



*"My soul magnifies the Lord.
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." NKJ*

The Gospel of Saint Luke: Chapter One, Verses Forty-six and Forty-seven

Fourth Sunday in Advent: December 22 / 23, 2018

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 22/23, 2018

Prayer before worship: Almighty God, along with Mary we come before you in deepest humility, unworthy of any of the great blessings you have given us. But we praise you as she did, knowing that unworthy sinners such as we are saved by your grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Accept our worship and praise for the sake of his redeeming work which frees us from Satan, sin, and death. Amen.

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

OPENING HYMN *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* **CW24**

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 4:1-2, 6-8, 25-5:5

Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man." Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.

you, but you must master it." Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

This is the written account of Adam's line. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them "man." When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth. After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Adam lived 930 years, and then he died.

Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have

Adam lay with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, "God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him." Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh. At that time men began to call on the name of the LORD.

PSALM of the DAY

Psalm 85

CW p. 97

SECOND LESSON

Revelation 12:1-6

A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her

head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red

dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The

dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. She gave birth to a son, a

male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. The woman fled into the desert to a

place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

GENERAL VERSE

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GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-55

HYMN of the DAY

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

CW23

SERMON

Luke 1:39-55

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting

reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!" And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me-- holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He

has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers."

APOSTLES' CREED

p. 41

OFFERING

PRAYERS and LORD'S PRAYER

p. 42

HYMN

What Child Is This

CW 67

CLOSING HYMN

My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

CW 274

† † †

PREACHER
ORGANIST

Pastor Jeff Bovee
Jonathan Roux

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun	11 am	Sunday School Christmas Service
Mon	4 pm	St. Paul's School Christmas Service
	7 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Tue	9 am	Christmas Day Service
Wed		Church office closed

† Weekend Services †

Saturday: 7 pm

Sunday: 8, 9:30 & 11 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 31	7 pm	New Year's Eve Service
Jan 3	10:30 am	Adult Bible Class
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class
Jan 4	6:30 am	Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins
	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class
Jan 5	6:30 pm	Worship (Time change)
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

ST. JOHN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 440 with 297 attending Communion.

Fruits of faith given:

\$11,276	Home Operations ~ \$14,532 is our weekly need		
\$1,050	MVL ~ \$2,520 is our weekly need	\$200	Endowment Fund
\$1,790	Missions ~ \$1,648 is our weekly need	\$150	Kitchen Fund
\$1,059	Building Fund ~ \$1,603 is our weekly need	\$120	Lutheran Charities
\$2,170	Hmong Outreach in Vietnam	\$199	Food & Fellowship
\$70	Memorials	\$5	Christian Family Solutions

New Addition ~ We rejoice with Matt & Nicki Dummer who were blessed with the gift of a daughter, Leah Ann. May the Lord keep this child and her family in his loving care, and bring Leah into God's kingdom by faith in Christ through the gift of Holy Baptism.

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.

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

MVL Announcements ~ *MVL Office Holiday Hours* The MVL school office will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1. The MVL faculty, staff, Board, and students wish you all a blessed Christmas and happy New Year! *MVL Chargers in Kwik Trip Tournament* The MVL Chargers will be participating in the Kwik Trip Holiday Basketball Tournament. The tournament will be held at Bethany Lutheran College Dec. 27-29. Visit blc.edu for more information. *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@mvlhs.org or 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

Our Upcoming Christmas Season

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24

St. Paul's School Christmas Service at 4:00 pm

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25

at 9:00 am

New Year's Eve Service

Monday, December 31

at 7:00 pm

Beginning Saturday, January 5, 2019

the Saturday service will begin

at 6:30 pm

Staff Minister Kelly Emde

Administrative Teacher Jim Dretske

Teacher Laura Balza

Teacher Karen Grunwald

Teacher Jean Schroeder

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About the Cover ~ This painting by artist Bruce Herman, Lothlórien Distinguished Chair in Fine Arts at Gordon College, depicts the Virgin Mary having just received the news that she shall be the Mother of our Lord, a title bestowed on her by her cousin, Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptizer. Portrayed here with deepest humility, Mary would break forth into one of the most memorable songs of the New Testament, the *Magnificat*, and would proclaim: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Mary, along with all of us had to admit she needed a Savior. It was in her own Son that she found him -- her Savior and ours.

detail from *Magnificat: Second Adam* ©Bruce Herman, 2005

oil on wood polyptych; 120" high by 144" wide

permission of the artist www.bruceherman.com