho	Lila Yliniemi
Anna Alanen	Violet Yliniemi
Elnora Matson	Shirley Yliniemi

Organist Schedule for October & November

October 1, -Sunday -- Marge/Deborah

8,-Sunday –**Patricia**

13,-Friday – **Jolie**

15,-Sunday—**Sarah**

22,-Sunday—**Deborah**

27,-Friday—**Jolie**

29,-Sunday-**Marge**

November 5-Sunday- Deborah, Sarah

10,-Friday—**Jolie**

12,-Sunday –**Patricia**

19,-Sunday—**Sarah**

24,-Friday—**Jolie**

26,-Sunday—**Marge**

Youth Group

The youth group met at the Harvey Aho home on October 4. The youth group will meet every other Wednesday evening. If you would like to host the group in your home please talk to Pastor Elmer or Harvey Aho.

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-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. 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 October and November 2006. (Unfortunately you have to have a different assigned pin number for each service):

October

1,-Sunday –11:00 A.M—24012

8, -Sunday—11:00 A.M—26059

13, -Friday – 8:00 P.M—26605

15, -Sunday—11:00 A.M— 26095

22, -Sunday—11:00 A.M—26181

27, -Friday—8:00 P.M—26639

29, -Sunday—11:00 A.M—26199

November

5, -Sunday—11:00 A.M—26711

10, -Friday—8:00 P.M—26719

12, -Sunday--11:00 A.M--26761

19, -Sunday--1 1:00 A.M--26781

24, -Friday—8:00 P.M--26815

26, -Sunday--11:00 A.M--26829

Sunday School Teachers for 2006-2007

Pre-school—**Janet Aho**

Kindergarten—**Lori Aho**

First grade—**Levi Yliniemi**

Second grade—**Nola Aho**

Third grade—**Lola Aho**

Fourth grade—**Esther Impola**

Fifth grade—**Rodney Aho**

Sixth grade—**Raymond Aho**

Seventh grade—**Peggy Aho**

Eighth & Ninth grade—**Joshua Aho**



Births

Avery Lyn Aho, a daughter born to Jamin and Gina Aho, Frazee, on September 10 at the Detroit Lakes Regional Medical Center. Avery weighed 9 pounds and 2 ounces. Grand parents are Reino and Peggy Aho, Frazee; and Peter and Linda Levijoki, Watertown, SD; Great-grand mother is Elsie Aho, Frazee.



Isabelle Mary Aho, a daughter born to Rodney and Hannah Aho on September 15 at the Detroit Lakes Regional Medical Center. Isabelle weighed 7 pounds and 12 ounces.

Baptism

Isabelle Mary Aho, daughter of Rodney and Hannah Aho, Menahga, MN, was baptized at her home on Thursday evening, September 28, 2006 by Pastor Elmer Yliniemi



Rodney, Hannah, Nathaniel, Pastor Elmer and baby Isabelle

Her sponsors are Nathaniel Aho of Frazee; Mary Ketola of Rindge, NH; and Carl and Emily Aho of Cokato, MN

Grandparents are Joshua and Deborah Aho of Frazee, and Warren and Pirjoliisa Ketola of Rindge, NH. Great-grandparents are Elsie Aho of Frazee, and George and MaryAnn Salmonson of Osage.

News and Notes

- A baby shower was held for Hannah Aho, at her home on August 30, hosted by her sisters-in-law, Amy, Jolene and Amanda.
- Esther Hendrickson is back home. Her daughter Judy is staying with her..
- Elmer and Miriam Yliniemi traveled to Pasco, Seattle (at a retreat Center) and Hockinson, WA September 13-20. They gave a presentation of the History of the Apostolic Lutheran Church at each place.
- Dr Jouko Talonen and Pastor Ari Auranen from Finland surprised Elmer by coming to his birthday celebration and were guest speakers at the church. Many friends and relatives from near and far attended the birthday celebration on September 24.
- Chae (Yliniemi) Norman from Indio, CA and Eno Yliniemi shortened her trip to Kenya by arriving home to surprise Elmer on his birthday.
- Warren and Pirjoliisa Ketola were visiting their daughter Hannah and Rodney Aho to see their new grandchild and were present at her baptism. Hannah's siblings also visited in the area.
- Peter and Linda Levijoki of Watertown, SD were guests of their daughter Gina and Jamin Aho for the birth of their first grandchild.
- Andrew Kandoll from Champion, MI was the guest speaker on the 17th of September.
- Elmer and Miriam, Marty and Laura Ahlf, Harry and Lori Aho and Peggy Aho attended the Pregnancy Resource Banquet in Park Rapids on Oct 5. Kathy Ahlf, mother of Marty Ahlf was the main speaker .
- Elijah and Amanda Ketola and children from NH visited her parents, Reino and Peggy Aho and other relatives in the area.

