

THE SHEPHERDS LOVE

New York Mills Apostolic Lutheran Church • 315 Main Ave South • New York Mills, MN 56567 Vol 4 No. 18

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“And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only. And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.”
Matthew 17:1-9

On the Mount of Transfiguration God pulls back the curtain, and the disciples, and by extension us, are permitted to see Jesus in all of his glory. It's important to note that the glory did not suddenly come

upon Him as though He became something He was not before. Rather, the glory that had long been hidden is revealed. The eternal Son of God, clothed in our flesh, is seen as He truly is.

We are told that Jesus took Peter, James, and John *“into an high mountain apart”*. In the Old Testament, mountains are often places of divine revelation. Moses ascended Sinai. Elijah fled to Horeb, God provides the ram for Abraham on Mt. Moriah. And here, the Lord brings His chosen witnesses up the mountain signaling that something is going to be revealed.

When they reach the appointed place we're told *“He was transfigured before them”*. His face shines as the sun. His garments become white as light. Jesus who has been with them all this time is now shown to be far more than they had understood. He hasn't changed but they are granted a new vantage point.

Then Moses and Elijah appear and speak with Him. The Law and the Prophets stand with Christ. It is as though the whole Old Testament has come to testify that He is the one they were pointing to. Moses, who led Israel in the Exodus, now stands beside the greater Deliverer. Elijah, who had been given God's Word to confront kings and false prophets, now stands beside the incarnate Word of God, Jesus. Both bear witness that all of Scripture points to Christ.

But Peter, as he often does, speaks too quickly: *“Lord, it is good for us to be here”*. And there is truth in that. *It is good*

to behold Christ. *It is good* to see His glory. *It is good* to have the veil pulled back and to glimpse what faith clings to even when the eyes cannot see. But Peter does not yet understand what this glory means, nor what it will cost. He wants to build tabernacles and preserve the moment. He wants to stay on the mountaintop. He considers that it's good for them to be there in order that they can serve and worship.

But Jesus came to accomplish salvation. He did not ascend the mountain to avoid suffering; He came down from it to walk toward the cross. The Transfiguration is given not so that the disciples might escape the coming hardships, but so that they would endure it. On Calvary, His face will not shine like the sun but the sun will be darkened, and He was stricken, smitten and afflicted. His garments were not dazzling white but were divided by soldiers. He was lifted up, not on a mountain in glory, but on a cross in shame.

After Peter's hasty words God speaks: *“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him”*. This is what it's all about. It's not about Him revealing His glory. Nor the appearance of Moses and Elijah. But that God the Father Himself identifies Jesus as His Son and calls us to listen to Him. We are tempted to listen to many other voices. We listen to the world, which calls evil good and good evil. We listen to our flesh, which seeks comfort and control.

We listen to the devil, who accuses and whispers in our ear. But God says, "Hear ye him." Listen to Christ. When He speaks forgiveness, believe Him. When He speaks truth, submit to Him. When He calls to repentance, do not harden your heart. When He promises rest, do not doubt. And in the end "When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only". That too is a sermon. Moses disappears. Elijah disappears. The cloud passes. The voice is no longer heard. But Jesus remains. When every other comfort fails, when every other voice is silenced, when earthly strength is stripped away, there is

still Jesus only. And He is always enough.

We may not have the privilege of standing on that mountain with Peter, James, and John. But we have something just as sure. We have Jesus as He comes to us in His Word. We have Jesus as He comes to us in His Sacrament. We have Jesus as he comes to us through His word, not as an idea or a thought or a feeling, but as a Savior who has given Himself for Us. And the glory revealed on the mountain is not meant to stay there. It's meant to strengthen us as on our journey. For Christ's glory is not separated from His

suffering. The shining face and the pierced hands belong to the same Lord. The One who is declared the beloved Son is the One who goes willingly to the cross to bear our sins. And because He did, the day is coming when His glory will no longer be glimpsed for a moment, but will be seen in fullness. Until that day, we follow Him down the mountain. We listen to Him. We cling to Him. And we take comfort in Him and His finished work that covers all of our sins.

God's Peace,
Nicholas Kandoll

Singers Wanted for Community Lenten Cantata

Rehearsals will begin soon for the Community Lenten Cantata. Adam Tervola Hultberg will be our director, and we will sing the cantata "On a Hill Too Far Away". Performance dates are Sunday, March 29 at 3:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in New York Mills and Wednesday, April 1 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Perham.

