

TAPIOLA APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE – 2026

SCHEDULE

Sunday School & Bible Study will resume in September

Sunday Service: 11: a.m.

Wed. Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

SPEAKERS

June 7: Ivan Niemela,
Holy Communion

June 14: Ivan Niemela

June 21: Ivan Niemela

June 28: Charles Korhonen

CONTACTS

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Grace Has a Door

“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers... what is man, that thou art mindful of him?” - Psalm 8:3-4

We live in a world saturated with noise, distraction, and willful spiritual confusion. Yet the voice of God still searches the heart—sometimes through the beauty of creation, sometimes through the quiet ache of conviction. He speaks, not to condemn us, but to uncover what is hidden and to draw us toward mercy. God invites us to reflect upon His majesty, upon the urgency of repentance, and upon the tender grace offered to all who respond. From Eden to this very moment, the door of grace has stood open. But it will not remain so forever.

Our text speaks of creation and our place within it. Psalm 8 opens and closes with this exclamation, *“O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!”* The psalmist marvels at the vastness of the heavens, declaring them the work of God’s fingers. He then turns to humanity, asking, *“what is man, that thou art mindful of him?”* Despite our smallness, God has entrusted us with dominion over all His creation—a truly humbling reality, especially considering that we do not naturally seek to please Him (Isaiah 53:6).

Since the fall of Adam and Eve, mankind has inherited a rebellious nature that chooses what seems right in its own eyes. As a result, we are born into sin—alienated from God. Yet He loves His creation so deeply that He continually calls all people to seek forgiveness, for it is our sin that separates us from Him (Isaiah 59:2). This call to repent is not a harsh demand, but a loving invitation from a Father who longs to restore what sin has broken. Ezekiel 33:11 echoes this sentiment: *“I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their way and live.”*

Repentance is not solely the act of turning away from evil; it begins with a divine awakening—a revelation of sin through God's law and the prompting of the Holy Spirit. It leads to confession and culminates in faith, which the Spirit Himself provides (Leviticus 5:5-6; Romans 10:10). We see this pattern initiated in Eden, where Adam and Eve willingly emerged from hiding to confess their transgression when God called to them: *“Where art thou?”* (Genesis 3:9). Without such divine intervention, our hearts will always rebel and pursue our own desires. This message resounds throughout Scripture.

Most notably, during Noah’s time, the people of the earth began to interpret faith on their own terms, disregarding God’s word. As a result, they grew confused about the path to salvation and ceased seeking His forgiveness. God warned them that He would cast them out of His sight. Yet He demonstrated remarkable patience, granting 120 years of grace before the flood. Though God is patient, His patience eventually came to an end—and only eight individuals were saved when they entered the ark, and its door was closed.

God’s patience is beautifully illustrated in the story of a woman who suffered from a bleeding issue for twelve years (Mark 5:25). Though her illness was difficult and

prolonged, it became a hidden blessing, driving her to desperation in search of healing. She had exhausted all her resources without success, but when Jesus passed by, she reached out to touch His garment—hoping to be healed. And she was. Jesus then asked, “*Who touched my clothes?*” (Mark 5:30). Without saying a word, He looked at her, and she was filled with fear. She came and fell before Him, confessing “*all the truth*” (Mark 5:33). As with Adam and Eve, she acknowledged her sin before God and the people present. Jesus forgave her, saying, “*Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague*” (Mark 5:34). God’s word comes not when we demand it, but when He knows it will be received—just as it was for this woman.

Today, the world is once again steeped in widespread wickedness as we await the second coming of Jesus. Scripture warns of the grave consequences for those who reject God’s invitation to repent from unbelief. Much like the days of Noah, many people now ignore His calls to turn to Him in prayer. Instead, they exchange His truth for their lies and worship created things rather than the Creator. Romans 1:18–32 describes humanity’s descent in the latter days, revealing how rejection of God leads to a reprobate mind. People become filled with all forms of unrighteousness, corruption, and moral inversion. Not only do they sin against God, they also celebrate the sins of others. And this time, when God closes the door of grace, it will be final.

God shows that every person—whether violently resistant, willfully distracted, outwardly moral, or devoutly religious—needs the Gospel of Jesus, which proclaims the forgiveness of sins through His sacrificial death and resurrection. This is not a vague spiritual offer, but a personal invitation to be reconciled to God through Christ—an invitation that comes through the faithful witness of His people. Everyone must seek His guidance actively, just as the woman with the persistent illness did—pressing through the crowd in faith—rather than relying on personal interpretations of religion or the opinions of others. God is calling you to repent of your sins, to confess them to another servant of God, and to receive the mercy offered in Jesus before it is too late. He is near. The door of grace is still open—step through it today.

God’s Peace,

Charles Korhonen