Thank You

Many, many thanks, for all the prayers which we have felt carry us during my diagnosis and treatment for breast cancer. Also, many thanks for all the cards, letters, Emails and telephone calls that have been such an encouragement. It seems that when I have been down and needed it most, God has moved some friend to send some form of encouragement through gifts of flowers, cards, letters, Emails and/or telephone calls.

We had hoped to deliver these thanks in person while there during a short vacation trip, but this 2nd round of chemotherapy is much more difficult and painful and required us to give up our trip to our former home to be in your midst. This chemo also reduced my white blood cell count to 100 from a normal range of 5000 - 10000. This required me to go on intravenous antibiotics.

Love & God's Peace! Eva Salo

Annual Meeting



The annual meeting of the church was held at 7:30 P.M. Monday, September 11, 2006.

Our church board consists of nine members with three expiring terms each year.

Armas Aho, Joshua Aho, and Raymond Aho were reelected. Other board members are Marty Ahlf, Harvey Aho, Jamin Aho, Victor Aho Jr., Jeremy Howard and Richard Yliniemi. Andrew Aho is acting Treasurer.

Sunday School Superintendent: Jason Aho

Organist Coordinator: Deborah Aho

Youth Fellowship Assistant: Harvey Aho

Kitchen Supervisor: Jolene Aho

Purchasing: Food Items-Esther Impola
Cleaning supplies-Molly Hillukka
Paper products- Pat Aho (*Armas*)

Usher Coordinators: Neil Aho, Isak Yliniemi and Levi Yliniemi

Janitors supervisor: Andrew Keranen,

Service Schedule:

Sunday School - 10:00 am
Sunday morning Worship - 11:00 am
Communion - First Sunday
Finnish following English-3rd Sunday
2nd & 4th Friday – 8:00 pm - Service
5th Friday – 8:00 pm - Song Service
Alternate Wednesdays – 7:30 pm - Bible Study
Alternate Wednesdays- 7:30 pm-Youth Group

Financial Report Summary:

General Fund:

Total Income: \$ 118,116.41
Total Expenses: 104,914.62
Balance on hand - 8/31/06..... \$13,201.79

Building Fund:

Total Bldg. Fund \$102,352.90
(This does not include balance on hand)
(2006 increase in building fund from 2005....\$27,758.68)

Sunday School Fund:

Income..... \$1,900.20
Expenses..... 1,131.98
Balance-8/31/06 \$768.22

Church Improvements

- ❑ A new sound system was installed for a cost of \$12,346.68.

- ❑ A beaver drainage system was installed for about \$3000.

Other Business:

❑ The pastoral search committee reported on steps taken in pastoral search with letters sent out to congregations and speakers invited to congregation in search of potential candidates, with no concrete results to report.

❑ The building committee presented drawings of options for an addition. A structural engineer has been asked to evaluate the plans for feasibility. The following women were added to building committee to give input on kitchen planning: Peggy Aho, Pat Aho Janet, Aho, Ellen Tumberg, and Marsha Hanson.

Pastor's Report 2005

Activities Summary: (8/31/04-8/31/05)

Services held	76
Communicant members	155
Total membership (incl. children)	240
Average Communion Attendance	110
Ave.Attendance/Sundays/Approx	– 175-200
Baptisms	5
Confirmed	5
Funerals	6
Weddings	4
Wedding Receptions	2
Hospital/Home visits to the ill & shut-ins	125
Sunday School students	48
Guest Speakers	8

Jesse Aho(2)

Chuck Bylkas

Wayne Juntunen

Andrew Kandoll

Gordon Nelson (2)

Andrew Tumberg

Karl Goran Valivaara

Orval Wirkkala

- Monthly communion service at Menahga Nursing Home.
- Monthly Finnish song service-Menahga Nursing Home.
- Monthly Bible Study at Park Rapids Heritage Center.
- Adult and youth Bible studies on alternate weeks.
- Young married couples Bible study every other week
- Radio broadcast every other Sunday.

