



NORTHDALE NEWS

Inside This Issue

Stewardship Encouragement	MLT Meeting Highlights	Events/Things to Note	Church Events/ Mark Your Calendar	Reminders/ Things to Note/ Camps	School News
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Dear friends in our Savior,

Why are these guys calling me? That might be a question many of our members are asking right now. We have four gentlemen who are reaching out to members who we haven't seen in worship for awhile to remind them of the importance of gathering regularly with fellow Christians to hear the Word of God and partake of the Sacrament of Holy Communion and encouraging them to join us on Sunday. This work started in preparation for our "Welcome Home Sunday" back in December and it will be continuing. We have implemented a plan called, "The Peter Plan." I want to provide a brief summary of how the plan works and what its goals are.

The Peter Plan very simply is gathering worship attendance records to help keep track of our members so that we can better serve their spiritual needs and to help us follow up with visitors. Our Elders will make phone calls and visits to those we haven't seen at worship for a while to see how we can better serve them spiritually.

The first goal of The Peter Plan is to make sure that people are fed with God's Word regularly, even if the circumstances of their life prevent them from being able to attend worship. Saint Peter encourages us to "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care" (1 Peter 5:2). Shepherds find ways to feed the sheep under any circumstances. With The Peter Plan, we will have an accurate record of someone who has missed worship for a month straight. People can miss church for legitimate reasons. These individuals will not always contact the church to let us know they are going to be absent. They don't want to be a burden. These are the people we want to reach, to assure them it is no burden to bring them a devotion and the Lord's Supper. Maybe their work schedule has prevented them from attending worship. Maybe they've been recovering from knee surgery. We want to continue to serve them with the means of grace. But to do that, we need to have an accurate record of who was able to make it to worship and who wasn't.

The second goal of The Peter Plan is illustrated by an event in Peter's life. Peter drifted away from his Savior, even denying him three times. After, he wondered if Jesus would want to have anything to do with him again. In John chapter 21, Jesus pulls Peter aside, assures Peter that he's forgiven, and tells Peter he still wants him to serve in the Church. Sometimes, when people drift away from the church, it's not for legitimate reasons. They lose interest in hearing God's Word. Or they have an issue with someone at church and don't want to deal with them. So they stop coming to church. This isn't healthy. "Faith comes from hearing the message," (Romans 10:17). The Peter Plan also lets us follow up on members who have been absent from worship for longer periods of time. We want to gently encourage them to return to faithful use of Word and sacrament. And if they refuse, the loving thing to do is let them know they are sinning, and that God is calling them to repent. To not warn people that way would be unloving.

The Peter Plan lets us do this consistently. There is no guesswork. For example, "Has Jim missed for eight weeks or eighteen weeks?" Because we keep records, we know how long Jim has been gone. And we can attempt to restore him gently, just like Jesus did for Peter.

The third goal of The Peter Plan has nothing to do with members and everything to do with worship visitors. When we have worship visitors, we want to do a better job of collecting their contact information. Pew worship registers have been shown to be much more effective at collecting that information than having a guest register in the entry foyer. With visitor contact information in hand, it allows me to follow up on those visitors, even going to their home to tell them more about our congregation and to share with them a more personalized gospel message.

We are hopeful that this plan will help us to better serve one another and keep all of us connected to our Savior and his Word and growing in our faith. May God help us to this end. Pastor Charlie Vannieuwenhoven

MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM

The following are highlights from the Ministry Leadership Team meeting on January 27, 2020:

- The meeting began with a devotion by Pastor Vann
- Motion made by Steve to approve the second \$10,000 forgiveness of Pastor's note; Mike Laurin seconded; approved.
- The following Membership Actions taken at this meeting:
 - Baptism: Rory Edward Picone (12/15/19)
 - Transfer In - Lawrence and Jaimie Seymour from Grace Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, WI
 - Our Total Membership is 252 with Communicant membership at 186.
- Pastor reported that his family will be attending the annual SALSA Basketball tournament will be held at Divine Savior Academy in Doral, FL February 7-8. He will also attend the Campus Ministry Committee meeting in Milwaukee on Feb. 22. He will fly up on Thursday, February 20. He'll preach for chapel at Luther Prep on Friday, February 21 and then take Elyse to visit a college that afternoon. He will fly back Saturday night to be at worship on Sunday. He will be going on the BB trip to Luther Prep March 5-8 to coach the team while we are there. Paul Werner is scheduled to preach that Sunday morning. With help from the South Atlantic District Youth Discipleship and the rummage sale, the actual cost per person may be kept to the \$50 deposit per student. The Evenings with Pastor has met with diminishing success. I've had some requests to bring back Thursday night Bible Study. My thought at this point is to take time this Spring and Summer developing a year's plan for Thursday night topics. These would be different studies, book reviews, topics that I would plan for certain lengths of time. I would take a couple of weeks off in between each study making each one a limited length study that people could attend depending on time and interest. The MLT agreed with Pastor's new bible study plan. We have received the paperwork for the MLC Congregational Grant Program. We have one student currently at MLC—Tabitha Vannieuwenhoven. Last year we gave \$1,000 that MLC matched toward her tuition. The program is the same this year. We have \$175 left-over from last year. Can we start promoting this again? The money needs to be submitted by June 1 to MLC. MLT agreed that we should start promoting the Grant Program. Kim Schacker informed Pastor that she would like this year to be the last year that she deposits money and enters the contributions into the computer. She has given us an entire year to find someone willing and able to continue this. Please keep your eyes open to someone who might do well in filling this role.
- Nick Koren reported the SMB talked about increasing tuition by \$200 for total of \$7,000. The last tuition increase was \$300. Last year, the NLS team wanted to raise it more than \$300, but only increased tuition by \$200. Dane conducted detailed study of what other Christian schools were charging for tuition in the area and found that we were in the low end of the survey. The NLS team suggested to increase it by \$300 this year cover ourselves because we do not know what next year's tuition will be. Part of the increase (\$45/per student) is for technology. This will allow us to update technology within the next 5 years. MLT discussed the increase may be good timing because of the new construction, which may be easier because of rebranding, and this would show that we are committed to the school. The application fee and registration fees will remain the same. The current tuition is \$6,800. MLT discussed the increase of a multi-child discount, which is currently \$1,000 per kid. Dane said that our multi-school discount is the most generous in the area. The MLT thought that we may want to increase tuition by \$300. Motion made by Mike to raise tuition by \$300. MLT discussed the motion, and noted that it's going to affect some of the members with multiple kids. Focus needs to be on enrollment, not raising the tuition on current students. NLS team proposed \$200 knowing that it's likely that the MLT team could increase the recommended proposal. The tuition increase won't impact most of the students because most of them are on Government assistance. Motion made by Mike to increase to tuition to a total of \$7,100. Steve second. Approved.
- In past, done on Christmas Eve. This year's calendar it's deep in holiday break. MLT discussed whether we should keep the Christmas Eve service the same, or move it to the Sunday before. Pastor's preference is to keep it is currently, although he recognizes the Christmas break problem. MLT discussed various possibilities, but decided to table it for next month's meeting. MLT agreed we should talk to the congregation to explain our thoughts and the problem.
- Steve Ward reported that the Northdale Family Fun Fest is in April. We talked about doing two tables this year: one for church and one for school, but the organizers raised their price. We would need signage for the school, but would like to keep two separate entities. We are not going to go to Taste of Carolwood because lost its local feel after going to Raymond James. Very few people from our area attend Taste of Carolwood. MLT also talked about listing us in CABA for the Church and school.
- Jeff Berg reported that the second movie night was last Friday night, and we had a lot of kids. After the free will offering and with all expenses made \$20. MLT recommended to sticking with the winter dates for movie nights, so we will pick it up again in the fall.
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MLT Continued

- David Mosakowski reported that the Elders team met, and is continuing to follow up with members for lapse attendance. Pastor printed out a list and the team is in the process of reaching out to these teams. MLT agreed that this program let's people know we are concerned about them spiritually, but we can release these individuals are not interested in coming back.
- Tom Faucette is still getting his feet wet as the new Treasurer. Tom walked the MLT team through the 2019-12 P&L Budget Comparison, and other documents provided by Pastor and Jeff. This time last year, we were (\$33,000), which is a difference of approximately \$70K for this time last year. The congregation has an additional \$20,000 of giving compared to this time last year, and we have less expenses than last year. Balance Sheet – Pastor walks through the sheet and explains. “Unrestricted Operating Funds” is our cash operating fund. We think these numbers are very accurate. Tom is going to take the dedicated funds and move these funds to the Money Market account so they don't get mixed up with the operating account. Tom mentioned that Paychex has an online time sheet for \$15/ per person per pay period i.e. \$720 a year. This online time tracking device will save Dane a lot of time that he normally spends on payroll, which he could use for other items such as recruiting. The motion to pay for the Paychex online time tracker made by Nick; Steve seconded. Approved.
- Mike Laurin reported Mike is looking at cleaning services, but we haven't heard back despite follow ups. Mike will keep pursuing. The MLT discussed hiring a member to perform cleaning services, but everyone agreed that it is probably best to hire a third party.
- Jeff shared the comments we received from the tree and water/sewer people. Chris will have our responses to the report complete by Wednesday. Nick Allan has offered to interpret some of the building code issues. Corey said permitting will take 6-7 weeks after comments are received. We are seeking more clarification on this.
- Discussion about new van donated to church and school and steps moving forward. Pastor got a random call from a donor about the van that was donated after being used by a foodbank. Jeff provided the MLT with a background. Jeff and Pastor registered the van with the DMV for \$124, and took the van to Jon Erbs for \$100 to review. The Van needs 4 new tires as part of \$1,600 worth of repairs. Only 33,000 miles on the van. It does not have interior carpet, which would cost \$400-500. Dent on the rear door estimated \$2,500, including paint. Insurance – 1,600 annually for \$1 million. Jeff secured a estimate from Image360 for “good, better best” of the van wrap. Wraps would last 6 years approximately. Pastor got a text from the individual who donated. That person would cover the wrap. Jeff and Pastor advised that it would probably cost \$5,000 to get the van up and running. Pastor thought we could ask for grant from SLSA to cover this cost. MLT discussed the pros and cons of the van. The MLT will ultimately make a proposal to the congregation.

