

THE SHEPHERD'S LOVE

New York Mills Apostolic Lutheran Church • 315 Main Ave South • New York Mills, MN 56567 Vol 3 No. 70

From the Pastor's Desk

April 2024



I came across this article recently and wanted to share it. It was written by my grandpa, Wiljo Kandoll, in 1944 while he was serving in the army during World War II. It's a reflection on Good Friday. It was published in the March 2013 edition of the Christian Monthly.

God's Peace,
Nicholas Kandoll

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Today we again observe Good Friday as we have for years, though in different surroundings. But yet how many of us stop to ask ourselves, "Why does our Savior suffer such bitter agony and torment?" Have we stopped to ponder that it is because of His love for us poor condemned sinners and because of God's terrible righteous wrath and love?

Our Lord Jesus, His only begotten Son, was alone capable of fulfilling God's righteous law, opening the gates of heaven for us and closing the mouth of hell. Not through any merit of our own but of His boundless love for us He did all this, ...that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

Therefore on this day, let us again behold our Savior as He kneels down to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane. When the agony of our sins is upon

Him the torment is so great that even the sweat from His holy body is as great drops of blood that fall onto the sin-cursed earth. And why does He pray in such agony? Why does He say, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done. (Luke 22:42) An angel from heaven appeared unto Him to strengthen Him.

Then let us follow Him as He is taken before the chief priests and scribes and the elders of the people, before Pontius Pilate and Herod. He is mocked, spit upon, blasphemed, ridiculed and cursed, and beaten with manifold stripes, from which wounds holy blood already is flowing. Also, a crown of thorns is pressed upon His head causing blood to flow from it.

Then He is led away to be nailed on the cross where He cries out, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. (Luke 23:34) And after a time He dies saying, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit... (Luke 23:46)

Is it not a heart-rending sight to see our own Creator suffer so bitterly for us? And when we realize that we were there also murdering Him with our sins, does it not cause us to cry out, "O God, have mercy on me, a sinner. Do not let me sink into Hell in my unbelief. My Savior has suffered so much agony for me already, don't let me grieve Him any longer, but smite me with Your mighty hand so I will humble myself to ask, What must I do to be saved? Give me the grace of repentance that I could be a joy to my loving Savior, that I would follow His holy footsteps in faith through all the storms of life and then, when my earthly race is run, be taken into the glory of heaven to sing praises amid that great blood- washed throng forev-

er and ever." Amen.

Wiljo Kandoll passed away on April 7th 1991, Exactly 47 years after he wrote

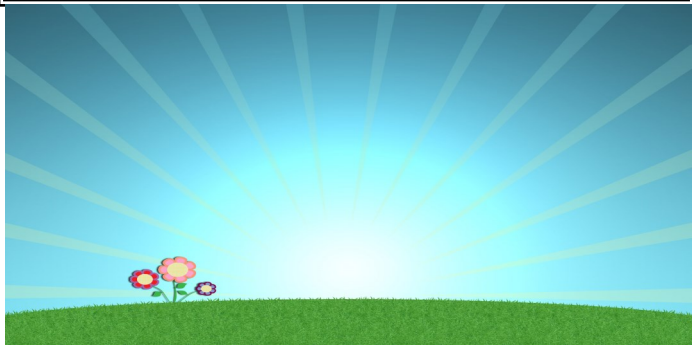
Now if I know this and believe it, my heart or conscience and soul have already passed through death and grave and are in heaven with Christ, dwell there and rejoice over it. And in that way we have the two best parts, much more than half, of the resurrection behind us. And because Christ animates and renews the heart by faith, He will also surely drag the decomposed rascal after Him and clothe him again, so that we can behold Him and live with Him. For that is His Word and work on which we are baptized and live and die. Therefore this will surely not fail us, as little as it failed Him. No matter when or how God ordains that we die, whether in bed or in the fire, in the water, by rope or by sword, the devil, death's master and butcher, will surely see to killing us and carrying out his trade, so that we will not be able to choose or select a mode of death. But no matter how he executes us, it shall not harm us. He may give us a bitter potion, such as is administered to put people to sleep and make them insensitive, but we will wake up again and come forth on that Day, when the trumpet will sound. That the devil shall not prevent, because even now we are more than halfway out of death in Christ, and he will not be able to hold back this poor belly and bag of maggots either. ("Commentary on 1 Corinthians 15," in *Luther's Works*, 28:110–11)



Jamie Aho was able to return home recently, after being hospitalized in Oct for a stroke. He also spent time in a rehab center for therapy.

We pray continued healing for Jamie as he and his family adjust to their new normal. God bless them always.

Spruce Grove is planning a fundraiser for Jamie Aho on April 14.



Luke 21:34-36

(34) And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. (35) For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. (36) Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.



Philippians 3:10-17

¹⁰ That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

¹¹ If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

¹² Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

¹³ 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,

¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

A fundraiser fish fry is planned for the beginning next month. More details coming.

