

NEW YEARS MESSAGE

New York Mills Apostolic Lutheran Church • 315 Main Ave South • New York Mills, MN 56567 Vol 4 No. 17

January 2026



Sermon for the Epiphany; Matthew 2:1-12

A Sermon by Martin Luther; taken from his Church Postil of 1522.

[The following sermon is taken from volume 1:324-367 of The Sermons of Martin Luther, published by Baker Book House (Grand Rapids, MI). It was originally published in 1905 in English by Lutherans in All Lands Press (Minneapolis, MN), as The Precious and Sacred Writings of Martin Luther, vol. 10. The pagination from the Baker edition has been maintained for referencing. This e-text was scanned and edited by Richard Bucher, it is in the public domain and it may be copied and distributed without restriction.]

1. This Gospel harmonizes with the Epistle and speaks of the temporal coming of the heathen to Christ, by which their spiritual coming to Christ, mentioned in the Epistle, is signified and commenced. It is both a terrifying and consoling Gospel: terrifying to the great and wise, the self-satisfied and the mighty, because they all reject Christ; consoling to the humble and despised, because to them alone Christ is revealed.

1. THE HISTORY OR LESSON STORY.

2. The Evangelist first refers to Herod the king, in order to recall the prophecy of Jacob the patriarch, who said: "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the obedience of the peoples be." Gen. 49, 9-10 [Gen. 49:10 - RPB]. From this prophecy is evident that Christ must come, when the kingdom or government of the Jews is taken from them, so that no other king or ruler from the house of Judah might sit on the throne. This was fulfilled now when Herod, who was not of the house of Judah, nor of Jewish descent but of Edom, hence a foreigner, was made king over the Jews by the Romans to the great dissatisfaction of the Jewish people. Hence for thirty years he warred with them before he finally silenced and subdued them.

3. Now when this foreigner had ruled over the Jews for thirty years, had taken possession of the government, and the Jews had acquiesced therein having no hopes of getting rid of him and thus the prophecy of Jacob was fulfilled, then the time was at hand, then Christ came and was born under this first stranger and appeared according to the prophecy; as though he would say: The scepter has now departed from Judah, a stranger is ruling over my people; it is now time that I should appear and become

king; the government now belongs to me.

4. These wise men are usually called the three Kings. As not much depends on this, we will grant this opinion to the simple minded people. However, it is not known whether there were two, three or more. But they certainly came from the rich country Arabia or Sheba, which is evident from their gifts viz. gold, frankincense and myrrh. All three of these are very precious in that country. It can certainly not be assumed that they had bought these elsewhere, for it is customary in these Eastern countries to do homage and make presents of the choice fruits and wealth of the country. just like Jacob commanded his sons to carry presents of the choice fruits of the land to Joseph in Egypt. Gen. 43, 11. Had these gifts of the wise men not been of their own country, why should they then have brought frankincense, myrrh and gold produced in the land of Judea, instead of silver and precious stones or fruits of some other country?

5. Therefore these gifts were not presented to Christ like artists paint the scenery that one offers gold, another frankincense and the third myrrh, but they presented the gifts in common as one man. And probably there were quite a number present, a few of them being the leaders, just as now a prince or a city sends a few brave men as messengers to the emperor with presents.



The program was entitled "The Word was God." Narrators were Niilo Tervola Hultberg and Josie Kandoll. Very well done. The youth group served Christmas snacks. All the Sunday School children got candy bags.



We, the Womens Ministry, made 23 fruit baskets and delivered them around town and also to a few out of town congregate members..

Ray Overholt (1958) was making it big in show business. At 36, he had his own TV show. Now he was moving into the nightclub circuit. But something was missing and he knew it. Things were going to have to change. He decided to read the Bible, which was a good place to start. He began to read about the Crucifixion. He says, "I read where Jesus told Peter that he could ask his Father and he would send twelve legions of angels." He hadn't heard that before. Overholt had written secular songs, but he thought that a good title for a religious song would be "*He Could Have Called Ten Thousand Angels*." He knew if he was to write about Jesus, he needed to know more about Him. So he began diligently reading his Bible. News got around about this nightclub singer writing a spiritual song, and a small church invited him to sing it. After his solo, he listened to the sermon and it gripped his heart. He knew he needed Jesus, the One whom he had been singing and writing about....

They bound the hands of Jesus in the garden where He prayed,

They led Him through the streets in shame.

They spat upon the Savior, so pure and free from sin.

They said, "Crucify Him! He's to blame."

CHORUS

He could have called ten thousand angels

To destroy the world and set Him free.

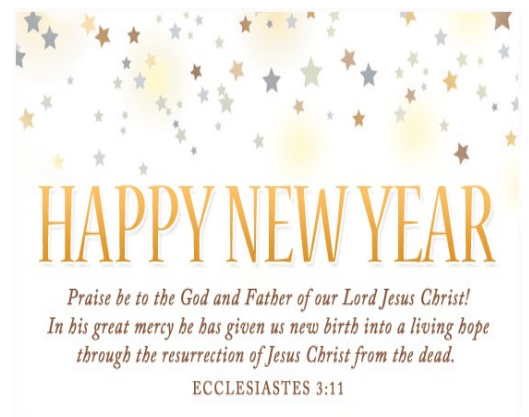
He could have called ten thousand angels,

But He died alone for you and me.

(Go to page 76 in Hymns & Songs of Zion
and read the rest of the verses)

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.



- "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." – Matthew 5:16
- "Do all things with love." – 1 Corinthians 16:14
- "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." – Psalm 23:1
- "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." – Ephesians 4:32
- "Hope is the anchor of the soul." – Hebrews 6:19
- "We love because he first loved us." – 1 John 4:19
- "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." – Proverbs 3:5
- "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched – they must be felt with the heart." – Helen Keller
- "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." – Jeremiah 29:11
- "Love is patient, love is kind." – 1 Corinthians 13:4
- "Be still, and know that I am God." – Psalm 46:10

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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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 10 for January
Group 7 for February

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