

Everyday FAITH Family Page

New Testament 1

Law/Gospel

No one is righteous before God. **God sent His Son, Jesus, the Righteous One, to be born of Mary, so He could give me His righteousness, granting me full salvation.**

Bible Words

My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
Luke 1:47

The Magnificat

Mary's song of praise is the first of four hymns in the Gospel of Luke, sung since the early days of the Church and still sung today. We sing it in the Orders of Vespers and Evening Prayer in *Lutheran Service Book* (pp. 231–32, 248–49).

Life in the Womb

The living but unborn are persons in the sight of God from the time of conception. Since abortion takes a human life, it is not a moral option except to prevent the death of another person, the mother.

Jeremiah 1:5: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.

Psalm 139:16 (at right)

Question 52, *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*, copyright © 1986, 1991 CPH.

Mary Visits Elizabeth

Luke 1:39–56

When the angel Gabriel told Mary she would become the mother of our Lord, he also said her relative Elizabeth was pregnant with a son. Mary knew Elizabeth's age and situation. She hurried to visit her.

Curiosity and concern may have propelled Mary's journey, but Elizabeth's pregnancy also gave physical, tangible proof of Gabriel's promise about Mary's pregnancy. Elizabeth was a safe confidant for Mary with this unprecedented pregnancy by the Holy Spirit because she lived more than fifty miles away and was herself experiencing a miracle.

Scripture says Elizabeth's six-month-old baby leapt in the womb when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth said her son had leaped with joy at the presence of his Lord in Mary's womb. And before Mary even had a chance to tell what happened, Elizabeth blessed her for believing the Lord's message.

Every pregnancy is a miracle from God, but these two had special additions. Elizabeth's son, John, would pave the way for people to know and trust in Mary's Son, Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

Psalm 139

- ¹³ For You formed my inward parts;
You knitted me together in my mother's womb.
- ¹⁴ I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are Your works;
my soul knows it very well.
- ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
- ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in Your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.

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