

# THE SHEPHERD'S LOVE

New York Mills Apostolic Lutheran Church • 315 Main Ave South • New York Mills, MN 56567 Vol 4 No. 12

August 2025

## From the Pastor's Desk



At first, Jesus notices how the guests jockey for the best seats at the table, each seeking the best place for themselves. It's a scene that feels familiar, even today. How often do we find ourselves comparing, measuring, or seeking approval, hoping to be seen, to be recognized? Our sinful hearts crave validation, and the world tells us to put ourselves first.

Jesus turns the world's wisdom upside down. The kingdom of God is not for the proud, but for the humble, the broken, and the needy. "Nothing in my hand I bring simply to thy cross I cling..." -Rock

of Ages

After rebuking the guests, Jesus then turns to the host. He tells him that when they have a feast they shouldn't only invite wealthy people who can do nice things for them but the poor, the people who would be blest by the feast.

God's kingdom is a place for those who have nothing to give, nothing to pay, nothing to boast of. Where the world seeks to keep score and seek honor for ones self, Jesus Christ gives himself freely to save those who can't win by themselves.

Evidently one of those guys was made very uncomfortable by these statements and says "Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God." This would be like telling your spouse that it'd be nice to have a good husband or wife someday. The kingdom of God is right in front of him and he is opposing him. Jesus responds with a parable. A man prepares a great feast and invites many

guests. But one by one, they all make excuses. "I bought a field... I have oxen to try out... I just got married..." They're distracted by their own concerns, too busy for the banquet. So the master sends his servant out to bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame, the outsiders the ones who can't pay him back. And when there is still room, he sends the servant out even further, to compel people to come in

The invitation to God's kingdom is a pure gift. We are the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame. We are only in the feast because the Master has invited us. Christ's death and resurrection has opened the doors wide. All are welcome. We come to the Lord's Table as guests, not hosts. We come with empty hands, trusting in Christ's mercy, grateful for the invitation we could never earn.

God's Peace,  
Pastor Nicholas Kandoll

## Apostolic Lutheran Church of America Annual Meeting Delegate Report

The annual meeting of the ALCA was held on Thursday June 26<sup>th</sup>. Chairman of the Central Board Dave Myllimaki chaired the annual meeting, Gary Bertram was the recorder of motions and John Isaakson served as secretary.

The delegates from the following congregations were seated despite not having a completed proxy form:

Kettle River, MN   Greer, SC   Alston, MI  
Esko, MN   Plymouth, MN   Champion, MI  
Kingston, MN   Watertown, SD   Spokane, WA

A motion was made and seconded to seat delegates from the congregations who do not use the KJV or pay their dues with a voice but no vote except for on bylaw changes. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the financial report

Information Item: Louise Amberg Jokela is no longer the federations bookkeeper. A special thanks was extended to Louise. Bruce Ruotsala will take over his contact information was emailed to each congregation.

With the passing of Lois Matson the Christian Monthly no longer has an editor. After a lengthy discussion a motion was made to discontinue the Christian Monthly with sadness. Motion carried.

Central Board Election: Dennis Hannu, Tom Hanson, and Steve Wuori were elected to the central Board.

Special Service Announcements:

Ashburnham Fall Services 10/17-10/19

Highpoint Fall Services 11/7-11/9

Seattle Reformation Services 10/24-10-26>>>

Various Board Financials and Elections approved:

Eastern Mission Board Members: Scott Seppala, Jon Salo, Mark Traffie.

Western Mission Board Members: Jon Vik, Eric Holmgren, Will Matson

Bylaw Change Failed: 20 yes 18 no

Central Board Nominations: Colin Kinnunen, Aaron Hendrickson, and John Isaacson are the outgoing members.

Nominations: Gordon Coponen, Rick Rhoades, Kim Michaelson, Mark Aho, Aaron Coponen, Ron Holmgren, Gene Mixon, Colin Kinnunen, Aaron Hendrickson, and John Isaacson.

Upcoming Convention:

2026 Eastside ALC Greer SC

2027 Spruce Grove ALC Wolf Lake MN

2028 Riverside ALC Tri Cities, WA

2029 Kingston ALC Kingston MN

2030 New Ipswich ALC New Ipswich NH

A motion was made to make it the norm that the convention lasts 4 days, Thurs – Sunday. Unless necessary scheduling or logistical issues make it necessary to have a 3 day convention.

