

THE SHEPHERD'S LOVE

New York Mills Apostolic Lutheran Church • 315 Main Ave South • New York Mills, MN 56567 Vol 3 No. 30

From the Pastor's Desk

December 2022



"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till

she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS."

Matthew 1:18-25

In Luke's gospel we see these events unfold from a different perspective. We see Gabriel visit Mary and tell her what will happen. Matthew shows us the perspective of Joseph. Joseph and Mary were betrothed, or as we'd put it today, engaged to be married. Their customs were different than ours but we can still imagine what it must have been like for Joseph. The woman he is betrothed too becomes pregnant; the obvious conclusion is that she has not been faithful. The tradition of the day would have been to call her out in front of everyone at the city gates and break the betrothal. But Joseph isn't a petty man, in fact were told that he is just. So, he resolves to break up with her privately. But God intervenes and tells him that the baby was conceived by the Holy Spirit and is in fact Jesus, the promised Messiah. That his wife is the prophesied virgin who shall bear the Messiah and it will be up to him and his wife to raise the son of God. This must have been quite the burden.

Church tradition holds that Joseph was quite a bit older than Mary, perhaps in his middle years at this point. This is due to the fact that you don't see or hear from him again after the incident in the temple when Jesus was 12. This is why Jesus, as the oldest, tells John to take care of Mary, he wouldn't have done this if Joseph was living.

In this text we see God working through normal people and normal events to bring about the extraordinary incarnation. To enter into human flesh to redeem humanity. Our Emanuel, God with us. One of the hard things about bible translations is that we miss out on some nuances in the text when we read it in English. The name Jesus means savior, and some might argue that that's how it ought to be translated in English. In Hebrew the name is Yeshua, i.e. Joshua. The name of Jesus is very significant because it shows that God had a plan for our salvation from the very beginning. He wouldn't let us remain in our fallen state forever, but would redeem us, would send a savior. And that's exactly what he did.

"Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift."

God's Peace,

Pastor Nicholas Kandoll



Andrew and Kylee Perala were blessed with a baby boy born on November 14th. **Bennett Richard** was welcomed home by his big sister Vidah. Thanks to all of you for the calls, texts and meals.

We pray God's blessings on this precious little bundle.



We wish to thank everyone for all the thoughts prayers, food, cards and flowers.

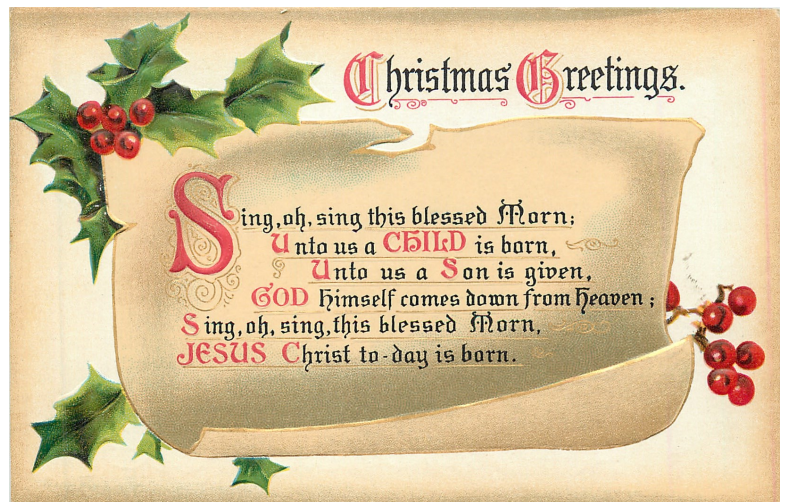
Special thanks to Knute Nelson Hospice for the excellent care that was given to **Allen**. Also special thanks to Jon & Kathy for the use of their Ice Castle fish house. We sure appreciated it.

Thank you to Pastor Nick for the visits, food and comforting words before and during the funeral. Thank you Andy Kandoll for the visits and special prayers.

Also thank you to everyone who visited and the ladies who worked in the church kitchen serving lunch. Thank you to Greg and Suzi at Karvonen funeral home. God has blessed us the good friends and family. Carol Tumberg and family.

The Womens Ministry will be putting together fruit baskets for shut-ins on Saturday Dec 10th @ 10 AM in the fellowship hall.

If anyone is interested in helping contact Elma Keskitalo or Louise Amberg-Jokela.



This traditional French carol, **Angels We Have Heard on High**, puts to music the shepherds' story as recorded in the Gospel of Luke. It tells about the angelic chorus, the trip to Bethlehem, the meeting with Mary and Joseph, and the adoration of the baby Jesus. Luke 2:17-20 tells of the reaction of the shepherds after they had been to Bethlehem's manger. They spread the word, and all who heard were amazed at what the shepherds said. Then the shepherds "went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen."

