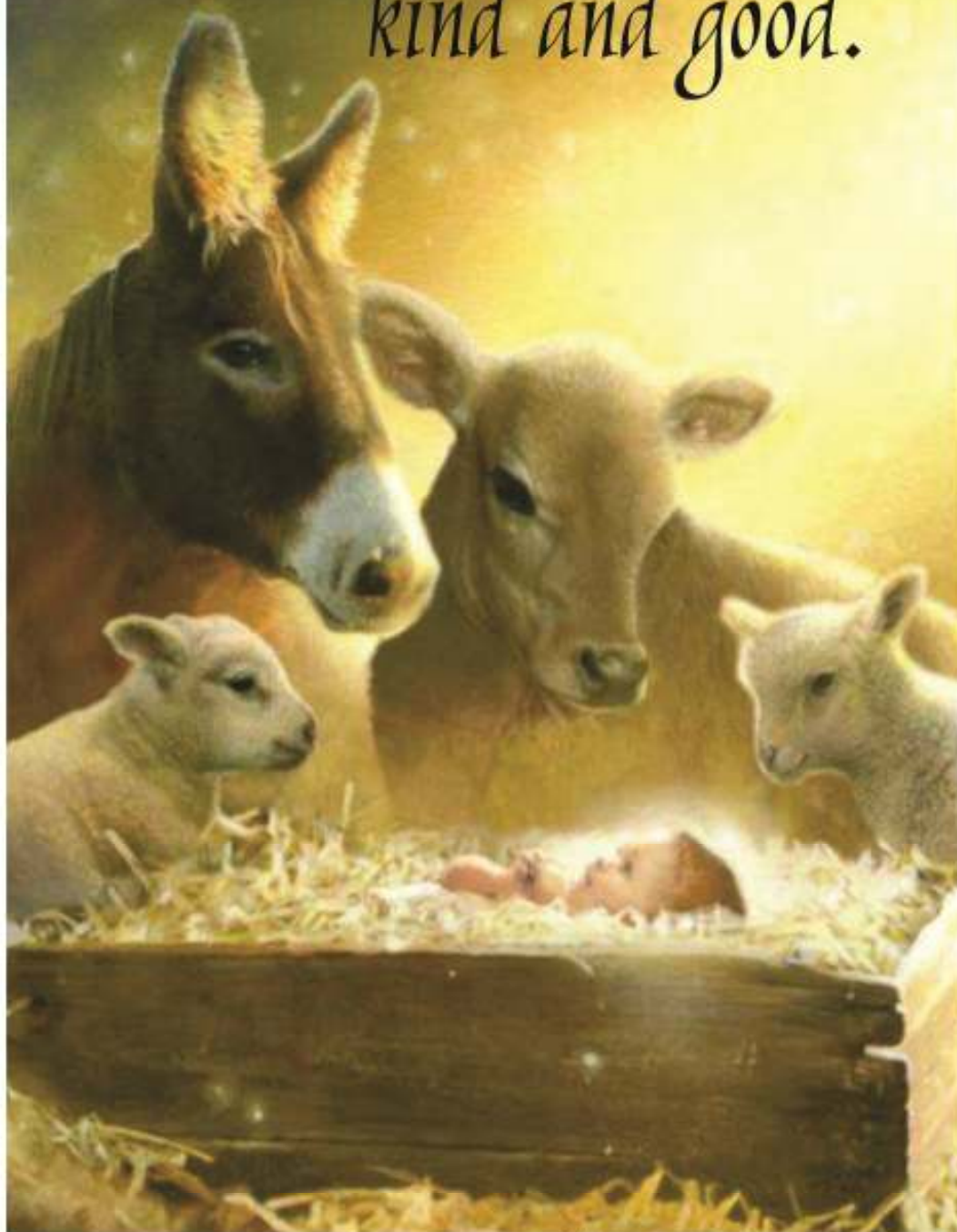


*Jesus our brother,
kind and good.*




St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
627 S. Washington Street New Ulm, MN

First Sunday After Christmas ~ December 29 & 30, 2018

Pastor Jeffrey A. Bovee
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Pastor Rob J. Guenther
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507-240-2433 Cell

Today's service is televised locally

Channel 14 - Comcast: Monday at 6:00 p.m. & Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. & Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Channel 3 - Nuvera: Mondays at 6:00 p.m. & Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. & Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday after Christmas