New Business:

NYM ALC proposed removing the words “or does not use the King James Version” from the bylaws. This proposal has been tabled in 2021 due to a lack of congregations present to pass it.

The bylaw change that passed last year changed the wording from the bylaws can be changed with a 2/3 vote of all member congregations to ... with a 2/3 vote of all seated congregations made it possible to resubmit this proposal. Pastor Nicholas gave the following reasoning for the change and asked for it to be included in the convention packet.

The New York Mills Apostolic Lutheran Church proposes removing the phrase:

**“or does not use the King James Bible as the pulpit Bible”** from our bylaws.

This is not an effort to set aside or speak against the King James Version. We hold the King James Version in high regard. In New York Mills we use the King James Version and will continue to do so.

We trust our pastors, preachers, and congregations to discern which translations rightly proclaim the truth of God's Word and believe they should be able to have the freedom to use a different faithful translation. In the spirit of brotherly love, we want to include those congregations who use a different faithful translation of the bible by allowing them to vote in our annual meeting.

We agree that there are some unfaithful “translations” that should never be used in our pulpits. These include: The Message paraphrase and The New World Translation used by the Jehovah’s Witnesses.

These are not faithful translations. In the event that a congregation is using an unfaithful translation we trust the Central Board to bring about correction on a case-by-case basis.

Let us not be divided where Scripture does not divide. Let us trust our pastors, preachers, and congregations; and walk together in unity as brothers and sisters in Christ.

The Rutherford congregation in Greer SC proposed changing the amount of votes each congregation holds based on membership. This proposal did not receive a 2<sup>nd</sup>.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

God’s Peace,  
Nicholas Kandoll

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**Six generations of the Israel Hagel** family gathered for a family reunion on Saturday and Sunday, June 28 & 29, 2025, at the Finn Creek Museum pavilion in New York Mills, Minnesota. Saturday was a day of food enjoyed, family history, games, trivia, a silent auction, visiting and reminiscing. Attendees came from as far as California, Texas, and many parts of Minnesota, including New York Mills. Of the four remaining grandchildren of Israel Hagel, Robert Hagel and James Fraki were able to attend. The two missing were Donald Hagel and Duane Fraki, both residing at the Vitality Assisted Living facility in New York Mills. Who was Israel Hagel? This Finnish immigrant from Karungi, Sweden, came to America in 1873. He worked in the mine in Michigan, then decided to travel to Astoria, Oregon. But midway through his trip, he got off the train in Duluth, Minnesota, walked to New York Mills and homesteaded. On June 19, 1877, he held the first formal worship service of the New York Mills Apostolic Lutheran Church at the Antti Puupera’s log cabin. There were 8 families present at that first service. Rev. Hagel served as pastor for over twenty years in New York Mills. Because of this heritage, Sunday we closed our reunion with a morning chapel service in the beautiful little chapel at Finn Creek. Robert Hagel with the help of his daughter, Niki, and granddaughter, Megan, read the 1923 sermon of Israel Hagel preached at the Ironwood, Michigan, Apostolic Lutheran Church convention. Leading us in prayer and scripture, Doug Hill expressed how beautiful a legacy we have and encouraged us to keep in remembrance this faithful servant who still preaches to us through God’s Word.

Submitted by: Louise Amberg-Jokela great-granddaughter of Israel Hagel



## 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](http://www.nymalc.org)  
*View live or archived services*

**Federation Website**  
[www.apostoliclutheran.org](http://www.apostoliclutheran.org)

**Kitchen Chairwoman**  
Norma Tumberg  
218-385-2046

**Care To Share**  
Sheila Keskitalo  
218-639-9017

**Newsletter Editor**  
Norma Tumberg  
218-385-2046  
[bryan\\_norma@arvig.net](mailto:bryan_norma@arvig.net)

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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

**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 **monthly**.  
Group 9 for August  
Group 10 for September

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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**

**June 30, 2025**

**July 28, 2025**

**August 25, 2025**

**September 29, 2025**

**October 27, 2025**

Usage limit 1 time per month

### CHURCH BOARD MEMBERS

JACOB AHO - CHAIRMAN  
DARWIN ROBERTS- VICE-CHAIRMAN  
TOM MURSU - SECRETARY  
ROSS KESKITALO - TREASURER  
MARC TUMBERG  
DARYL HUWE  
CHRIS ROBERTS