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.

Vision 2020—WELS International Youth Rally

WHO: Youth entering grades 9-12.

WHERE: University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN

WHEN: June 23-26, 2020

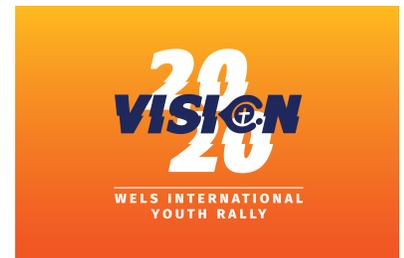
COST: \$375. (Registration runs from March 2-May 29. The early deadline is April 30. After this, the rate is \$395/person.)

INFORMATION: You can find more information at www.wels.net/youthrally

The WELS International Youth Rally exists to provide youth and youth leaders from across the synod a large-scale worship, education, fellowship, recreation and service opportunity that deepens commitment to Christ and his church.

Here are some highlights: See yourself through the lens of Christ's love — Learn how to serve Christ boldly — Hang out with 2,000 peers who share your faith — Listen to speakers with stories of faith and hope from around the world — Experience lifting your voice in worship with thousands — Attend a variety of workshops with a biblical perspective on timely teen topics — Enjoy workshops run by UT recreational staff

If you are interested in attending, please feel free to talk with Pastor Vann. He'll be glad to share more information with you.



Missions Highlight

Each month, we designate and send a portion of our offerings to WELS as our congregational mission offerings. Here is one area where your mission dollars are hard at work supporting workers who are proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus in your name:

Christmas Outreach in the Philippines

In a predominantly Roman Catholic country like the Philippines, is there a “better time” for a community gospel outreach? By “better time,” I mean that time of the year when people are generally more receptive to gospel conversations and church invitations. While Filipinos are generally receptive to gospel conversations, we find that a “better time” to do community gospel outreach is the Christmas season. How did we make use of this opportunity?

One of the Filipino Roman Catholic traditions associated with the Christmas season is holding a nine-day “Simbang Gabi” (evening mass) which begins on December 16 and ends on Christmas Eve. These evening masses (some conduct them on early dawn) are one of the few times when some nominal Roman Catholics would be in attendance. Since most of our current prospects are Roman Catholics (at least by association) we found it a golden opportunity to make use of this tradition to share with them the true meaning and purpose of Christ’s birth. For the very first time since our mission congregation’s inception, we held our own nine-day Simbang Gabi or “evening services.” A few evangelical churches in the country have also been holding their own Simbang Gabi, but only for selected nights—we did it for nine straight nights!

One of the incorrect thoughts Filipino Roman Catholics attribute to Simbang Gabi is that some form of “novena” needs to be completed so that their personal petitions would be granted. That is to say, their attendance in these nine-day evening masses are works that they must do in order to get something from God. What a contradiction of the Bible’s message that we cannot offer anything to God in exchange of anything! Millions of souls in our country are living with the yoke of the law still on their shoulders. These people need to know the real meaning and purpose of the tradition they have been religiously observing. They need to understand what St. Paul says in his letter to the Galatians, “But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘Abba, Father.’ So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.” (Galatians 4:4-7)

I would say the highlight of our observance of the Christmas season was bringing four young souls to the Sacrament of Holy Baptism at our Christmas Day worship. These four young souls are children of our active prospects in what is known here as Villareal area, an area which is not very close to our base in de Jesus Compound. Nine evening services plus one morning service (Christmas Day) equals ten straight days of preaching! It was physically exhausting, but spiritually refreshing. I wouldn’t mind doing it again next Christmas season. After all, the baby who was born on the first Christmas Day came in order “to seek and to save that which was lost”.