When William O. Cushing suddenly lost his voice, he was distraught. He didn't know what to do. He had been a pastor of several churches in New York and had enjoyed fruitful ministry. Then a paralysis affected his voice so he could no longer preach. He wondered how he could continue to serve the Lord if he couldn't preach.

He cried out to God, "O Lord, give me something to do for you." Not yet fifty years old, Cushing wondered how God could possibly use him. But God did. In the following years, Cushing wrote texts for more than three hundred hymns and gospel songs and teamed up with some of the best-known gospel composers of the day. They supplied the music, and he wrote the words. The evangelistic team of Moody and Sankey spread Cushing's songs around the world.

When he was seventy-three this prolific hymn writer was moved by the words of Psalm 17:8, "Hide me in the shadow of your wings," and thought about God's care for him even when everything seemed dark. This song was the result. Although he could not speak with an audible voice, God multiplied his words for generations to come!

Under His Wings I Am Safely Abiding

*Under His wings I am safely abiding;
Though the night deepens and tempests are wild,
Still I can trust Him--I know He will keep me;
He has redeemed me and I am His child.*

CHORUS

*Under His wings, under His wings, who from His love can sever?
Under His wings my soul shall abide, safely abide forever.*

*2. Under His wings, what a refuge in sorrow!
How the heart yearningly turns to His rest!
Often when earth has no balm for my healing,
There I find comfort and there I am blest.*

CHORUS

*3. Under His wings, O what precious enjoyment!
There will I hide till life's trials are o'er;
Sheltered, protected, no evil can harm me;
Resting in Jesus I'm safe evermore.*

CHORUS

(hymn no. 335 in Hymns & Songs of Zion)

Dear Friends, Sisters and Brothers in Christ

Thank you for your continued prayers during my hip replacement surgery last October and my recent knee replacement on March 8, 2025.

Your prayers and comforting thoughts, food and cards were/are truly welcomed and appreciated.

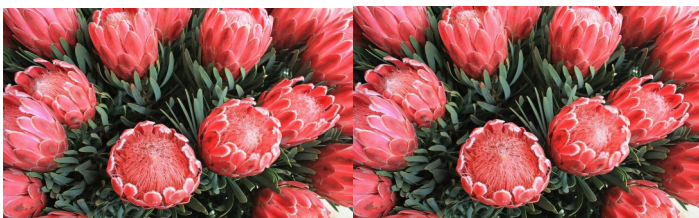
One should never face any trial alone. God is ever present and it is so wonderful when family and our extended church family is there to support ~ even when we may not think it is needed. You are **always** near!

God's blessings and Peace

Debbie Mursu

The women's retreat will be held the weekend of April 26 @ 4pm through April-28 @ 10:30 am in Menahga. MN. Stephanie Lang of LaCenter, WA will be the guest speaker.

Cost: \$120 for 2 nights camp lodging and 5 meals or \$60 for day commuters and no lodging.



And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:5-8

Church Board Members: JIM KESKITALO – CHARIMAN; DICK CARLUND - VICE-CHAIRMAN; MARC TUMBERG - SECRETARY; ROSS KESKITALO - TREASURER; TOM MURSU; JACOB AHO; DARWIN ROBERTS

Church Information

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Church: 218-385-2166

Office Hours
Monday-Thursday
9 a.m.-noon

Church Website
www.nymalc.org
View live or archived services

Federation Website
www.apostoliclutheran.org

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If you want to be added or removed from our mailing list please contact me. All newsletter items to be considered can be emailed to me at the above address by the 20th of each month.

Echoes of Mercy
Radio Broadcast
920 AM KWAD

Sunday mornings
English at 8:05 am

*Sponsored by
New York Mills, Spruce Grove
and Menahga Apostolic
Lutheran Churches*

Sunday school @ 9:15**Worship @ 10:30**

If you choose to watch the services online and would like to donate to the church please send checks to:

Louise Amberg-Jokela

206 South Broadway #107 New York Mills, MN 56567.

Thank you to everyone that has taken the time to send contributions. It is greatly appreciated!

Meals/potluck, will be served on the
first Sunday
Mursu family in April
Group 10 in May

The serving group will make the main dishes for potlucks (unless announced otherwise) and others are asked to bring salads or desserts.

There is a sign up sheet for Sunday coffee in the dining room.



Looking for volunteers to help clean up after coffee.
Thank you.

NYM Emergency Food Shelf

FOR EMERGENCY HELP CALL NYM CULTURAL CENTER 218-385-3339

CONNIE WARNER

218-385-2853 (work Mon– Thurs)

218-385-3669 (home)

TERESA MUCKALA

763-843-3269

KAY TOUGAS

218-298-0272

ALL INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL

LOCATION:

400 S WALKER AVE

NYM MN

FOOD SHELF HOURS

HOURS 9-NOON & 4:30-6:30

March 25, 2024

April 29, 2024

***May 20, 2024**

June 24, 2024

Usage limit 1 time

per month

* 1 week early due to holidays.