

THE SHEPHERD'S LOVE

New York Mills Apostolic Lutheran Church • 315 Main Ave South • New York Mills, MN 56567 Vol 3 No. 77

From the Pastor's Desk

August 2024



Dear
Friends,

I would like to take a moment to express my gratitude to you for sending me to the convention. The schedule was demanding but it was time well spent. It was nice to be joined by so many people in our fellowship to hear the Word of God, receive his Sacrament, and sing praises to Him. There was a song service led by Marcus Wargh from Finland that was wonderful. I would encourage everyone to find it on our church Facebook page and listen to some of the hymns. I heard that there were upwards of 1800 people there on Sunday. It was a joyous occasion, and I thank you for your support. As your delegate I have prepared a report on the annual meeting for you. You can find it below. I would like to mention that I was elected to the Central Board, I ask for your prayers and thank you for your support in this endeavor. It's a daunting task but It's one I don't undertake alone.

God's Peace,

Pastor Nicholas Kandoll

Annual Meeting Report

The meeting began with the singing of Hymn # 369 A Mighty Fortress is our God. Pastor Colin Kinnunen of the Ashburnham ALCA opened with a word of prayer. Chairman of the Central Board, Dave Myllimaki spoke on John 18:18-21.

Jacob Seppanen and Leon Stenersen were appointed to audit the proxy forms. Pastor Phil Wilson and Walt Matson were appointed to count ballots. Chuck Bylkas was appointed recorder of motions. A role call was taken, and the delegates were seated.

The minutes were approved though it was noted that a motion from the Centerville congregation was not on the ballot for vote this year. That motion was to enact a policy that would not allow a matter that is substantially the same as a previous one that has been voted down to be voted on again until at least 4 years had passed.

Before the financial report was given Dave offered his heartfelt thanks to Louise Amberg Jokela for taking

care of the church financials. She was dearly missed. The financial report was approved total funds of the ALCA are \$876,980.98. A special thanks was given to the congregations for supporting the federation.

Central Board Nominations: Outgoing members were Chuck Bylkas, Dave Myllimaki, and Mark Matson. After the first round of voting Chuck Bylkas and Dave Myllimaki were appointed to the central board. There were two run offs to determine the final seat between Rick Rhoades, David Olson, and Nicholas Kandoll. After the first runoff no one received 50% of the vote so another run off was held between Nicholas Kandoll and Rick Rhoades. After the second runoff Nicholas Kandoll was appointed to the central board.

The Eastern, Western and Southern Missions gave their reports. Roland Seppala, Larry Salo, and Lance Somero were elected to the Southern Mission Board. Chuck Bylkas, Ivan Niemela, and Nicholas Kandoll were elected to the Eastern Mission Board. Tristan Matson, Carrey Johnson, and John Johnson were elected to the Western Mission Board.

The Bylaw change that was voted on via mail was approved with 70% yes 25% No and 5% Not Responding.

Lake Norden will have Fall services with Brother Esperri from Finland

Plymouth Lutheran will have Fall Services with the Foreign Mission from 10/4-10/6.

Lois Matson gave an update on her fight with cancer. She encouraged the delegates that Christ was holding her fast and He is holding us fast. She also gave a report on the Christian Monthly and the Podcast God's Word For Today. There is currently no calendar and the Central Board is looking for a volunteer to take on the Church Calendar project.

Nicholas Kandoll has taken over the podcast for Lois. He gave a report on how that was going requesting help with writing content.

The central board briefed the delegates on the removal of the Berkley Church from the Federation and the removal of Pastor Corey Karlsen from the Ministerial Role. The report is as follows: Corey reached out to the Central Board and asked to be removed from the Ministerial Role. The Central Board removed him and wished him well. At this time, it was reported to the Board that Pastor Karlsen was no longer identifying as a man but as a woman and had

resigned from the Office of the Ministry. The Berkley congregation asked Corey to remain as their Pastor. Corey agreed to do so. The Central Board reached out to the Board of the Church and offered to help send speakers. They also wrote a letter asking Corey and the Church to repent. This letter did not receive a response. After consulting with a lawyer The Central Board, on the advice of counsel, wrote a letter to the Berkley ALCA informing them that they were removed from the ALCA and no longer associated with us for not following Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. They expressed their heart felt desire that they would repent, and fellowship would be restored.

Nominations were held for the Central Board for next year. Outgoing members are Reino Maunu, Tom Hanson, and Dennis Hannu. Gordon Coponen, Steve Wuori, Dale Niskanen, Rick Rhoades, Reino Maunu, Tom Hanson, Dennis Hannu, Mark Aho, David Olson, and Aaron Coponen were nominated.

