

THE SHEPHERD'S LOVE

New York Mills Apostolic Lutheran Church • 315 Main Ave South • New York Mills, MN 56567 Vol 4 No. 16

December 2025

From the Pastor's Desk



*"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called **Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.** Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this." Isaiah 9:6-7*

One of the things that really amazes me about the Holy Scriptures is the fulfillment of prophecy. Here we see the prophet speak of the coming of the messiah hundreds of years before He was even born. The birth of Jesus wasn't a coincidence, it didn't just happen. His birth, was God's love in action. His redemptive plan. After the resurrection Jesus appeared on the road to Damascus to 2 disciples. They

were distraught over what happened and Jesus basically tells them they shouldn't be surprised. That what happened on Good Friday was foretold in the scriptures. He also went through those very scriptures with them and showed them how!

"Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." Luke 24:25-27

Also when discussing these things with the pharisees Jesus said:

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." John 5:39

In both texts, the word scriptures describe The Old Testament. They didn't have the New Testament yet. Jesus is essentially saying that the Old Testament scriptures were pointing to Him! The prophecies in the Old Testament were fulfilled in Jesus Christ. His death and resur-

rection were not random events, they were God's plan. Christmas was the beginning of God's plan of salvation. Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming "Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming As men of old have sung. It came, a flower bright, Amid the cold of winter When half-gone was the night. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The Rose I have in mind: With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright She bore to men a Savior When half-gone was the night. This Flower, whose fragrance tender With sweetness fills the air, Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness everywhere. True man, yet very God, From sin and death He saves us And lightens every load"

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." 2 Corinthians 9:15

Merry Christmas!

Nicholas Kandoll



Isaiah 9:2-7 2. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

3 Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

4 For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.

5 For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire.

6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

The words King David used in Psalm 24:7 to celebrate the arrival of God's presence in Jerusalem inspired this beautiful Christmas hymn. *Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in.*

George Weissel recognized that Jesus' birth in Bethlehem was the ultimate fulfillment of the ancient psalmist's praise. On that first Christmas, God came to be with us in a new way. He was Immanuel—"God with us."

Weissel was a German scholar, teacher, and pastor who died at the height of the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648)—a period of unspeakable horror in Germany. Due to the war, repeated plagues, and other disasters, the population of sixteen million dwindled to only six million in thirty short years. Despite the horrors that surrounded him, Weissel found a reason for rejoicing because of God's arrival in our world in the person of Jesus Christ. It was the birth of Jesus at Christmas that made it possible for God to enter each of our hearts, beginning the transformation of our lives and our world from the inside out.

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates, Behold the King of glory waits!
The King of kings is drawing near, The Saviour of the world is here.*

**

*2. O blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes!*

**

*3. Fling wide the portals of your heart, Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

**

*4. Redeemer, come! With us abide; Our hearts to thee we open wide,
Let us thy inner presence feel. Thy grace and love in us reveal.*

(song no. 5 - Lift Up Your Heads)

*May the center of
your Christmas*

*Be a thankful heart
for the birth of Jesus*

*This comes with bless-
ings for you*

*Not just for Christ-
mas but for the whole
year through.*

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14 (KJV)



The Presence Of Christ

Poet: Catherine Pulsifer

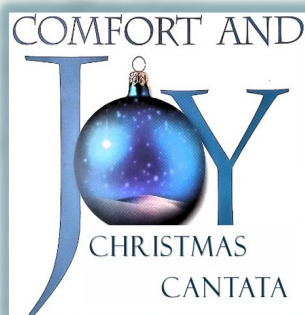
In the quiet hush of Bethlehem's night,
A star shone bright, a celestial light.
A manger cradled hope, pure and serene,
A gift of love, a Savior unseen.

May the presence of Christ, like the Bethlehem
star,
Illuminate your heart, no matter how far.
His joy, a beacon in the darkest night,
Filling your soul with a heavenly light.