The author of this hymn, William Williams (1717-1791), had been preparing for a career in medicine, but one Sunday morning he heard a man preaching in a Welsh churchyard. He responded in faith, and his life was drastically changed. For forty-three years, he preached and sang throughout Wales and became known as the poet laureate of the Welsh revival. Soon all Wales was singing their way to the coal mines and the soccer matches, and this became their favorite marching song.

In the hymn, Williams compares the Christian life to the Israelites' trek through the wilderness. He refers to God feeding the children of Israel with manna, leading them with fire and a cloudy pillar, and finally guiding them across the Jordan River into Canaan.

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

*Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim thro' this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more!*

*2. Open now the crystal fountain, Whence the healing streams do flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey thro';
Strong Delive'rer, strong Deliv'rer, Be Thou still my strength and Shield!*

*3. When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;
Bear me through the swelling current, Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee.*

(No. 413 in Hymns & Songs of Zion)



Volunteers Needed

The Vitality Center is in need of volunteers to help w/ Bingo; social activities, games or special events.

Also for providing one-on-one or group socialization.

No medical experience is required, just a kind heart and a willingness to spend time with our residents. Schedules can be flexible and arranged based on availability.

Contact Sheila Bakke, Vitality Living 218-385-4700

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.

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

1. It is very probable that today's Epistle has been selected by a pure misunderstanding, the one who appointed it for this Sunday probably thinking that it refers to the infant Christ, because it speaks of a young heir who is lord of all. Many other Epistles and Gospels have been selected for inappropriate days from similar misunderstandings. Nothing however depends upon the order of selection; it amounts to the same thing what is preached at the different seasons, if only the right meaning is preserved. Thus the events of this Gospel happened on the day of **Candlemas**, when Mary brought the child into the temple, and yet it is read on this Sunday. I mention all this, that nobody may be confused by the chronological order, or prevented from correctly understanding the Gospel. We will divide it into two parts, the one treating of Simeon, and the other of Anna. It is indeed a rich Gospel and well arranged: first, the man Simeon; second, the woman Anna, both aged and holy.

I. OF SIMEON. "And his father and his mother were marveling at the things which were spoken concerning him."

2. What are those wonderful things spoken concerning him? They are the things concerning which St. Simeon had spoken immediately before, when in the temple he took the child Jesus upon his arms, saying: 'Now lettest thou thy servant depart, Lord according to thy word, in peace; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples; a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.'" At these things, St. Luke says, they marvelled, namely, that this aged and holy man stood there before them in the temple, took the child in his arms and spoke of him so exultingly, calling him the light of the world, a Saviour of all nations, a glory of all the people of Israel; Simeon himself thinking so highly of him that he would now fain depart this life after he had seen the child.

3. Now it must indeed excite wonder that such things were proclaimed openly by Simeon in that public and sacred place with reference to that poor and insignificant child, whose mother was so humble and lowly and whose father Joseph was not wealthy. How could such a child be considered the Saviour of all men, the light of the Gentiles and the glory and honour of all Israel? At present, after we have had so many proofs of Christ's greatness, these words do no longer seem so wonderful; but then, when nothing as yet was known of Jesus, they were indeed marvellous, and this lowly child was very unlike the great and mighty being portrayed by Simeon. But Joseph and Mary believed it nevertheless, and just therefore they marvelled. If they had not believed it, the words of Simeon would have appeared to them insignificant, untrue and worthless, and not at all wonderful. Therefore, the fact that they were marvelling, shows that Joseph and Mary possessed a strong and sublime faith.

4. But some one might say: why then do they marvel at this? Had not the angels told them before that this child was Christ and the Saviour, and had not the shepherds also spoken glorious things concerning him? It was also very wonderful that the kings or wise men had come from distant lands to worship him with their offerings. Mary knew well that she

had conceived him of the Holy Spirit, and that wonderful events had attended his birth. Moreover, the angel Gabriel had said that he should be great and be called the Son of the Most High. In short, all the preceding events had been marvellous, up to this time; now nothing wonderful occurs, but only those things are announced and proclaimed concerning him which have not happened and are not yet seen.

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 7 for February
Group 9 for March
Group 8 for Easter April 5

The serving group will make the main dishes for **potlucks** (unless an-



nounced 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