

THE SHEPHERD'S LOVE

New York Mills Apostolic Lutheran Church • 315 Main Ave South • New York Mills, MN 56567 Vol 3 No. 72

From the Pastor's Desk

June 2024



"²³ And it came to pass, that he went through the corn fields on the sabbath day; and his disciples began, as they went, to pluck the ears of corn.

²⁴ And the Pharisees said unto him, Behold, why do they on the sabbath day that which is not lawful?

²⁵ And he said unto them, Have ye never read what David did, when he had need, and was an hungred, he, and they that were with him?

²⁶ How he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and did eat the shewbread, which is not lawful to eat but for the priests, and gave also to them which were with him?

²⁷ And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:

²⁸ Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.

³ And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand.

² And they watched him, whether

he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him.

³ And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth.

⁴ And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace.

⁵ And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

⁶ And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him."

The passage describes Jesus' disciples picking grain on the Sabbath. Some Pharisees questioned the practice, viewing it as a violation of God's law. Here, it's important to remember the context. The Sabbath was a gift from God, a day of rest and worship. However, the Jews had strayed from the original intent and developed a legalistic interpretation. They turned the best day of the week into the worst. They took the gift of God and turned it into something that they had to do.

The Sabbath rest extends to everyone – family, servants, and even livestock. This reflects

God's desire for all creation to experience renewal and restoration.

In his explanation of the ten commandments Martin Luther emphasizes that the sabbath is for hearing God's Word. He says "We should fear and love God that we may not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it"

Jesus' core message is that the Sabbath exists for the benefit of humanity, it's a blessing! Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath and he fulfills it for us! Christ is our Sabbath Rest as he said

"²⁸ Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:28-29

Amen

God's Peace, Pastor Nicholas Kandoll





Keskitalo Baby Boy

Kyle and Joslyn welcomed a new baby boy. Joining him at home are siblings Ariana; Britta; Gunther; Freja; Rudiger; and Wyther.

Grandparents are Jim and Elma Keskitalo.

Baby Announcement



Chris and Beth Roberts are excited to introduce their newest grandson, **Riggs Ryker Morrisette**. He was born March 26th to Marcus & Autumn Morrisette of Clinton, MN. Riggs weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces. His siblings are Mason, Dax & Blakely. His great-grandparents are Darwin and Jean Roberts and Armas and Pat Aho.



Jacob K, Tom M, Pastor Nicholas, Luther W, Dennis W, Chuck P, Lawrence W, Steve B, Darwin R, Ross K, Missy K, Joshua K

Woodland Cemetery Cleanup

Clean-up day was completed in May 4th. 13 volunteers spent the morning picking up garbage, lifting foot stones, & filling in ruts on the lawn. After the work was completed, all enjoyed a pizza lunch.

**The Sunday School Program was held
on May 19.**

Amy Mursu accompanied on the piano.



History of the Apostolic Lutheran Church New York Mills, Minnesota, USA

The first Finnish settlers came to this area in 1874 and homesteaded and built shelters to live in while they made clearings to plant crops and provide food: a new home in a new land. These early pioneers were staunch Laestadian Christians who began to hold prayer meetings in each others homes with Matti Ronkainen preaching. In 1873 Israel Hagel left Karungi, Sweden, and traveled to America. Working in the Quincy Mine in upper Michigan for some time, he decided to go by train to Astoria, Oregon, on the U.S. west coast. For some reason he got off the train in Duluth, Minnesota, and walked to New York Mills, hearing there was land to homestead. (This is 175 miles, 3½ hours by car)! He eventually met up with Antti Puupera's and stayed a few days while looking for land in the NYMills area.

On June 19, 1877, the first formal worship of the Apostolic Lutheran faith was held in Antti Puupera's log cabin, with Israel Hagel preaching the sermon. There were 8 souls present, Tuomas Autio's, Antti Puupera's, Alex Nykanen's, Matt Ronkainen and Isaac Westola. In 1882 these pioneers built a small frame church on wooden pillars on the edge of a ravine about 7 miles south of NYMills, a site ideally suited and sheltered from the cold winter winds, affording needed protection for the horses used in reaching the place of worship.

When this church became too small to provided seating room for the growing membership, it was taken down and replaced by a larger church, built in 1903. There were 85 families as members in 1898 when the congregation was legalized by the state of Minnesota and their Articles of Incorporation were rec-

orded.

In 1945 the church was moved into NYMills (about seven miles) by the late Art Falls and the late Art Moebius from the forest glade and ravine to the south edge of New York Mills, which is our present location. Israel Hagel had purchased 40 acres of land south of town and donated it to the church for use as a cemetery. It was named Woodland cemetery. Two and one-fourth acres known as Prairie Cemetery was donated by Alex Pikkarainen and two acres was donated by Ollie Tervola for the Leaf Lake Cemetery.

When talk begin about moving the church, Israel wanted to move it to the Woodland Cemetery location. However, the majority voted it best to move the church into NYMills. In 1945 this was a tremendous feat. It was the talk of the town as many people watched for days. Eighteen high voltage lines had to be taken down by expert linemen; banks along the highway had to be cut off; ditches had to be filled where the highway was too narrow and some 15-20 trees had to be cut down. Thirty rubber tires were used on the wheels that enabled the church building to roll along. The moving attracted a crowd of 3000 people (which was considerably larger than the population of NYMills) over the course of the move. One of the trees felled was filled with honey and bees, which caused almost as much excitement as the moving of the church!

Over the years the building was enlarged with the addition of the sacristy, the front entrance, a balcony and a basement for serving meals. In 1999 we added the fellowship hall and converted the basement into Sunday School rooms. Within one year this extensive addition was all paid for! In former years all services were held in Finnish, then Finnish and English and now only English. Ministers over the years have

been Israel Hagel, Peter Raatama, Aatu Kela, Andrew Wirkkala, Matt Erkkila, Emil Kallinen, Johan Mursu, Walter Mursu, George Wilson, Oscar Wilson, Ralph Davidson, Donald Salo, and presently serving our congregation is Nicholas Kandall.

Andrew Tumberg, Matt Niemela and Jacob Aho are also ordained ministers who are or have served in the ministry here in NYMills.

Today we have approximately 155 families within our congregation. Many of the younger people have moved to other areas but still consider this their home congregation.

We have regular Sunday services, Wednesday night Bible study, and enjoy our coffee times in fellowship with each other! We are family with maybe different thoughts and ideas at times, but we are all members of the body of Christ believing our sins forgiven in the Name and Blood of Jesus Christ.

Many of our faithful servants and members have entered their eternal rest through the merits of Christ and His saving grace. These blood-washed and spirit sanctified men and women, together with countless other true believers in Christ have made it possible for us to continue in this labor of the Lord.

147 years of human life is but past history today. Where eight souls feasted on the bread of life, given of God and preached by Israel Hagel at the first service conducted in New York Mills, today we assemble in greater numbers, but the feast of salvation remains the same, for He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Unto Him who hath loved us and washed us from sin, unto Him be the glory forever! Amen!

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
View live or archived services

Federation Website
www.apostoliclutheran.org

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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 **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 SS Program May
19
Group 8 in June
Group 9 in July

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
March 25, 2024
April 29, 2024
***May 20, 2024**
June 24, 2024

Usage limit 1 time per month

*1 week early due to holidays

CHURCH BOARD MEMBERS

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