



## *Pastor Hanke's Blog*

*December 15, 2019*

### The Best-Kept Secret

Bible Reference: Luke 1:39-56

Have you ever found a restaurant that no one else knew about? I was at the Brentwood Century Foundation's "Party of the Century" a few weeks ago and the couple I sat by told me about a restaurant with all this great food, but said it was hard to find. Now they are telling everyone they can because they don't want it to go out of business. Maybe it's not an unknown restaurant for you, instead perhaps you went to a holiday party and you tried a new dish that is absolutely incredible, or you discovered a hidden talent in someone that no one knew was there. How does the popular phrase go? The best-kept secrets are meant to be shared.

For some reason we don't think of the two pregnant women pictured above as one of life's best-kept secrets, but that's exactly what they are. First, Zechariah's wife, Elizabeth, and Mary are both miraculously pregnant, and they were both in hiding until it was time for their babies to be born. But then, when Mary goes and visits Elizabeth and the two women meet, John the Baptist, the baby in Elizabeth's womb, leaps at the presence of his Lord...the baby inside Mary's womb! This meeting is all about the best-kept secret! Mary, who is literally fully of grace, passes that grace to Elizabeth as she becomes full of the Holy Spirit by just being in the presence of Jesus. Baby John leaps in her womb and now the secret is out! The two men who will change this world meet for the first time.

This meeting is more than just a chance meeting; it was an intentional connection to prophecy. Thus the best-kept secret is out—Jesus is the Savior of the world—and who gets to find out first but another **BABY IN THE WOMB!** Yet, this best-kept secret didn't go viral quite yet, rather Jesus makes the most incredibly quiet entrance. This weekend we hear this reading and reflect on how it helps us to prepare for Jesus' coming.

*Peace,*

*Pastor Will*