



## *Pastor Hanke's Blog*

### *December 23, 2018*

#### **Christmas Menu**

Bible Reference: Luke 2

In 2009 my family and I started creating menus for special celebrations and holidays, and we have been doing it ever since. We spend time crafting the menu to fit the group, and work to make it better each year. Everyone still wants and expects a meal, so we spice it up by changing the presentation and preparing it the best way we know how.

There are some similarities when it comes to preparing for Christmas services. Even though the desire and need for the Gospel never changes, we ask the Lord how would He have us present it to you this year. Let me share with you the "Christmas Menu 2018" for our Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday services.

Sunday we'll kick it off with one of my favorite passages—a story about Jesus in the womb from the Gospel of Luke. The womb is a unique creative space where God allows man to participate in creation. Though we understand more about the womb than people did in Mary's time, there are still so many unknown factors. We'll talk about how to deal with the unknowns, and even the confusion, and yet cherish the mystery. We'll dive into John the Baptist's first encounter with Jesus— a womb-to-womb meeting. How amazing!

Monday we will take a look at Christmas cards. The practice of sending out Christmas cards is a special way of connecting with friends and family at this time of year. How did God send us a Christmas card? What does that teach us about the Christmas cards we send? Join us on Christmas Eve to learn of God's Christmas card to you.

Finally, on Tuesday we will spend time contemplating the reality of the Word becoming flesh. In our own lives, we often say words that we never put into action, but not God. Jesus became the flesh promised by His Word. We learn a lot about God's faithfulness as we see His words fulfilled in Jesus. Now, how can we be faithful servants and put our words into actions?

That's the menu! I pray you will join us along the journey. We are praying for you and your family. We look forward to worshiping with you. Merry Christmas! Jesus is born!

*God's Peace,*  
*Pastor Will*