



But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:20-21

Fourth Sunday in Advent • December 21 / 22, 2019

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

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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.

Worship Notes
Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 21/22, 2019

Prayer before worship: Almighty God, who through the message of heavenly angels made known the coming of Jesus Christ our Lord: Continue to come to us through your blessed revelation which is ours in the words of Holy Scripture, the Bible. Use it to strengthen our faith and to give us the confidence that we are saved because you always fulfill what you have promised. Accept our prayers, praises, hymns, and offerings as we come to you in the name of the one who is Immanuel, God with Us, our Savior Jesus Christ. We pray these things in his holy name. Amen.

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

OPENING HYMN

God's Own Son Most Holy

CW17

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-14

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I	will not put the LORD to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of	my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."
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PSALM of the DAY

Psalm 24

***CW* p. 73**

SECOND LESSON

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God-- the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness	was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith. And you also	are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
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GENERAL VERSE

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GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an

angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be

with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us." When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

HYMN of the DAY

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

CW23

SERMON

Matthew 1:18-25

A DREAM THAT WASN'T TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

- 1. A VIRGIN CONCEIVES A CHILD BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**
- 2. YOU WILL GIVE HIM THE NAME JESUS**
- 3. THEY WILL CALL HIM IMMANUEL**

APOSTLES' CREED

p. 41

OFFERING

PRAYERS and LORD'S PRAYER

p. 42

HYMN

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

CW24

CLOSING HYMN

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

CW6

† † †

PREACHER

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee

PRESIDING MINISTER

Pastor Rob Guenther

ORGANIST

Becky Berg

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun	9:30 am	Sunday School (NO Bible Class)
	11 am	Sunday School Christmas Service
Mon	8 am	St. Paul's School Christmas Rehearsal
Tue	4 pm	St. Paul's School Christmas Service
	7 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Wed	9 am	Christmas Day Service with Communion
Thu		Church office closed

† **Upcoming Services** †

Christmas Eve Services:
 St. Paul's School Christmas Service: 4 pm
 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service: 7 pm

Christmas Day Service:
 9 am

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 31	7 pm	New Year's Eve Service with Communion
	8 pm	Kelly Emde Retirement Celebration
Jan 1, 2020		Church office closed
Jan 6	10:30 am	Stewardship Meeting
	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
Jan 7	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	6:30 pm	Education Meeting
	7 pm	Women of St. John's Meeting
Jan 8	6:30 pm	Public Catechism
Jan 9	10:30 am	Adult Bible Class: 2 Kings
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class: Colossians
Jan 10	6:30 am	Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins: "On Giving Advice to God Part 2"
	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: I Apologize
Jan 11	9 am	Cards of Caring at 403 N. Minnesota St.
	1 pm	St. Paul's School Winter Carnival at St. Paul's School
Jan 12	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class: Prayer
Jan 13	10 am	Pastors' Study Club at St. Paul's Church
	6 pm	Evangelism Meeting
	7 pm	Trustees Meeting
Jan 14	6 pm	Sunday School Teachers' Meeting
	7 pm	St. Paul's School Formula Meeting at St. Paul's School
Jan 15	6:30 pm	Public Catechism
	7 pm	Mixed Choir

ST. JOHN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 665 with 524 attending Communion.

Fruits of faith given:

\$14,624	Home Operations		
\$851	MVL	\$1,260	St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$2,694	Missions	\$187	Food & Fellowship
\$1,762	Building Fund ~ \$1,603 is our weekly need	\$60	Lutheran Charities
\$20	MN River Valley Mentoring Program	\$5	K-12 Education Assistance

St. John's Offerings ~ *Lutheran Charities* The church council has determined that this year's Lutheran Charities offerings will be split evenly between Christian Family Solutions and WELS Christian Aid + Relief. *WELS CMO* \$7,052 is the amount needed by the end of December to fulfill our 2019 commitment for WELS Missions. *MVL* \$9,735 is the amount needed by the end of December to fulfill our 2019 commitment to MVL. *Home Operations* Currently, our 2019 budgeted Home Operations offerings are short by \$126,850; however, as of the end of November, Home Operations expenditures are approximately \$50,000 under budget leaving us with an estimated shortage of \$76,850.

