




Northdale
Lutheran
CHURCH & SCHOOL

NORTHDAL E LUTHERAN CHURCH
TAMPA, FL
DECEMBER 22, 2019

Northdale Lutheran Church and School

15709 MAPLEDALE BLVD

TAMPA, FL 33624

WWW.NORTHDALELUTHERAN.ORG

813-961-9195

"WE GROW IN GOD'S WORD SO THAT WE CAN GO WITH GOD'S WORD"

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Welcome to Northdale Lutheran! We are so glad you are joining us to proclaim what God has done and to sing his praises. Here the Lord also comes to us and strengthens us with his mighty Word. Take a moment to meet and greet those around you! Also:

- ❖ Restrooms are in the entrance and through the nursery hallway.
- ❖ Help us be more welcoming by signing the guest registers in each row.
- ❖ To help keep the sanctuary as a quiet place of worship and meditation and for your convenience, a Quiet Room is available for the whole service for young children in the back of the sanctuary. Please make use of this room if your child becomes loud in worship. ***Please do not leave children unattended in the Quiet Room. We ask that at least one adult be present while children are in this room.***
- ❖ Everything you need for worship will be printed in the worship folder.



WORSHIP THEME

God will come to save his people, just as he promised. Since the Garden, there has been only one promised plan to do that: God would take on flesh and blood. Immanuel comes-God in the flesh-exactly as promised to save his people.

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN, CW #3, "LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YOU MIGHTY GATES"



1 Lift up your heads, you might - y gates! Be -
2 The King is born in pov - er - ty, His
3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where
4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make
5 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide My



hold, the King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is
char - iot is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is
Christ the rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and
it a tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for
heart to you; here, Lord, a - bide! Oh, en - ter with your



draw - ing near; The Sav - ior of the world is here.
ho - li - ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress.
hap - py homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes!
heav'n's em - ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
sav - ing grace; Show me your kind and friend - ly face.



Life and sal - va - tion he will bring; There -
The end of all our woe he brings; There -
The cloud - less sun of joy is he Who
So shall your Sov - 'reign en - ter in And
Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on Un -



fore re - joice and glad - ly sing. To God the Fa - ther
fore the earth is glad and sings. To Christ the Sav - ior
comes to set his peo - ple free. To God the Spir - it
new and no - bler life be - gin. To God a - lone be
til our glo - rious goal is won. E - ter - nal praise and



raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
praise For word and deed and grace!
fame We of - fer to your name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
Tune: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR (88 88 88 66) Freylinghausen, *Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch*, Halle, 1704.

PLEASE STAND

INVOCATION

(The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.)

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

DIALOGUE FOR ADVENT

M: Arise, shine for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

C: **I will sing of the Lord's great love forever. With my mouth I will make his faithfulness known through all generations.**

M: See, darkness covers the earth, and thick darkness is over the peoples.

C: **But the Lord rises upon us and his glory appears over us.**

M: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, and that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

C: **Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.**

M: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known in all the world. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.

C: **May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun. All nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed.**

M: Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous things.

C: **Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory.**

M: The Lord who came once in Bethlehem will come again in glory. Let us prepare for his coming with sincere repentance of our sin.

All: In preparation for your coming, O Lord, we confess our sins to you. Forgive us for all of the sins that we have committed against you in

thought, word and deed. Forgive our sins, cleanse our hearts and keep us faithful and ready for the promised coming of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

M: God sent His Son, the Babe in Bethlehem, to show his love for you and to forgive your sins. With his authority, I forgive you all your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: Prepared to meet your King, rejoice now in his grace and sing his praise!

C: *(Sing CW #25, vs 1,4,5)*



1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And
 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child To
 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn When
 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn Shall
 5 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And



light tri - um - phant breaks, When beau - ty gilds the
 bear and fight and die, But crowned with glo - ry
 Christ, vic - to - rious, rose And left the lone - some
 dawn up - on our race The day when Christ in
 light and beau - ty brings. Hail, Christ the Lord! Your



east - ern hills And life to joy a - wakes—
 like the sun That lights the morn - ing sky.
 place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
 splen - dor comes And we shall see his face.
 peo - ple pray: Come quick - ly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie, 1857–1925, abr., alt.

