

THE SHEPHERD'S LOVE

New York Mills Apostolic Lutheran Church • 315 Main Ave South • New York Mills, MN 56567 Vol 3 No. 32

From the Pastor's Desk

March 2023



⁵Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

⁶Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

⁷But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

⁸And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

⁹Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

¹⁰That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

¹¹And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

-Philippians 2:5-11

This is the epistle text for Palm Sunday. The day of Je-

sus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem. He does this humbly, riding on donkey. Paul tells us to have this mind among us. Jesus was God, but did not ride in on a mount befitting his station. He didn't count equality with God as something to be taken. (This is what Paul is getting at the KJV translates it as grasped). But humbled himself and was obedient to the will of the Father unto death.

How is it for us? Adam and Eve certainly thought equali-



ty with God was something to be taken for themselves. The devil did too. "...and you will be like God" -Genesis 3:5

How is it for you? Do you humble yourself in obedience or do you follow the way of the devil and our ancestors? When you hear the Lord's Word and it challenges you, do you submit to it or brush it off? Is God's Word the sole rule and norm of your life? Or is it something else? You see everyone has a final authority. That which tells them what is right and wrong. For us it is God. But everyone has one. Our fallen nature wants that final authority power for itself. It wants to decide, and this is our struggle. We want to be like God. But Jesus though he was God. Made himself like us, that he would die for us and save us. It's trusting in that finished work that gives us salvation. So, we must not go through life treating the Bible like it's just an opinion or an option. When we start to question or doubt the Word we might not realize it but it undermines our trust in that which Jesus has done. We stand on it and boast in Christ crucified for the forgiveness of our sins. Not our intellect or moral standing.

God's Peace,

Nicholas Kandoll

With God's grace, **Beatrice Muckala** will be turning 100 years old on March 10. We will be celebrating with a family gathering at Perham Living. While her body is fragile, her mind continues to amaze us. If you would like to visit, she is at her best in the late afternoon (after 3:30). Be aware that masks are required for visitors at Perham Living.

If you would like to send Bea a card, we know she would very much enjoy hearing from you. You can send cards to Perham Living, or set them on the table in the Fellowship Hall (near the free will offering box), and Teresa will pick them up and take them to her.

Thank you to Pastor Nick for giving Mom communion as she nears this milestone birthday.

God's Peace,

Bea Muckala's family

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church will be holding Special Services from Friday, March 3 through Sunday, March 5th.

Jesse Aho & Alan Estola

will be the guest speakers for the services.

Services will be held Friday evening at 7:30 PM, Saturday evening at 7:30 PM and Sunday at 11:00 AM and 1:45 PM. Coffee will be served after the evening and afternoon services and dinner will be served after the Sunday morning service.

Everyone is invited to attend.

Bill and Mary Handt would like to thank everyone for the cards, gifts and visits in honor of their **50th wedding** anniversary. May God continue to bless their marriage.

“The Light of the World is Jesus” was written by Philip Bliss (1838-1876). This gospel song is a commentary on the writings of John. The Gospel begins, as this song begins, by talking about the whole world being in darkness and Jesus coming as the Light. The chorus contains the line, ***“Once I was blind, but now I can see,”*** that is almost a direct quote of the blind man who was healed by Jesus. In that story Jesus declares that he is the Light of the world. The second stanza of this song comes from John 12 as well as from John’s first epistle, and the last stanza is taken from the last chapters of the book of Revelation, which were also written by the apostle John. Jesus declared boldly as he was teaching in the Temple, ***“I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”*** John 8:12

***The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin; the Light of the world is Jesus;
Like sunshine at noon day His glory shone in, the Light of the world is Jesus.***

***2. No darkness have we who in Jesus abide, the Light of the world is Jesus;
We walk in the Light when we follow our Guide, the Light of the world is Jesus.***

***3. Ye dwellers in darkness with sin blinded eyes, the Light of the world is Jesus;
Go, wash at His bidding, and light will arise, the Light of the world is Jesus.***

***4. No need of the sunlight in heaven, we’re told, the Light of the world is Jesus;
The Lamb is the Light in the City of Gold, the Light of the world is Jesus.***

CHORUS

***Come to the Light, ‘tis shining for thee;
Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me;
Once I was blind, but now I can see;
The Light of the world is Jesus!***

(# 101 in Beside the Still Waters)

Here's a great little excerpt from Luther's "Concerning Christian Liberty." Luther helps us keep things in the proper theological perspective. We are not fasting and mortifying the flesh to earn God's love; we have that already in Christ. Our works of sacrifice and love are the fruits of repentance.