Cleaning Groups

All church members are encouraged to save this page for future reference. There are two or three couples for each month and you only need to clean one month a year. We move the groups up one month each year so you won't have the same month each year.

October

Julius & Terrie
Tim & Sarah

November

Andy & Patty
Keith & Jamie
Jason & Amy

December

Reino & Peggy
Victor & Stacy

January

Harvey & Patricia
Jamin & Gina

February

Raymond & Janet
Job & Katie

March

Reuben & Nola
Ian & Trisha

April

Paul & Esther
Neil & Amanda

May

Harry & Lori
Andrew & Laureena

June

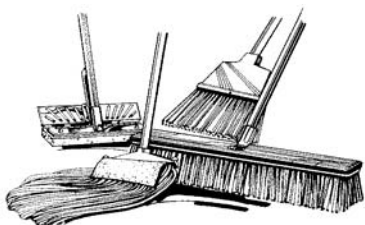
Les & Marsha
Jared & Jolene

July

Joshua & Deborah
Rodney & Hannah

August

Marty & Laura
Dale & Molly



Coffee Groups

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Julius & Terrie*
Andy & Patty
Reuben & Ellen
Keith & Jamie
Aleathea Impola
Anne Aho</p> <p>2. Reuben & Nola*
Joshua & Deborah
Neil & Amanda
Martha Aho</p> <p>3. Tim & Sarah*
Jason & Amy
Paul & Esther
Jamin & Gina
Lynn Impola</p> <p>4. Harry & Lori*
Andrew & Laureena
Ian & Trisha
Jared & Jolene</p> | <p>5. Armas & Pat*
Reino & Peggy
Marty & Laura
Victor & Lola
Alicia Ahlf
Stacie Aho</p> <p>6. Raymond & Janet*
Rodney & Hannah
Victor & Stacy
Job & Katie</p> <p>7. Harvey & Patricia*
Bret & LaRae
Les & Marsha
Dale & Molly</p> <p>8. Youth group
Boys-Nathaniel Aho*
Girls-Emma Aho*</p> |
|--|---|

**You are to notify the rest of your group that it is your turn.*



Dinner Groups

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Lori Aho *
Patricia Aho
Marsha Hanson
LaRae Anderson
Trisha Hrdlicka
Molly Hillukka
Laura Ahlf
Joslyn Aschnewitz</p> <p>2. Katie Aho* (Job)
Peggy Aho
Esther Impola
Terrie Aho
Pat Aho
Laureena Keranen
Martha Aho
Tamar Aho</p> <p>3. Jolene Aho *
Ellen Tumberg
Deborah Aho
Katie Aho
Patty Aho (Andy)
Karen Samuelson
Janet Aho
Erica Aho</p> | <p>Nola Aho
Kathy Bergstedt
Alethea Impola
Anne Aho
Alicia Ahlf
Kimberly Aho
Amanda Aho
Leila Aho</p> <p>Lola Aho
Jamie Aho
Gina Aho
Carmella Traffie
Emma Aho
Lynn Impola
Stacie Aho</p> <p>Sarah Aho
Amy Aho
Hannah Aho
Jolie Aho
Karen Aho
Stacy Aho
Mindy Samuelson</p> |
|--|---|

Church Website

Sorry, the sermons on the website have not been available recently due to a technical change that is being corrected. Hopefully you will soon be able to access it again

You are invited to check out the church website at:

www.sprucegrovechurch.org

New pictures are added weekly from church events.

Available on line

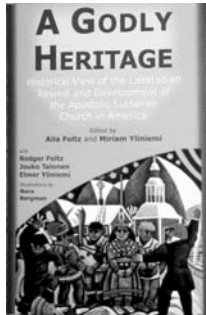
A Godly Heritage

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.



Friends and Faith Women's Retreat

Join us for the 2006 Friends and Faith Women's retreat
"Walking in truth"

Our speakers,

Marilyn Mickelsen and Rita Tumberg

will delve into how we so easily succumb to believing lies and how God's truth enables us to walk freely. Study will be based on 3 John 4,
"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."

Friday through Sunday November 10-12, 2006.
For registration information check church bulletin board or call 612-581-4499 or 320-963-5950

Sponsored by the

Plymouth Apostolic Lutheran Church

Daylight Savings Time ends October 29th
Make sure you move your clocks back
one hour

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