Tune: CONSOLATION (CM) *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, Harrisburg, 1813.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

BE SEATED



THE WORD OF GOD*

THE FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 7:10-14

God chose a sign that would prophesy the deliverance of the whole world from sin and death.

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

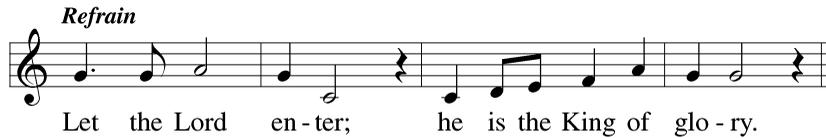
¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.”

¹³Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

*The Word of God

“The reading of the Lessons is a highlight of a service. The spiritually hungry have come to be fed and nurtured and to drink from the waters of life. Knowing that ‘faith comes from hearing the message,’ God’s people listen intently with attention aroused to be blessed by the hearing of God’s Word.” Christian Worship Manual

PSALM OF THE DAY, *PSALM 24*



Refrain

The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it,*
the world, and all who live in it;

for he founded it upon the seas*
and established it upon the waters.

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?*

Who may stand in his holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,*
he will receive blessing from God his Savior.

Refrain

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,*
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?*
The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,*
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?*
The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

THE SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 1:1-7

Paul proclaims to us that every promise God made over thousands of years was kept in Jesus.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— ²the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, ⁴and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. ⁶And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia.

PLEASE STAND



THE GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 1:18-25

God had come to save his people just as he had promised.

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But 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. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”. (which means “God with us”).

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

BE SEATED

SERMON HYMN, CW #23, "OH, COME, OH, COME, EMMANUEL



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2 Oh, come, O Root of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's
3 Oh, come, O Day-spring from on high, And cheer us by your
4 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save,
draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
heav'n - ly home. Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
And bring them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joice! Re-joice!
And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
And close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 12th century, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, alt.

Tune: VENI, EMMANUEL (LM with Refrain) Plainsong melody, 15th century, alt.

SERMON TEXT: ISAIAH 7:10-14

SERMON THEME:

We Have Promises

THANKSGIVING

PLEASE STAND

THE APOSTLES' CREED

(Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word.)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

BE SEATED

OFFERING

Please sign the Friendship Register in each of the rows and pass it to those sitting next to you.

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Luke 12:34) The members of Northdale Lutheran joyfully give our offerings to the LORD in response to His Word and in thanks for the many ways he has blessed us. We have joined together as a congregation to use these offerings to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world through the work of our Synod. Your gifts moved by the Holy Spirit out love for God and his blessings are welcome.

Online giving is now set up and available through our membership software entitled Breeze. You can give through Breeze two ways: 1) You can give by texting "Give" to (813) 652-0408. 2) You can go to <https://northdale.breezechms.com/give/online>. You can certainly ask if you have any questions.

PLEASE STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will

see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**All: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

BE SEATED

HYMN, CW #30, "RISE, ARISE"



1 Rise, a - rise! Rise, a - rise! Chris-tians, rise to
 2 Oh, re - joice! Oh, re - joice! Christ has come as
 3 Crown him King! Crown him King! His ex - alt - ed



greet your King. O - pen wide the gates be - fore him;
 long fore - told. The Mes - si - ah long - ex - pect - ed,
 name con - fess. From his heav'n - ly throne de - scend - ing,



Let the glad ho - san - nas ring; Haste to wor - ship
 The in - car - nate Word be - hold! Though by earth - ly
 Je - sus, Lord our right - eous - ness, Brings us joy and



and a - dore him. Hark! The watch - man on the moun - tain
 kings re - ject - ed, Hail him Lord of all with might - y
 peace un - end - ing. Oh, let heart and tongue his prais - es



cries: Rise, a - rise! Rise, a - rise!
 voice. Oh, re - joice! Oh, re - joice!
 sing! Crown him King! Crown him King!