December 29/30, 2018

Prayer before worship: Lord Jesus Christ, you were born for us that we might be born again through faith in you. By your grace we are made true children of our Father in Heaven, and have become your true brothers and sisters. How awesome is this thought! May the joy this good news brings us cause us to overflow with thanksgiving as we praise and worship you this day and always. By your Word continue to direct our lives so that ordered by your love and mercy we will serve you always and proclaim your good news to the world. We pray this in your holy name, Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Order of Service: *Service of the Word* page 38

OPENING HYMN

Let All Together Praise Our God

CW41

Saturday, 8 and 11 am

BAPTISMAL HYMN

CW295

9:30 am

FIRST LESSON

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

But Samuel was ministering before the LORD-- a boy wearing a linen ephod. Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her

husband to offer the annual sacrifice. Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, "May the LORD give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed

for and gave to the LORD." Then they would go home.

And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with men.

PSALM of the DAY

Psalm 111

CW p. 106

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 2:10-18

In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the

congregation I will sing your praises." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death-- that is, the devil-- and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of

death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

GENERAL VERSE

p. 40

GOSPEL

Luke 2:41-52

Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him,

they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them. Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

HYMN of the DAY

God's Own Son Most Holy

CW17

SERMON

Hebrews 2:10-18

Jesus Christ is Our Brother

1. He is God in the flesh
2. He shared our humanity
3. We will share his heavenly glory

APOSTLES' CREED

p. 41

OFFERING

PRAYERS and LORD'S PRAYER

p. 42

HYMN

To Thee My Heart I Offer

CW43

CLOSING HYMN

A Great and Mighty Wonder

CW36

† † †

PREACHER
ORGANIST

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee
Jonathan Roux

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Mon	7 pm	New Year's Eve Service
Tue		Church office closed
Thu	10:30 am	Adult Bible Class
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class
Fri	6:30 am	Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins
	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class
Sat	4 pm	Basement Reserved
	6:30 pm	Worship (Time Change)

† Upcoming Services †

Saturday: 6:30 pm
Sunday: 8, 9:30 & 11 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 7	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
Jan 8	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	6:30 pm	Education Meeting
	7 pm	Women of St. John's Meeting
Jan 9	6:30 pm	Public Catechism
	7 pm	Mixed Choir
Jan 10	10:30 am	Adult Bible Class
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class
Jan 11	6:30 am	Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins
	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class
Jan 13	9:30 am	Sunday School and Adult Bible Class: "Prayer"
Jan 14	7 pm	Evangelism Meeting
Jan 16	6:30 pm	Public Catechism
	7 pm	Mixed Choir
Jan 17	10:30 am	Adult Bible Class
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class
Jan 18	6:30 am	Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins
	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class
Jan 19	9 am	Cards of Caring, 403 N. Minnesota St.
	9 am	Youth Group: Tubing / Sledding
Jan 20	9:30 am	Sunday School and Adult Bible Class: "Prayer"
	11 am	Church Officer Installation
Jan 21	7 pm	Council Meeting
Jan 22	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	7 pm	Quarterly Voters' Meeting
Jan 23	6:30 pm	Public Catechism
	7 pm	Mixed Choir
Jan 24	10:30 am	Adult Bible Class
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class

ST. JOHN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 563.

Fruits of faith given:

\$17,333	Home Operations ~ \$14,532 is our weekly need		
\$1,229	MVL ~ \$2,520 is our weekly need	\$231	Food & Fellowship
\$749	Missions ~ \$1,648 is our weekly need	\$100	Audio/Video Equipment
\$1,894	Building Fund ~ \$1,603 is our weekly need	\$55	Lutheran Charities
\$1,000	Hmong Outreach in Vietnam	\$10	Endowment Fund

Born Again through Holy Baptism ~ this weekend is Lydia Ruth Grundmeier, newborn daughter of Tim and Erika Grundmeier. May the Lord bless this family, and keep Lydia in her baptismal grace all the days of her life.

Saturday Service Time Change ~ Beginning Saturday, January 5, the service will begin at 6:30 pm.

2019 Contribution Envelopes ~ The 2019 offering envelopes can be found either in your bulletin box or in alphabetical order on the tables in the new narthex. To ensure you receive proper credit, please do not use the 2019 envelopes until January 1st. Also, do not use 2018 envelopes after December 31st - please dispose of them. Thank you for your cooperation.

