

THE SHEPHERD'S LOVE

New York Mills Apostolic Lutheran Church • 315 Main Ave South • New York Mills, MN 56567 Vol 4 No. 82

From the Pastor's Desk

January 2025



"2 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:² And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.³ And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.⁴ Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.⁵ His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.⁶ And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.⁷ Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.⁸ And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.⁹ When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,¹⁰ And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.¹¹ This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him." John 2:1-11

The wedding at Cana is a familiar story to us, where Jesus performs His first miracle by turning water into wine. This first miracle of Jesus recorded in the scripture for us is not simply about fixing the lack of wine issue at the wedding, it is about Jesus revealing who He is.

In this season of Epiphany, we reflect on the revelation of Jesus Christ to the world. At Cana, His glory is not displayed with thunder or fire, but in the quiet transformation of water into wine. Picture it. A wedding is a time of rejoicing, and yet here, the celebration is at risk of falling apart. The wine has run out, a problem that in those days would have brought embarrassment to the hosts and disappointment to the guests. Because Mary is involved many think this was a relative of Jesus that was getting married. Though His response may seem distant at first, Jesus cares about these people and acts to help them.

The jars of water, meant for purification, are transformed into the finest wine. They were used for washing feet and things like that, imagine what the servants thought when he told them to draw it out. There's no test, it's just given to the master of the feast. How hard must it have been for them to draw it out and deliver it to the governor in such a way.

It's interesting how it is the servants and disciples who witness the miracle. The governor of the feast doesn't even seem to be aware of it. There is no grand announcement, no spectacle to draw attention. The guests enjoy the wine, but don't know where it came from. The

servants and the disciples are the ones who witness this sign, and John tells us that it "manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him." This miracle is not just an act of kindness; it is a revelation of who Jesus is—the One who has power over creation itself, the one who use his power to give us life and salvation.

This miracle reminds us first and foremost that God loves marriage, he created it and continues to bless us with this most precious gift. It also shows us how God works in our lives. Just as Jesus turned ordinary water into something extraordinary, He takes the ordinary things of this world and turns them to his plan and purpose. The same Savior who cared for a wedding feast cares for us, providing not only for our physical needs but also for our spiritual ones.

This story also calls us to trust in Jesus, even when we do not fully understand His timing or His ways. Mary's words to the servants are words for us as well: "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it." To follow Christ is to trust in His word, knowing that He works all things for our good, even when we cannot see the full picture.

As we go through the season of Epiphany, let us marvel at the ways Jesus reveals Himself to the world; knowing that " ²⁸ ... all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

God's Peace,
Pastor Nicholas Kan-

Late in 1943, Ruth Caye Jones, mother of five and wife of a busy pastor, was reading 2 Timothy 3:1, which says "*In the last days perilous times shall come*" (KJV). As she read the Pittsburgh papers, saw the World War II casualty lists, and watched the slow progress of allied troops moving up the boot of Italy, it seemed that perilous times had already come. Rationing was hitting hard; discouragement was everywhere. How long could people continue in times like these?

Ruth took out a small notepad from her apron pocket and started writing some words. A melody came to her as she wrote. She had no formal music training, and she wasn't trying to do something to make herself famous, but it was the right song for the right time. Soon people around the world were singing it.

Years later, when she watched a Billy Graham telecast and heard the song sung, tears came to her eyes and she said, "*I can't believe I had any part in writing this song. I just feel that God gave it to me; and I gave it to the world.*"

**In times like these you need a Savior,
In times like these you need an anchor;
Be very sure, be very sure your anchor holds
And grips the Solid Rock!
This Rock is Jesus, yes He's the One,
This Rock is Jesus, the only One!
Be very sure, be very sure
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!**

**In times like these you need the Bible,
In times like these O be not idle;
Be very sure, be very sure your anchor holds
And grips the Solid Rock!**

**In times like these I have a Savior,
In times like these I have an anchor;
I'm very sure, I'm very sure my anchor holds
And grips the Solid Rock!**
(song no. 232 in Hymns & Songs of Zion)

PSALMS 100

~~~~~

**Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all  
ye lands.**

**<sup>2</sup> Serve the LORD with gladness: come  
before his presence with singing.**

**<sup>3</sup> Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is  
he that hath made us, and not we our-  
selves; we are his people, and the  
sheep of his pasture.**

**<sup>4</sup> Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,  
and into his courts with praise: be  
thankful unto him, and bless his name.**

**<sup>5</sup> For the LORD is good; his mercy is ev-  
erlasting; and his truth endureth to all  
generations.**

**The Sunday School program was held Sunday Dec 22. Music was provided by Amy Mursu.**

O come, little children, from cot and from hall  
O come to the manger in Bethlehem's stall  
There meekly He lieth, the heavenly Child  
So poor and so humble, so sweet and so mild





The Bible defines our Lord as these very elements! Jesus is the great I AM!

I AM the living water. I AM the bread of life. I AM the breath of life. I AM the light of the world.

Once again, science backs up Scripture!

The term, *water of life*, is used in the context of *living water*. In Israel, the presence of rain was associated with blessings from God. *Water of Life* refers to the Holy Spirit (Jeremiah 17:13). In Joel, the outpouring of God's Spirit in the last days is closely associated with *living water* (Joel 2:28-29). A rabbinic insight is that *living water* is also understood to mean a true knowledge of God. This is certainly associated with the Holy Spirit, who teaches us God's will by guiding and directing us in the way we should go

Jesus, in offering the Spirit (v. 39), is claiming to be able to satisfy people's thirst for God. David prayed, **"O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water" (Psalm 63:1).** It was a deeper understanding of God that David was thirsting for

Jesus said I Am *the Bread of Life*. He was not referring to physical life, but eternal life. By comparing Himself to bread, Jesus makes the point that He is *essential* for life. Therefore, we need to feed upon His living word, as it will nourish us spiritually.

In Genesis 2, we discover *how* God created man. Our heavenly Father took the dust of the earth and formed Adam in His image. However, it was not until He had breathed into his nostrils the *breath of life* that Adam became a living thing. It was a very personal interaction. Unlike the universe, God did not simply speak the first man into existence.

Man is more than mere dust. We are spirit! The *breath of God* is the life and power of God, given to us so that we might live to exalt Him. He is the source of all life.

We need light. With it, we see where we are going and if there are any dangers ahead. Light keeps us from stumbling. Jesus declared *I AM the light of the world*.

Surely, these four basic elements point to Jesus. We need Christ if we want to live eternally with Him in paradise. Heaven is real but so is hell. My prayer is that the Water of Life quenches your thirst and the Bread of Life feeds your spirit. May the Breath of Life energize you and fill your heart with songs of praise. The Light of the World is a loving God and He will guide your steps in the way you should go.

**"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!" Psalm 103:1**



*God bless  
you in the  
new year.*

## 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](http://www.nymalc.org)  
*View live or archived services*

**Federation Website**  
[www.apostoliclutheran.org](http://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](mailto: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 20<sup>th</sup> 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**  
**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 on the  
**first Sunday**  
Group 10 for Jan  
Group 7 for Feb

\*\*\*\*\*

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.**

## 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**

**\*Dec 23, 2024**

**Jan 27, 2025**

**Feb 24, 2025**

**Mar 31, 2025**

Usage limit 1 time per month

## CHURCH BOARD MEMBERS

Jacob Aho - CHAIRMAN  
DARWIN ROBERTS- VICE-CHAIRMAN  
TOM MURSU - SECRETARY  
ROSS KESKITALO - TREASURER  
MARC TUMBERG  
DARYL HUWE  
CHRIS ROBERTS