

THE SHEPHERD'S LOVE

New York Mills Apostolic Lutheran Church • 315 Main Ave South • New York Mills, MN 56567 Vol 3 No. 6

From the Pastor's Desk

December 2023



"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them."
Luke 2:1-20

This is one of the most familiar passages of scripture for me. I remember memorizing parts of it from when I was young, and those memories of past Christmas programs are incredibly special. I remember one year when I was an early teenager, and our

Sunday school was very small, 3 kids. I sang "In a little stable" solo. At the time that was my favorite Christmas song. Looking back, I am struck at how the simplest of songs can capture the essence of Christmas. "Emmanuel", God with us. You see Jesus became flesh to be with us, to help, heal, minister, but all of this was to save us from our sin.

This year I get to see my kids practice for a program, they may not realize it, but the Christmas program is an epic event. Not only because it is cute and educational but it does something that is vital. It proclaims the gospel. Our children proclaim the birth of our Lord Jesus to us and to the world. As a preacher, I especially enjoy the rare occasions that I get to sit and be a part of the congregation and hear the Word of the Lord. I am thankful for all the hard work that the children, teachers, and musicians put in to present the Christmas story to us. This year I invite all of you to tune in and hear the gospel of Jesus Christ as proclaimed by our children.

God's Peace, Nicholas Kandoll



Weekly Devotional by the late Pastor Alvin Holmgren
(Christian Monthly)

Our blessings are many—more than we can number. A Psalm quite adequately describes the abundance of these blessings by saying, Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation . . . He that is our God is the God of salvation. (Psalm 68:19-20) They who do not acknowledge God in their lives find nothing for which to thank Him. They accept His blessings as a matter of course; not as gifts, but as the fruits of their own labors.

Where, then, does the true song of praise really begin? It has been said that it begins when a sinner thanks God for His grace. The songs of praise in the Bible have salvation as their theme. The old saints joyfully poured out their thanks for the help they received in their difficulties, but basically, they were giving thanks for their salvation. The Lamb of God, who came to take away the sin of the world, was the source of their song.

Thank you to everyone that participated in the Operation Christmas Child shoebox program.

We delivered 17 boxes to bring JOY to some boy or girl this Christmas.

Ross & Missy

PSALM 23

Line by Line meaning:

The LORD is my shepherd = **RELATIONSHIP**

I shall not be in want = **SUPPLY**

He makes me lie down in green pastures = **REST**

He leads me beside quiet waters = **REFRESHMENT**

He restores my soul = **HEALING**

He guides me in paths of righteousness = **GUIDANCE**

For his name's sake = **PURPOSE**

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death = **TESTING**

I will fear no evil = **PROTECTION**

For you are with me = **FAITHFULNESS**

Your rod and your staff they comfort me = **DISCIPLINE**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies = **HOPE**

You anoint my head with oil = **CONSECRATION**

My cup overflows = **ABUNDANCE**

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life = **BLESSING**

Don and Vi Salo celebrated their 70th anniversary with family and friends.

We pray God will continue to bless them and we thank them for their many years of service in the church.



MARY HAD THE LITTLE LAMB

Mary had the little Lamb, who lived before His birth;
Self-existent Son of God, from Heaven He came to Earth. ([Micah 5:2](#))

Mary had the little Lamb; see Him in yonder stall—
Virgin-born Son of God, to save man from the Fall. ([Isaiah 7:14](#))

Mary had the little Lamb, obedient Son of God;
Everywhere the Father led, His feet were sure to trod. ([John 6:38](#))

Mary had the little Lamb, crucified on the tree
The rejected Son of God, He died to set men free. ([1 Peter 1:18](#))

Mary had the little Lamb—men placed Him in the grave,
Thinking they were done with Him; to death He was no slave!
([Matthew 28:6](#))

Mary had the little Lamb, ascended now is He;
All work on Earth is ended, our Advocate to be. ([Hebrews 4:14-16](#))

Mary had the little Lamb—mystery to behold!
From the Lamb of Calvary, a Lion will unfold. ([Revelation 5: 5,6](#))

When the Day Star comes again, of this be very sure:
It won't be Lamb-like silence, but with the Lion's roar. ([Psalm 2:12](#);
[Revelation 19:11-16](#))

"I am a rose of Sharon," says Song of Songs

Medieval interpreters assigned these words to Christ, and Rose became another name for our Lord. In Isaiah 11:1, it speaks of a shoot coming up from "the stem of Jesse." This beautiful hymn, which may go back as far as the 14th century, takes the rose image and the branch prophecy and weaves a lovely meditation. The repeated "half-spent was the night" gives us the sense of a beautiful event going almost unnoticed. It also suggests a more theological point, that the night is still with us. The Rose sprouted and blossomed in the middle of the night, and its fragrance is wafting through the world. But the world will not see it in all its beauty until morning, when Christ is fully revealed as Ruler of all.

1. 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 floweret bright, amid the cold of winter
When half spent was the night.
2. 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 Saviour,
When half spent was the night.
3. 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.
4. O Saviour, Child of Mary, who felt our human woe;
O Saviour King of glory, who dost our weakness know,
Bring us at length we pray to the bright courts of heaven,
And to the endless day.

(No. 28 in Hymns & Songs of Zion)

Isaiah 9:6-7

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, Counselor, 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 for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.



Please join us in the fellowship hall to sing Christmas Carols after dinner on the 17th.



Christmas Fruit Baskets



The Women's Ministry is planning to put together fruit/ snack containers on Saturday, December 16, at 10:00 a.m. in the Church Fellowship Hall. Thrivent Action will provide \$250 toward the purchase of fruit.

Anyone who would like to help with putting the containers together or bring items for this is welcome and appreciated. We also need people to deliver them to elderly or anyone going through difficult times. If you have questions, contact Elma Keskitalo. Thanks!

Church Board Members: JIM KESKITALO – CHARIMAN; DICK CARLUND - VICE-CHAIRMAN; MARC TUMBERG - SECRETARY; ROSS KESKITALO - TREASURER; TOM MURSU; JACOB AHO; DARWIN ROBERTS

Church Information

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Monday-Thursday
9 a.m.-noon

Church Website
www.nymalc.org
View live or archived services

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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 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 10 in Dec
Group 7 Dec 17
Group 8 in Jan

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.

**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.**