Year-End Contributions ~ All 2018 contributions must be received by St. John's by December 31; anything received January 1 or after will be considered 2019 contributions.

Cards of Caring ~ The Cards of Caring volunteers will meet Saturdays, January 19, and February 9, to make Warm Winter Wishes, Valentines, Easter, and Anniversary cards for our "Thinking of You" and homebound members. We meet at 403 N. Minnesota St. between 9 am and 12 pm. We welcome MLC students and members age 12 and older. Come and join us for this fun volunteer project. Contact Lois Willems at 507-676-1230 with questions.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Time to Build Campaign News ~ Just before Christmas the Building Committee met with our architect and contractor to sync plans with our \$6.7 budget goal. The plan is still to begin construction in spring as soon as the frost is out of the ground. A plan is also being developed so that construction and instruction go on as smoothly as possible this school year and next. Total offerings for the project are \$2,537,277. The fund balance after expenses is \$1,902,015. Please keep the project in your prayers and offerings.

MVL Announcements ~ *MVL Office Holiday Hours* The MVL school office will be closed through Jan. 1. *MVL Anniversary Shirts* MVL has anniversary t-shirts available for purchase, \$10 for adults (S-3XL) and \$7 for youth (S-XL). Limited quantities in certain colors and sizes, so order yours soon! Contact Kristin Matzke at kmatzke@mvls.org or 507.354.6851. *Scrip Coordinator Needed* MVL is looking for a volunteer who would be willing to help order Scrip and fill orders for families. The time commitment for this position averages out to about two hours on Monday morning and two hours on Friday morning. If you are interested in serving MVL and our Lord in this way, please contact the MVL office at 507-354-6851.

The Southwest Area Lutheran Chorale ~ invites you to participate in their 2019 season. Our first rehearsal is scheduled for Sunday, January 13th at St. John in Redwood Falls from 2 - 5 pm. Our concerts will be held on Sunday, April 7th, at St. John's, Fairfax at 2 pm and St. Paul's, in St. James at 7 pm. A complete schedule will be distributed at our first rehearsal. You can also learn more by contacting our Organizational Committee: Jim Renz 507-327-7222 (director), Linette Scharlemann 507-227-2161 (director), and Pastor Scott Muske 507-426-7007 (pastoral advisor). New members are always welcome!

St. Paul's Lutheran School PreK Open House ~ for 3 & 4 year old is Monday, January 14 from 2 - 6 pm. Visit school, let your child "try out" the room and talk to Mrs. Meyer about the Pre-K program! Contact Heidi Meyer, Pre-K Director, at 507-354-2329 with questions. Members of St. John's and St. Paul's are welcome to register early, January 1-14. (Public registration begins Jan 15).

Men of Truth ~ WHAT'S IT MEAN TO BE A "MAN OF GOD"? Husbands, fathers, and young men, join us for the 4th Annual Men of Truth Conference as we are encouraged from Scripture on what it means to be a "Man of God" on Saturday, March 23, 2019 at Martin Luther College.
www.menoftruth.org

Staff Minister Kelly Emde
Administrative Teacher Jim Dretske
Teacher Laura Balza
Teacher Karen Grunwald
Teacher Jean Schroeder
St. John's Church Office

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About the Cover ~ The Bible tells us that Jesus' first cradle was a manger, that is, a feed box for animals. Therefore many of our Christmas songs and artist renderings of the baby Jesus depict him as having been born in a stable or barn. It may have been so, or he may have been born in the lower level of a house where sometimes the animals were brought in for the night for shelter, since research indicates that some homes were designed that way in those days. The Bible does not tell us specifically that there were animals in the dwelling on the night Jesus was born. However, since Jesus was laid in a manger, it is possible. His first makeshift bed reminds us of Jesus' humble beginnings as he became a human being on behalf of all of us in order to become our Savior.

In a folk tune entitled, "The Friendly Beasts," Jesus is portrayed as having been born among the animals who tell the story of his birth. It of course, is only a fable; but the opening line of the song says: "Jesus our Brother, kind and good, was humbly born in a stable rude." To call Jesus our brother might seem a bit trite, maybe even disrespectful to some. However, the writer of the book of Hebrews cites Psalm 22:22, and reminds that Jesus refers to himself as our brother, not only because he took on our flesh and blood, but also because through faith in him we have been adopted into God's family. In Jesus, we are truly brothers and sisters with Christ, and God is our true Father in heaven.