St. John's Coffee Mugs ~ Newly ordered St. John's coffee mugs are used by our prospective member visitation team as a gift to help our new friends remember our local congregation. Perhaps you wish you had your own St. John's mug to help you remember to pray for our ministry during your morning java. Your wish has been granted! Stop by the display table in the narthex to pick up one of these stylish mugs for only \$5.00 each! Just leave your payment - cash or check to St John's - in the box provided. Consider them also for an easy Christmas gift!

2020 Contribution Envelopes ~ The 2020 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 2020 envelopes until January 1st. Also, do not use 2019 envelopes after December 31st - please dispose of them. Thank you for your cooperation.



Year End Contributions ~ All 2019 contributions must be received by St. John's by December 31. Anything received January 1 or after will be included with 2020 contributions.

Charity Donations through Amazon ~ Support St. John's at no extra cost when you shop smile.amazon.com. In the Account tab, go to Your AmazonSmile. You will find St. John's Lutheran Church, New Ulm as an option when you do a search. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your purchases to St. John's!

Parents of College Students ~ We're hoping to send college students of our congregation cards and Meditations. Please email their snail mail address to Lisa Goeglein at stjohsnewulm@gmail.com. Thank you!

Contributions for St. Paul's School Building Fund ~ Please make out checks to "St. John's Lutheran Church" and indicate "St Paul's School Building Fund" on your offering envelope. This will help us better track our congregation's support of the building project. These amounts will be reflected on your St. John's contribution statement. Thank You!

Fleece for Blankets ~ John and Paul Ministries January event, *Winter Carnival*, will include an opportunity to make fleece tie blankets that our pastors can give to those in need. We will be looking for **donations of 1.5-3 yards each of coordinating fleece fabric** (a front and back). Do not tie the blanket already-that will be done at the event. Donated fleece can go into designated bins in the narthex areas or the church office. More information on *Winter Carnival* coming soon!

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Paul's School Building Project Campaign News - Occupancy Granted! ~ This past week St. Paul's Lutheran School passed inspections and was granted occupancy for the entire school project! What a blessing to have the project done on time! At the same time offerings continue to come in with the total at \$3,094,597 - also a great blessing! Thank the Lord for he is good! Please make donations out to St. John's Lutheran Church and indicate "St. Paul's School Building Fund" on the envelope. Thank you.

MVL News ~ *Bus Drivers Needed for MVL Routes* Palmer Bus Service provides safe and reliable transportation for students. We're looking for MVL route drivers and substitute drivers for these great kids. Paid training! Full-time and part-time positions available. Interested individuals should contact Site Manager Casey Stearns at 507-995-5387.

Blood Drive ~ There will be a blood drive at the Vogel Fieldhouse (122 S. Garden St.) on Wednesday, January 15 from 1 - 7 pm, Thursday, January 16, from 12 - 6 pm and Friday, January 17 from 8:30 am - 1:30 pm. Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: New Ulm to schedule an appointment.

Job Opening ~ We are taking staff applications at Jesus Loves Me Learning Center in North Mankato! JLMLC has six rooms and the purpose of our center is to share the message of Jesus our Savior with everyone. All six rooms have a child-centered environment where children learn and thrive in all developmental areas. We offer competitive wages and fun-filled days. Email directorjlm@stpaulsnorthmankato.com for more information or call 507-508-2041.

Our Upcoming Christmas Schedule

Sunday School Christmas Service

Sunday, December 22
at 11:00 am

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24
4:00 pm St. Paul's School Christmas Service
7:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Day with Communion

Wednesday, December 25
at 9:00 am

New Year's Eve Service with Communion

Tuesday, December 31
at 7:00 pm

About the Cover ~ This painting by French artist Philippe de Champaigne (1602-1674) entitled, "St. Joseph's Dream," depicts Joseph, who was engaged to be married to Mary. But when he found out she was pregnant, he wondered what to do. It was a difficult dilemma. However, a wonderful thing happened. An angel from God appeared to him in a dream and explained Mary's miraculous virgin birth as the result of the Holy Spirit entering her womb and causing her to conceive the child foretold by the prophet Isaiah. He would be Immanuel, that is, "God with us." For that reason he would also be named "Jesus," which means, "The LORD Saves," for that is what he would come to do.