Sometimes our Christmas season ends with the viewing of the manger scene. We never get to the glorifying and praising, joining the angel chorus in the fullness of Gloria in excelsis Deo---"Glory to God in the highest." Make Christmas complete this year by following the shepherds' example, giving glory to our Redeemer God!

1. Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night, And the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.
2. 2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer? What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?
3. 3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; Come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
4. 4. See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.
5. CHORUS Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo. No. 40 in our hymnal (written in 1855)

II. *The Birth of Jesus Considered in it's Spiritual Meaning*

A. The Teaching Concerning Faith

24. Faith is first, and it is right that we recognize it as the most important in every word of God. It is of no value only to believe that this history is true as it is written; for all sinners, even those condemned believe that. The Scripture, God's Word, does not teach concerning faith, that it is a natural work, without grace. The right and gracious faith which God demands is, that you firmly believe that Christ is born for you, and that this birth took place for your welfare. The Gospel teaches that Christ was born, and that he did and suffered everything in our behalf, as is here declared by the angel: "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people; for there is born to you this day a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord." In these words you clearly see that he is born for us.

25. He does not simply say, Christ is born, but to you he is born, neither does he say, I bring glad tidings, but to you I bring glad tidings of great joy. Furthermore, this joy was not to remain in Christ, but it shall be to all the people. This faith no condemned or wicked man has, nor can he have it; for the right ground of salvation which unites Christ and the believing heart is that they have all things in common. But what have they?

26. Christ has a pure, innocent, and holy birth. Man has an unclean, sinful, condemned birth; as David says ([Psa. 51:5](#)), "Behold I was brought forth in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." Nothing can help this unholy birth except the pure birth of Christ. But Christ's birth cannot be distributed in a material sense neither would that avail any thing; it is therefore imparted spiritually, through the Word, as the angel says, it is given to all who firmly believe so that no harm will come to them because of their impure birth. This is the way and manner in which we are to be cleansed from the miserable birth we have from Adam. For this purpose Christ willed to be born, that through him we might be born again, as he says [John 3:3](#), that it takes place through faith; as also St. James says in [Jas 1:18](#), "Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."

27. We see here how Christ, as it were, takes our birth from us and absorbs it in his birth, and grants us his, that in it we might become pure and holy, as if it were our own, so that every Christian may rejoice and glory in Christ's birth as much as if he had himself been born of Mary as was Christ. Whoever does not believe this, or doubts, is no Christian.

28. Oh, this is the great joy of which the angel speaks. This is the comfort and exceeding goodness of God that, if a man believes this, he can boast of the treasure that Mary is his rightful mother, Christ his brother, and God his father. For these things actually occurred and are true, but we must believe. This is the principal thing and the principal treasure in every Gospel, before any doctrine of good works can be taken out of it. Christ must above all things become our own and we become his, before we can do good works. But this cannot occur except through the faith that teaches us rightly to understand the Gospel and properly to lay hold of it. This is the only way in which Christ can be rightly known so that the conscience is satisfied and made to rejoice. Out of this grow love and praise to God who in Christ has bestowed upon us such unspeakable gifts. This gives courage to do or leave undone, and living or dying, to suffer every thing that is well pleasing to God. This is what is meant by [Isaiah 9:6](#), "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given," to us, to us, to us is born, and to us is given this child.

29. Therefore see to it that you do not find pleasure in the Gospel only as a history, for that is only transient; neither regard it only as an example, for it is of no value without faith; but see to it that you make this birth your own and that Christ be born in you. This will be the case if you believe, then you will repose in the lap of the Virgin Mary and be her dear child. But you must exercise this faith and pray while you live, you cannot establish it too firmly. This is our foundation and inheritance, upon which good works must be built.

Martin Luther



Christmas Eve service time will be announced at a later date.

Church Information

Apostolic Lutheran Church
315 Main Ave South
New York Mills, MN 56567

Pastor Nicholas Kandoll
Cell: 218-316-1365
Church: 218-385-2166

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*

Church Hours

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 7 in DEC
Group 8 for SS Program
Group 9 in JAN

Evening Coffee Groups

Mens Group 4 serves

Wed Dec 7

Mens Group 1 serves

Wed Dec 14

Christmas Eve Mens Group 2

serves.

New Year Eve Coffee Men

bring pies

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

NYM Emergency Food Shelf

FOR EMERGENCY HELP CALL NYM

CULTURAL CENTER 218-385-3339

CONNIE WARNER

218-385-2853 (work)

218-385-3669 (home)

BONNIE WELTER

218-385-3385

218-639-4100 (cell)

TERESA MUCKALA

763-843-3269

ALL INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL

LOCATION:

400 S WALKER AVE

NYM MN

FOOD SHELF HOURS

OCT 31, 2022

*NOV 21, 2022

*DEC 19, 2022

JAN 30, 2023

FEB 27, 2023

HOURS 9-NOON

♦ **THE FOOD SHELF IS OPEN 1 WEEK EARLY DUE TO THE**

HOLIDAY