So, as snowflakes dance in the wintry air,
May the presence of Christ, beyond compare,
Fill your days with hope, your nights with His cheer,
Merry Christmas, and a blessed New Year!

Local Food Shelf

We will keep a food shelf box at the church so people may continue to drop off food items whenever they have something extra they would like to share.



Sheila Childs, Director
Janzel Brakel, Accompanist

Saturday, December 13

5:00 PM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church,
Perham

Prelude by St. Paul's Bell Choir
at 5:00 PM with Cantata to follow.

Sunday, December 14

3:00 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church,
New York Mills

Refreshments served after the concert.



Unto You Is Born a Savior: An excerpt from Luther's Christmas 1544 sermon

This highest work [Christ taking on our flesh and being born in Bethlehem] is done "for us and for our salvation"; as the angel sings: "Unto you is born a Savior" [Luke 2:11]. That the son of God becomes like us would be quite enough. But that is not all. Not only does He become flesh and blood, etc., but your Savior. You are subject to death, sin, and the devil. He wants to redeem you from them. Who will believe this?

Ah, heavenly Father, You put Your Son at a maiden's breast to nurse Him and then let Him be hung upon the cross to die — and all this takes place for our sakes. Who will not rejoice at this? Surely we would die of joy, if we [considered this] aright. But our flesh and the devil prevent it. That is our misery and sadness: that I read this and hear it preached that it is so; the prophets proclaim it; the angels preach; the shepherds spread the report that Christ has come and the angels sing; the apostles do miracles to attest it; and the holy Church still sings [about it].

But how is it that it does not penetrate us, so that we say: "The One who is like you is God the Creator; He nurses at the breast, and yet He is my God; and all this so that He might deliver me"? What a clod and stump am I, that I do not receive Him and acknowledge Him as my Savior? [God says,] "This Child was not given only to the mother so that she might supply Him with milk, but for you, so that He might die and deliver you from My wrath." All this I hear preached and I read; I have it painted and sung for me, but I do not take it to heart. I go away as if I had been listening to a fable ... Should I not think: "If this Child whom the mother embraces is mine, if He is my brother, how, then, should I respond?" It would be no wonder if we became righteous from the heart, even without any other teaching. But we should be warmed and even melt with joy. But the devil has poisoned our flesh and blood so that they will not allow us to attain that fruit and joy, where I hear: "This little Boy does not belong to the mother, but to you, not only as He clings to her ... but also as He hangs upon the cross."

It is most certain that He has been given and born for you." Then the heart is warmed and says: "If this is true, then there is no ill so great that I would not endure it, even if I had to suffer still more. But on the contrary, [He suffers], and for the sake of the son, I should give eternal thanks from the heart, and my mouth and heart should overflow with joy."

That is what should happen, and it does happen among Christians, so that their eyes cry tears of joy. But the crude masses go their way and remain [unaffected]. That is a sign that you do not believe this work. Otherwise, you would reform yourself and rejoice. [If you want to know] how we have reformed ourselves, look at the greed and fornication. We continue in sin and shame, scraping and scratching.

Oh, woe to those for whom this work seems to have been done in vain, men of iron who despise this work and let it be preached but do not take the work to heart, though it is [proclaimed] throughout the whole of Scripture. Let there be weeping and lamentation over those who receive no benefit from this, and no fruit of joy ensues.

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

Kitchen Chairwoman
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218-385-2046

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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

Sunday School 9:15
Adult 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 9 for December
Group 10 for January

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



**Looking for
volunteers to
help with
coffee and
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

October 27, 2025

November 24, 2025

****December 22, 2025**
(early due to holiday)

January 26, 2026

February 23, 2026

March 30, 2026

Usage limit 1 time per month

CHURCH BOARD MEMBERS

JACOB AHO - CHAIRMAN
DARWIN ROBERTS
TOM MURSU
DEAN PERALA
MARC TUMBERG
DARYL HUWE
CHRIS ROBERTS