

THE SHEPHERD'S LOVE

New York Mills Apostolic Lutheran Church • 315 Main Ave South • New York Mills, MN 56567 Vol 4 No. 84

From the Pastor's Desk

March 2025



"There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down." Luke 13:1-9

Last month 67 people lost their lives when a military helicopter tragically collided with an American Airlines flight. Not long after a medical jet crashed in northeast Philadelphia, killing 7 people and injuring 24. As I write this just yesterday two small planes crashed in Arizona killing two people. The

impacts of these deaths are felt nationwide, and people are grieving. Why did this happen?

This is not a new question. In our text, some people bring up a tragic event: Pilate had killed people while they were offering sacrifices. Perhaps they expected Jesus to explain why it happened or to confirm that these people suffered because they were especially sinful.

But Jesus gives an unexpected response: *"Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."* (Luke 13:3).

Jesus asks the question that was on their minds and turns the focus inward. He does not dismiss suffering or explain away tragedy, but He calls them to repentance. His words may seem callous, but they are filled with love. He redirects our hearts from trying to make sense of something that shakes us to trusting in Him who is unshakeable.

He mentions second event, when a tower collapsed and killed eighteen people. Jesus is pointing us away from a fruitless search for answers and toward the certainty of His grace. None of us are guaranteed tomorrow. But Jesus is here for us now. Rather than ask why, we cling to his grace and look forward to the day that he will make all things new.

When we hear of tragic events—whether they be plane crashes, natural disasters, illnesses or personal losses—we must resist the temptation to explain them away or to assume we know why they happened. In-

stead, we listen to Jesus.

We take these events as a call to cling to Him, to trust in His finished work on the cross and resurrection, to live in repentance and faith. We grieve with those who grieve, we pray for those who suffer, and we remind one another that our hope is not in this world, but in the One who has overcome the world.

Jesus took on our sin, bore our punishment, and endured death so that in Him, we would have life. In our suffering we are reminded of the One who suffered and died for us. And He is forging in us a faith that will endure to eternal life.

When we face suffering and sorrow, let us not give into temptation and ask, "Why me?" but rather, let us pray "Lord, have mercy on us." And He does, every moment of every day is a testimony to his mercy. As he did for the fig tree he does to this world. Nurturing and guiding it to bear fruit. The issues we face in this life that are unexplainable the questions we have that don't have easy answers are all opportunities that God gives us to trust in that which we cannot see and be comforted by His words and promises. Rather on dwelling on that which cannot be answered we are called to dwell on what He has given us.

"The things which God wishes to be hidden are not to be examined; and the things which He has made manifest are not to be rejected, lest we as ingrates be improperly curious toward the former and damnably ungrateful for the latter." Ambrose of Milan

God's Peace,
Nicholas Kandoll

The **Woodland Cemetery** clean up day will be on **May 3rd** from 9 am to noon. In case of rain, it will be moved to May 10th. Any questions, please call Dennis Windel at 218-371-0189.

MARCH IS FOOD-SHARE MONTH

There will be a box in the fellowship hall for donations. Non-perishable goods, please.

Christian faith

.....is built only by God. God promises He will create and sustain faith through these visible Means. He gives us these gifts in His written Word. And these gifts are His visible/audible application of that same Gospel.

Error creeps in when an individual does not believe the promise Christ gave and recorded for us in Scripture about these Gifts. When we doubt God's Word about how He gives grace, forgiveness, and eternal life through these gifts of Word and Sacrament, then we are despising God's grace. This happens when people view the Means of Grace as merely symbols of God's love rather than as the actual Means where God says He gives His grace.

Error creeps in when Baptism, Absolution, and the Supper are twisted into works of human righteousness rather than God's works for sinful humans. That is, what the Bible says about the work and grace of God in these gifts is denied when we think of the Sacraments as things we do to show God that we are sincere, dedicated, or obedient people.

These gifts, the Means of Grace, are the heart and center of the assembling of believers for the Divine Service. Baptism, the Office of the Keys and Confession, and the Lord's Supper are, in fact, the preaching of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. These gifts are the only God' given Means through which God says He gives us His grace. And His Word and Sacrament are the only place we can go to grow in faith in God, and in knowledge of His will and promise.

Martin Luther

We would like to keep a list of church members who may be willing to house visitors coming to our church, such as when we had the pastors meeting last summer. It was a bit of a scramble to try to find housing. We should be more organized in the future.

If you are interested in being contacted for a future event, please let us know. Some things to think about:

1. Are you willing to host a single person, a married couple or a family with children?
2. Where do you live - in the town of New York Mills, outside town (how far) or in another community?

We recognize that people have their own plans throughout the year, so you always have the ability to say no to any particular call.