Text: Anna B. D. Hoppe, 1889–1941, abr., alt. © 1928 Augustana Book Concern. All rights reserved.
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 Tune: FAHRE FORT (67 87 89 6) Johann E. Schmidt, 1670–1745, alt.

PLEASE STAND

FINAL PRAYER

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace



BE SEATED



FINAL HYMN, CW #47, "BEHOLD, A BRANCH IS GROWING"



1 Be - hold, a Branch is grow - ing Of
 2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it In
 3 The shep - herds heard the sto - ry Pro -
 4 This flow'r, so small and ten - der, With
 5 O Sav - ior, Child of Mar - y, Who



love - liest form and grace, As proph - ets sang, fore -
 words of prom - ise sure, And Mar - y's arms en -
 claimed by an - gels bright, How Christ, the Lord of
 fra - grance fills the air; His bright - ness ends the
 felt our hu - man woes, O Sav - ior, King of



know - ing; It springs from Jes - se's race And
 fold it, A vir - gin meek and pure. Through
 glo - ry, Was born on earth this night. To
 dark - ness That kept the earth in fear. True
 glo - ry, Who con - quered all our foes, Bring



bears one lit - tle flow'r In midst of cold - est
 God's e - ter - nal will This child to her is
 Beth - le - hem they sped And in the man - ger
 God and yet true man, He came to save his
 us at last, we pray, To the bright courts of



win - ter, At deep - est mid - night hour.
 giv - en At mid - night calm and still.
 found him, As an - gel her - alds said.
 peo - ple From earth's dark night of sin.
 heav - en And to the end - less day.

Text: *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, Köln, 1599, abr.; tr. composite.
 Tune: ES IST EIN ROS (76 76 676) *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, Köln, 1599.

WELS CONNECTION

The WELS Connection is a brief 5 minute video that highlights some of the work in which we are privileged to participate through our Wisconsin Synod. The ministries that are highlighted in this video are funded through our Congregational Mission Offerings. Please take note of the "WELS Connection Close-up" companion piece in your worship folder for additional information.

Copies of today's sermon and last week's sermon can be found on the table in the narthex on the way out of church. You can also find them on our website at www.northdalelutheran.org. In addition, all of our services are live streamed & can be viewed through the live streaming link located on our church website. We also e-mail out daily devotions. If you would like to receive these daily devotions, please e-mail Pastor Vann at pastor@northdalelutheran.org and let him know. You can also become a friend on Facebook.

Announcements:

Sunday Morning Bible Study: We continue our Bible Study on the Four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) in our Sunday Morning Bible Study. This class takes a look at the life of Jesus in a chronological order. It is a great way to become more acquainted with your Savior Jesus and know all that he did to live as your substitute here on this earth. It is through the study of God's Word that we remain connected to our Savior and grow in our faith and godly living. . We hope to see you on Sunday morning.

Treasurer Found: We thank Tom Faucette for willingly stepping forward to serve as the Treasurer for our congregation. He will be appointed to fill the position for the remainder of this term. We are grateful for Tom's willingness to serve in this capacity and pray for God's blessings as he carries out this work among us.

Congregational Meeting Called: The Ministry Leadership Team is calling a special congregational meeting for today after the second service. There will be two main items on the agenda for this meeting. At the last congregational meeting, a name change for our school was recommended. After many meetings and much discussion, the MLT approved a recommendation from the School Marketing Team and School Ministry Board to recommend a name change to the voters. The name they are recommending is: Northdale Christian Academy. Approving this name change will allow our School Marketing Team to continue their plans to create a new school website. The second item on the agenda is a recommendation to gift to Pastor and Amy Vann the downpayment loan on their house which they were given when they moved here in lieu of housing allowance that wasn't paid to Amy over the last 5 years which should have been. Please plan to be present for this meeting.