A proposal from the Centerville congregation was brought forward to enact a policy that would not allow a matter that is substantially the same as a previous one that has been voted down to be voted

on again until at least 4 years had passed. There was a lengthy discussion on this, and it was debated on whether or not this would require a bylaw change. The delegates voted to table this discussion, and the Central Board will look into whether or not this requires a bylaw change.

Convention Dates and Locations:

2025-Hancock, MI

2026-Greer, SC (Eastside ALC)

2027-Menagha, MN (Spruce Grove ALC)

2028-Tri Cities, WA

2029-Kingston, MN

A discussion was held about what to do with the surplus of funds that the federation currently enjoys. It was suggested that we use this money to support pastors, build churches, fund missions and fund missionaries. A motion was made to give the central board authority to spend up to \$300,000 on the furtherance of God's Kingdom.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Historical Significance of the Hymn “How Firm a Foundation”

Though the author was unknown, the hymn survived through its great message. It was especially popular with men who felt the weight of the world on their shoulders, and many leaders in America chose it as their favorite hymn. **Andrew Jackson** requested it be sung at his deathbed, and **Robert E. Lee** and **Theodore Roosevelt** both requested it be sung at their funerals. During the American Civil War, both Northern and Southern soldiers could be heard singing it; a testament to how God bridges the gap between all men.

In 1898, *How Firm a Foundation* was used to unite a divided American army. It happened during the Spanish-American war, a time soon after the Civil War when tensions between North and South were still high. Soldiers needed to put aside differences to face a new conflict, but that was easier said than done. Lieutenant-Colonel Curtis Guild Jr. was there on the night it happened, and here is his account:

On Christmas eve of 1898 I sat before my tent in the balmy tropical night [near Havana] chatting with a fellow-officer of Christmas and home.

Suddenly from the camp of the Forty-ninth Iowa rang a sentinel's call, "Number ten; twelve o'clock, and all's well!" It was Christmas morning. Scarcely had the cry of the sentinel died away, when from the bandsmen's tents of that same regiment there rose the music of an old, familiar hymn, and one clear baritone voice led the chorus that quickly ran along those moonlit fields: 'How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord!'

Another voice joined in, and another, and another, and in a moment the whole regiment was singing, and then the Sixth Missouri joined in, with the Fourth Virginia, and all the rest, till there, on the long ridges above the great city whence Spanish tyranny once went forth to enslave the New World, a whole American army corps was singing –

*Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed;
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.*

The hymn originally contained seven stanzas of four lines each. Modern hymnals typically include five of these original stanzas,

Luther did not attempt to penetrate the mysteries of God not revealed in the word. He realized that "there is a great deal hid in God of which we know n~thing." ~God must be sought where He has revealed Himself, that is, in Jesus. To find God, Luther turned to this humble Jew of Nazareth, who long ago had told Thomas: "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father but by Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; henceforth you know Him and have seen Him." Of all places, the glory of God was to be sought on the cross of Golgotha. Luther agreed profoundly with St. Paul's words to the Galatian Christians: "Far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." The central figure in Luther's theology is the crucified Christ. It is fitting that his theology be known as *theologia crucis*.



On The Cross

Poet: John Zurn

On the cross, He bore our pain and strife,
Jesus, the giver of eternal life.
In His sacrifice, fear of death unwound,
Comfort and hope in grief we found.

His love pierced through the darkest night,
Filling our hearts with radiant light.
With Him beside, in every sorrow we face,
We're assured of peace and endless grace.

Church Information

Apostolic Lutheran Church
315 Main Ave South
New York Mills, MN 56567
218-385-2166

Pastor Nicholas Kandoll
218-316-1365

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

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

Federation Website
www.apostoliclutheran.org

Board Chairman
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Kitchen Chairwoman
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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 Schedule

Bible Study @9:15
Worship @ 10:30
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of month

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
Group 8 for August
Group 9 for Sept

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 with cleanup 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
NEW YORK MILLS, MN

FOOD SHELF HOURS

9:00-NOON and 4:30-6:30

July 29, 2024

August 26, 2024

Sept. 30, 2024

Oct. 28, 2024

Usage limit 1 time per month

CHURCH BOARD MEMBERS

JIM KESKITALO - CHAIRMAN
DICK CARLUND - VICE-CHAIRMAN
MARC TUMBERG - SECRETARY
ROSS KESKITALO - TREASURER
TOM MURSU
JACOB AHO
DARWIN ROBERTS