And now let us turn to the other part, to the outward man. Here we shall give an answer to all those who, taking offence at the word of faith and at what I have asserted, say: "If faith does everything, and by itself suffices for justification, why then are good works commanded? Are we then to take our ease and do no works, content with faith?" Not so, impious man, I reply; not so. That would indeed really be the case, if we were thoroughly and completely inner and spiritual persons; but that will not happen until the last day, when the dead shall be raised. **As long as we live in the flesh, we are but beginning and making advances in that which shall be completed in a future life.** On this account the Apostle calls that which we have in this life, the "first-fruits of the Spirit" (Romans 8:23). In the future we shall have the tenths, and the fullness of the Spirit. To this part belongs the fact I have stated before, that the Christian is the servant of all and subject to all. **For in that part in which he is free, he does no works, but in that in which he is a servant, he does all works.** Let us see on what principle this is so.

Although, as I have said, inwardly, and according to the spirit, a man is amply enough justified by faith, having all that he requires to have, except that this very faith and abundance ought to increase from day to day, even till the future life; still he remains in this mortal life upon earth, in which it is necessary that he should rule his own body, and have dealings with men. Here then works begin; here he must not take his ease; here he must give heed to exercise his body by fastings, watchings, labor, and other moderate discipline, so that (1) it may be subdued to the spirit, and (2) obey and conform itself to the inner man and faith, and (3) not rebel against them nor hinder them, as is its nature to do if it is not kept

under control. For the inner man, being conformed to God, and created after the image of God through faith, rejoices and delights itself in Christ, in whom such blessings have been conferred on it; and hence has only this task before it, to serve God with joy and in free love without constraint.

In doing this he offends that contrary will in his own flesh, which is striving to serve the world, and to seek its own gratification. This the spirit of faith cannot and will not bear [the flesh]; but applies itself with cheerfulness and zeal to keep it down and restrain it; as Paul says: "I delight in the law of God after the inward man; but I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin" (Romans 7:22-23). And again: "I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (1 Corinthians 9:27). And: "They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts" (Galatians 5:24).

These works, however, must not be done with any notion that by them a man can be justified before God—for faith, which alone is righteousness before God, will not bear with this false notion—but solely with this purpose, **that the body may be brought into subjection, and be purified from its evil lusts, so that our eyes may be turned only to purging away those lusts. For when the soul has been cleansed by faith and made to love God, it would have all things to be cleansed in like manner; and especially in its own body, so that all things might unite with it in the love and praise of God.** Thus it comes that from the requirements of his own body a man cannot take his ease, but is compelled on its account to do many good works, that he may bring it into subjection. Yet these works are not the means of his justification before God, he does them out of disinterested love to the service of God; looking to no other end than to do what is well-pleasing to Him whom he desires to obey dutifully in all things.

On this principle every man may easily

instruct himself in what measure, and with what distinctions, he ought to chasten his own body. **He will fast, watch, and labor, just as much as he sees to suffice for keeping down the wantonness and concupiscence of the body.** But those who pretend to be justified by works are looking, not to the mortification of their lusts, but only to the works themselves; thinking that, if they can accomplish as many works and as great ones as possible, all is well with them, and they are justified. Sometimes they even injure their brain, and extinguish nature, or at least make it useless. This is enormous folly, and ignorance of Christian life and faith, when a man seeks, without faith, to be justified and saved by works.

HAVE YOU TAKEN IT TO JESUS

Have you taken it to Jesus?
Have you left your burden there?
Does He tenderly support you?
Have you rolled on Him your care?
Oh, the sweet unfailing refuge
Of the everlasting arms,
In their loving clasp enfolded
Nothing worries or alarms.

Have you taken it to Jesus,
Just the thing that's pressing now?
Are you trusting Him completely
With the when, and where and how?

Oh, the joy of full surrender
Of our life, our plans, our all,
Proving, far above our asking
That God answers when we call.

Have you taken it to Jesus?
'Tis the only place to go
If you want the burden lifted
And a solace for your woe.
Oh, the blessedness to nestle
Like a child upon His breast,
Finding ever, as He promised
Perfect comfort, peace and rest.

Mrs. E.L. Hennessay

Church Information

Apostolic Lutheran Church
315 Main Ave South
New York Mills, MN 56567

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Cell: 218-316-1365
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Office Hours
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9 a.m.-noon

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

Federation Website
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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*

Church Hours

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

Group 8 in MARCH
Group 9 in April
Group 10 for
Easter dinner

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



NYM Emergency Food Shelf

FOR EMERGENCY HELP CALL NYM

CULTURAL CENTER 218-385-3339

CONNIE WARNER

218-385-2853 (work)

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

MARCH 27, 2023

APRIL 24, 2023

***MAY 22, 2023**

JUNE 26, 2023

***Food shelf is open 1 week early due to holiday.**

**Usage limit 1 time
per month**