Christmas Worship Schedule: It is time to once again be thinking about our Christmas worship of our Lord and King. What joyous days of celebration these are for God's people as we ponder God's love in the miracle of Jesus becoming flesh. We invite you and any guests you might want to invite and/or bring to join us for each of these special opportunities to gather before God and worship him for his goodness in sending Jesus to be our Savior. Our Christmas Worship is as follows:

Christmas Eve Worship: Tuesday, December 24

4:00 p.m. Children's Service

6:30 p.m. Candlelight Service

Christmas Day Festival Service: Wednesday, December 25 10:00 a.m.

Bible Information Class: Pastor Vann will be starting his next Bible Information Class on Tuesday, January 14. The class will meet from 6:30-8:00 p.m. for 13 weeks. The Bible Information Class is an overview of all of the main teachings in the Bible. It is a great introduction for someone who is interested in learning more about what the Bible teaches. It is a great way to share with a friend or relative what our church teaches. It is also a good review for our members of all those truths that were taught at Catechism class so many years ago. This class is also required for anyone who wants to join our congregation. If you are interested in attending, or if you have a friend or neighbor interested or that you would like to invite, please talk to Pastor Vann about that. The class is a free class and a great way to dive deep into the truths of scripture.

Ushers: We are currently preparing the ushering schedule for 2020. We are searching for people who are willing to serve in this capacity. If you are interested in serving as an usher for our worship services, please speak either to Pastor Vann or Chris Teeples. We'll be sure to include you in the new schedule.

Offering Envelopes: The offering envelopes for 2020 are in your mailboxes currently. Please be sure to pick them up this morning. You can begin using them with the first Sunday in the new year. If you have any questions about your envelopes, please contact our secretary, Kallie Mendez at office@northdalelutheran.org.

Called Staff

Pastor Charlie Vannieuwenhoven: 813-787-4854

Principal Dane Mattes: 920-588-7599

Aimee Hardman: 813-464-5113

Christopher Haring: 517-202-7283

Joanne Mattes: 920-588-7596

Bethany Schwartz: 920-222-9279

Amy Vannieuwenhoven: 813-787-5025

This Week:

Tuesday (12/24): 4:00pm - Christmas Eve Children's Worship
6:30pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Wednesday (12/25): 10:00am - Christmas Day Worship

Sunday (12/29): 8:00 & 10:30am - Worship
9:15am – Teen Bible Study and Sunday School for Children
9:25am – Adult Bible Study
11:30am - Fellowship

Serving Today

Music: 8:00—Rachel Wilson
10:30—Aiden Berg

Ushers: 8:00—Mike Laurin
10:30 — Chris Teeples/Ryan Cunill

Acolyte: 8:00 —Mateo Amaya
10:30—Carolyn Mattes

Elder: David Mosakowski

Serving Next Week

Music: Elyse Vannieuwenhoven

Ushers: 8:00—Mike Kutsch
10:30 — Dave & Barb Hartwig

Acolyte: 8:00—Daniel Busch
10:30—Vincent DeCicco

Elder: David Mosakowski

Attendance Last Week

8:00 a.m.—43
10:30 a.m.—107
Total: 150
Yearly Average: 104
% of Members in Worship: 42%

Financial Information

Contributions for 12/11: \$191.00

Contributions for 12/15: \$1,926.80

Contributions Online through 12/15: \$2,125.00

Contributions budgeted to date: \$106,153.92

Contributions received to date: \$108,146.03

Ahead or (Short) through 12/15/19: \$1,992.11

Building Our Faith ~ Family ~ Future

Total Gifts Pledged to the Project: \$370,000.00

Received Last Week: \$370

Total received to date: \$329,776.72

Projected Completion date: March 2020