Please give your information to:

Tammy Mursu 218-371-8223 or

Teresa Muckala 763-843-3269

Bible verses for Lent

Matthew 6:16-18

¹⁶Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. ¹⁷But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; ¹⁸That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward ...

Joel 2:12-13

¹²Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: ¹³And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

Isaiah 58:6-7

⁶Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

1 Peter 1:3

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,



Martin & Helen's
75th
ANNIVERSARY

SATURDAY, MARCH 22 2025 | 9:00AM - 12:00PM
NEW YORK MILLS APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH
315 MAIN AVE S, NEW YORK MILLS, MN 56567

Join us for coffee and donuts while we celebrate Martin
and Helen's 75th wedding anniversary.
Please no gifts or cards.

Lenten Reading Plan

Day	Reading	Day	Reading
Ash Wednesday	Psalms 1-6	Day 20	Psalms 79-82
Day 2	Psalms 7-10	Day 21	Psalms 83-86
Day 3	Psalms 11-15	Day 22	Psalms 87-89
Day 4	Psalms 16-18	Day 23	Psalms 90-94
Day 5	Psalms 19-22	Day 24	Psalms 95-100
Day 6	Psalms 23-27	Day 25	Psalms 101-104
Day 7	Psalms 28-32	Day 26	Psalms 105-107
Day 8	Psalms 33-37	Day 27	Psalms 108-111
Day 9	Psalms 38-41	Day 28	Psalms 112-115
Day 10	Psalms 42-45	Day 29	Psalms 116-119:40
Day 11	Psalms 46-50	Day 30	Psalms 119:41-88
Day 12	Psalms 51-55	Day 31 (Monday)	Psalms 119:89-136
Day 13	Psalms 56-60	Day 32 (Tuesday)	Psalms 119:137-176
Day 14	Psalms 61-65	Day 33 (Wednesday)	Psalms 120-125
Day 15	Psalms 66-69	Day 34 (Maundy Thursday)	Psalms 126-132
Day 16	Psalms 70-73	Day 35 (Good Friday)	Psalms 133-138
Day 17	Psalms 74-77	Day 36 (Holy Saturday)	Psalms 139-143
Day 18	Psalms 78:1-39	Easter Sunday	Psalms 144-150
Day 19	Psalms 78:40-72		

Elizabeth Payson Prentiss came from a godly home. Her father, was a Bible teacher and her husband, a gifted minister, later became a seminary professor. But despite her many blessings, Prentiss's life was not easy. She suffered from severe headaches and chronic insomnia. One of her children suddenly died, and a short time later a second child died. One evening, after putting flowers on the graves of her children, Prentiss cried out in anguish, "Our home is broken up, our lives wrecked, our hopes shattered, our dreams dissolved." Her husband tried to comfort her and said quietly to her, "In times like these, God loves us all the more." In her room with a Bible and hymnal in hand, Prentiss sought comfort. She stopped at Sarah Adams's hymn "Nearer My God, to Thee" and read it several times. As she prayed, words came to her: "*More Love to Thee, O Christ, More Love to Thee.*"

1. More love to Thee, O Christ, More love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer I make on bended knee;
This is my earnest plea; More love, O Christ, to Thee
More love to Thee, More love to Thee!
2. Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest;
Now Thee alone I seek, Give what is best;
This all my prayer shall be; more love, O Christ, to Thee
More love to Thee, More love to Thee!
3. Let sorrow do its work, Send grief and pain;
Sweet are Thy messengers, Sweet their refrain,
When they can sing with me: More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee, More love to Thee!
4. Then shall my latest breath Whisper Thy praise;
This be the parting cry My heart shall raise;
This still its prayer shall be: More Love, O Christ, to Thee
More love to Thee, More love to Thee!
(no. 370 in Hymns & Songs of Zion)



CHURCH:

WE DO NOT SING BECAUSE WE NEED A "WARM-UP"
BEFORE THE SERMON.
WE DON'T SING SO PEOPLE HAVE TIME TO GET TO THEIR
SEATS.
WE DO NOT SING BECAUSE WE NEED TO BE
ENTERTAINED.

WE SING BECAUSE GOD IS GOOD.
WE SING BECAUSE GOD IS WORTHY.
WE SING BECAUSE IT IS A COMMUNAL ACT OF UNITY IN
WHICH WE DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD, THE GRAVITY
OF SIN AND THE GRANDEUR OF GRACE!

**There is a sign-up sheet in
the fellowship hall for
meals and/or coffee for
Wednesday evening during
this Lenten season.**

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
James Keskitalo
218-385-3067

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

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

Sunday School
Bible Study 9:30
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 8 for March 9th
Group 9 for April 20 -
Easter Dinner

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**

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

***Dec 23, 2024**

Jan 27, 2025

Feb 24, 2025

Mar 31, 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