

THE SHEPHERD'S LOVE

New York Mills Apostolic Lutheran Church • 315 Main Ave South • New York Mills, MN 56567 Vol 3 No. 68

From the Pastor's Desk

February 2024



"Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly. And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking." Matthew 6:1-7

Some may be confused by these words of Jesus. Earlier in the sermon on the mount he says *have glory of men. Verily I say unto you they have their reward*". Rather, he calls us to give God all the glory.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16 This is an important reminder to us, especially with lent around the corner. There are plenty of pious Lenten practices that are good and glorify God, but if we do them in the wrong spirit we end up doing the opposite. But how are we supposed to control our motivations? Wouldn't God be just as pleased with us doing something good even if we ourselves have sinful intentions? Paul says in Romans 3 *"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin."* Romans 3:20

⁴ Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

⁵ Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

⁶ Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

⁷ Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

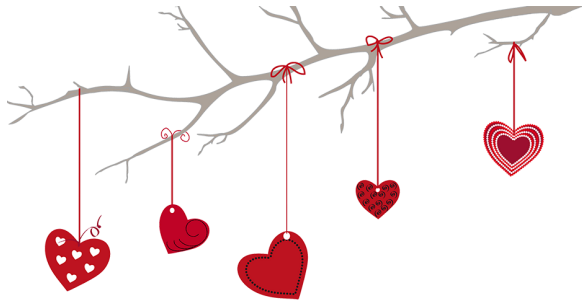
⁸ Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

We can't control every thought that we have and in our desire to do good works we will have sinful motives and intentions. The good works that we do flow from our faith, they are not for salvation. When in our attempt to serve our neighbor we have thoughts that pop up, the answer isn't to not attempt to do good works but to repent. To experience contrition, that is Godly sorrow over our sin, and look to Jesus who graciously forgives. This is how God works in this world. He accomplishes his good through sinners that are saved by grace. And we give him all the glory.

God's Peace,
Nicholas Kandoll

1 Praise ye the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul.

2 While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.



Christian's Love

Poet: Catherine Pulsifer

In this season of love, let us not forget,
The greatest love story, one we never shall regret.
For God so loved the world, His only Son He gave,
Christian love's foundation, the gift that will never
fade.

So on this Valentine's Day, let us rejoice,
In Christian love's resounding voice.
A love that forgives, a love that redeems,
God's love, eternal, beyond all our dreams.

The days and weeks of Lent call us to *keep the focus* of our lives of faith on Jesus, our Lord, and to learn more of Him and His loving plan of salvation for us. One of the classic hymn stanzas of the Lutheran church portrays that proper focus in this petition to the Lord:

*On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures
Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation!*



In the early centuries of the Church, the season before Easter was used to teach the faith to people who desired to convert to Christianity and asked to be baptized. The process of catechesis included a time when the candidates for Baptism were questioned about their understanding of what they had been taught regarding the basics of the faith.

In Latin, this sequence of inquiries was called *scrutinia*, from which our English word "scrutiny" is derived. At certain times during Lent, the greatest treasures of the faith were shared with the candidates for Baptism, including the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. The Gospel account of the suffering and death of Jesus to pay the penalty for the sins of all mankind was told simply and directly as being of the greatest importance, as it still is.

Proverbs 2:1-8 KJV

My son, if thou wilt receive my words, And hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, And apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, And liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, And searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: Out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: He is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. He keepeth the paths of judgment, And preserveth the way of his saints.

Stonewall Jackson was a legendary Confederate general in the Civil War. He had a long beard, he rarely combed his hair, his boots were never polished, and he wore an old slouch hat and a faded uniform with missing buttons. But he was a military genius and a Christian. His men said of him, "When he ain't a-fightin' he's a-prayin'."

And when he wasn't fighting or praying, he was singing hymns. But he couldn't carry a tune. One night in 1862, his army stayed in a unprotected camp in the Shenandoah Valley. The soldiers had marched 52 miles that day, and they were exhausted. When they awoke the next morning, they heard a strange sound. They eventually discovered that the sound was Stonewall Jackson singing his favorite song, "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken." There on the hill the general had watched over his men all night, with his old slouch hat in his hands. With his bearded face looking heavenward: "On the Rock of Ages founded, /What can shake thy sure repose? /With salvation's walls surrounded, /Thou may'st smile at all thy foes."

And who wrote this song? John Newton (a former slave trader) in 1779. He is also known as the author of Amazing Grace.

Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken

*Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
He, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for his own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.*

*2. See the streams of living waters springing from eternal love,
Will supply thy sons and daughters, and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river ever flows their thirst to assuage,
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver, never fails from age to age?*

*3. Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a cov'ring, showing that the Lord is near;
Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,
Safe they feed upon the manna which He gives them when they pray.*

*4. Saviour, if of Zion's city I, thro' grace a member am,
Let the world deride or pity, I will glory in thy Name.
Fading is the world-ling's pleasure, all his boasted pomp and show:
Solid joys and lasting treasure none but Zion's children know.*
(No. 268 in Hymns & Songs of Zion)

I. THE FASTING OF CHRIST.

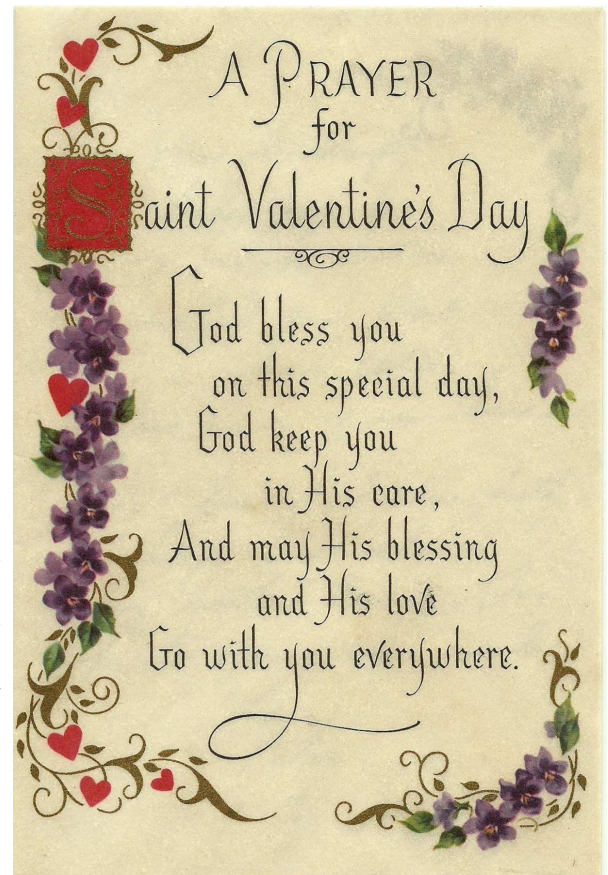
1. This Gospel is read today at the beginning of Lent in order to picture before Christians the example of Christ, that they may rightly observe Lent,

which has become mere mockery: first, because no one can follow this example and fast forty days and nights as Christ did without eating any food. Christ rather followed the example of Moses, who fasted also forty days and nights, when he received the law of God on mount Sinai. Thus Christ also wished to fast when he was about to bring to us, and give expression to, the new law. In the second place, Lent has become mere mockery because our fasting is a perversion and an institution of man. For although Christ did fast forty days, yet there is no word of his that he requires us to do the same and fast as he did. Indeed he did many other things, which he wishes us not to do; but whatever he calls us to do or leave undone, we should see to it that we have his Word to support our actions.

2. But the worst of all is that we have adopted and practiced fasting as a good work: not to bring our flesh into subjection; but, as a meritorious work before God, to atone for our sins and obtain grace. **Con't to right**

And it is this that has made our fasting a stench and so blasphemous and shameful, so that no drinking and eating, no gluttony and drunkenness, could have been as bad and foul. It would have been better had people been drunk day and night than to fast thus.

Moreover, even if all had gone well and right, so that their fasting had been applied to the mortification of the flesh; but since it was not voluntary, and it was not left to each to do according to their own free will, but was compulsory by virtue of human commandment, and they did it unwillingly, it was all lost and to no purpose. I will not mention the many other evils as the consequences, as that pregnant mothers and their offspring, the sick and the weak, were thereby ruined, so that it might be called a fasting of Satan instead of a fasting unto holiness. Therefore we will carefully consider how this Gospel teaches us by the example of Christ what true fasting is.



Church Information

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

Pastor Nicholas Kandoll
Cell: 218-316-1365
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

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 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 7 in Feb
Group 8 in March

See calendar for coffee groups

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

**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 & 4:30-6:30

October 30, 2023

***November 20, 2023**

***December 18, 2023**

January 29, 2024

February 26, 2024

Usage limit 1 time

per month

* 1 week early due to holidays.