

TAPIOLA APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH - 2026

SCHEDULE

No Sunday School, Bible Study, or Service on March 1

Sunday Bible Study and Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Service: 11: a.m.

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

SPEAKERS

March 1: No Service

March 8: Ivan Niemela,
Holy Communion

March 15: Ivan Niemela

March 22: : Charles Korhonen, *Potluck meal following the service*

March 29: Ivan Niemela

CONTACTS

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A Teachers Calling

“... and some, pastors and teachers...” Ephesians 4:11-12

We know that God is not a respecter of persons or age, calling whom He sees, when He wills. And as the Apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesians, *“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”* (Ephesians 4:11-12). Faith come by hearing the word of God. Who delivers the word? Pastors and Teachers do, each according to their station. How can you know the word of God unless you hear it and learn it?

As recorded in Romans 10:17, *“So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.”* When that true knowledge of how great of a sinner you are and how much Christ gave and did for you, was opened to your heart. You became as a little child, utterly dependent on that gracious and freely given gift that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ gave. And hearing those words of forgiveness spoken to you, oh what a gift! What rejoicing there is for it!

Who are these little children? And again, as Jesus spoke: *“And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”* (Matthew 18:3). The little children that Christ is speaking of are those who depend on God for their spiritual and physical needs and do not rely on their own merit or justification for salvation. Christ continues on, a very severe warning to His words, *“And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea”*(Matthew 18:5-6). Yes, Jesus is speaking of physical little children, but He is also speaking to the condition of heart. To be a Christian is to become as a little child, utterly dependent on our Heavenly Father, the giver of that greatest gift, salvation through Jesus Christ.

Jesus Himself was a teacher too, sitting in the temples and teaching those who were gathered around him. This is a picture mirrored in the Christian church today, children and adults gathering around a teacher to hear and to learn the word. *“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up”* (Deuteronomy. 6:6-7). And what a joy it is to be the one teaching, to see the children pondering on what was just said. Or, as so often is the case, a child may ask a question and the teacher may not have the answer to it, so then the teacher is left pondering instead. Why is that often the case? Because a teacher of the living Word of God is also forever a student of the Word. *“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”* (2 Peter 3:18).

The calling of a teacher is a solemn duty and a great responsibility (James 3:1) This burden of the Lord's is placed upon those who are called to this station (Malachi 1:1). As King Solomon wrote in Proverbs 22:6 *“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”* The knowledge and wisdom placed upon one in such capacity, is given by the Lord. And as such, all honor and glory be to Him.

Now to leave you all with one final thought, as Paul wrote to the young Timothy, *“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.”* (2 Timothy 1:7-11). So, if you find yourself in such a position to teach, do so with all honor, fear, and expediency unto the Lord.

God's Mercy and Peace be on to you all,

Eric Olson