Written by Alvien de Guzman, Pastor at Law & Gospel Lutheran Church in the Philippines



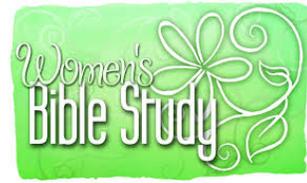
Martin Luther College Congregational Matching Grant

Martin Luther College, our WELS College of Ministry, has designed a program to help congregations support and encourage their young people to study for the pastoral or teaching ministry. The matching grant program will match up to \$1,000 given by a congregation for each student. So if the congregation can raise \$1,000, the student will receive another \$1,000 from MLC for a total of \$2,000 in aid. The Ministry Leadership Team authorized a drive to raise \$1,000 in support of Tabitha Vannieuwenhoven who is attending Martin Luther College as a freshman this year. If you are interested in helping to support Tabitha as she studies to be a teacher, you can place your checks in the offering plate and mark them: MLC Congregational Match. Thank you in advance for your support of this program. We have benefitted greatly from the pastors and teachers trained from Martin Luther College. This is a great way to support and encourage our own members to pursue this career.



LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The Ladies Bible Study meets the first Sunday of the month at 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. They meet next on Sunday, February 2. We are finishing *Prepared to Answer* and will begin a new study in February with Joel V. Petermann's *Prayer: An Audience with the King*. Copies can be ordered at online.nph.net or Amazon if you are interested in buying a copy. All ladies are invited to join us for this study.



Camp South Soul Survivor



WHO: Youth entering grades 4-9.

WHAT: The most fun you'll have this summer. Incredible activities (tough mudder, zip line, inflatables, massive group competitions), next-level worship, and more new friends than you can count.

WHERE: Georgia FFA Camp, Covington, GA 30014

WHEN: Arrive on Monday, July 20th between 2:30-5:30pm. Head home at 11am on Friday, July 25th.

HOW: Camp South costs \$285 per attendee. Register at www.sadcamps.com. Payment must be made to the church before we leave for camp. We will work on providing transportation again this summer.

Chris Driesbach Joins Us for Worship

Christian musician Chris Driesbach is homeless and couldn't be happier about it. In June of 2006, he paid off his debts, sold his home and belongings and got in his car to travel the country.

Driesbach is a Christian musician, originally from New Orleans. When Hurricane Katrina hit the city, however, the condo he was living in as well as the church he was a member of, were flooded and nearly destroyed. What followed is a wonderful story of rebuilding and rebirth as his church body rallied to restore the church buildings and many members' homes. To Driesbach, that was reason enough to drop everything and hit the road to share his music and his message of thanks.

"It had long been a dream of mine to do this," he said. "I'm very grateful to have had this amazing experience!" Chris has performed over 2800 concerts and worship services in more than 750 Lutheran churches in 41 states since then and recorded 7 CDs of original Christian music including songs for children and a collection of favorite hymns.

On Sunday morning, February 9, Chris will be adding his songs to our worship. He will also present a one-hour concert telling about his journey from atheism to Christianity with Powerpoint between services beginning at 9:15am.

The road that led Driesbach to becoming a Christian is anything but average. He grew up in a dysfunctional household, he said, and turned to alcohol at 14 to cope. Before long, the coping mechanism became a long-lasting addiction. All the while, Driesbach was a proud atheist, renouncing the idea of a God and willing to debate that fact with anyone who disagreed.

That all changed one morning, however, when Driesbach woke up with the shakes – a slang term for withdrawal.

"It really scared me because I realized I was dying of alcoholism," he said. "I was desperate and I was dying."

Driesbach joined a 12 Step Program for alcoholics and has been sober for 30 years. 9 years later he met a Lutheran pastor who invited him to a Bible Information Class. "What I really wanted was to argue with him, but the Spirit won the argument! That absolutely changed my life," he said, "but I don't take credit for that. God gave me the gift of faith working through his word."

Musically, Driesbach's songs are varied: country, reggae, folk and some rock and roll. The lyrics, however, are much more important, he said. Each song is about his Christian life path, the inspiration he takes from the Bible and the hope he holds for the future.

Ministry Team Meetings for February

In an effort to better serve God’s people here at Northdale and involve more people in the ministry, we offer several ministry teams. We ask each member of Northdale Lutheran to consider what gifts, abilities and interests God has granted to you to see if there is a place where you could serve. Here are the teams Meeting this month:

	Date	6:30pm	7:30pm
February	3	Land and Facilities Team	Youth Ministry Team
	10	Evangelism Team	New Member Team
	17	School Ministry Board	
	20	Financial Advice Team	Elders Team
	24	Ministry Leadership Team	

South Atlantic District Ministerial Education School Tours

Anyone who is interested in attending a WELS Ministerial Prep School, either Luther Preparatory School or Michigan Lutheran Seminary is invited to join a group from our district for a tour of these schools. The South Atlantic District will contribute \$150 to a plane ticket for any student and \$100 for any parent. All the other costs — lodging, vehicle travel, and meals—are covered by MLS, LPS, and South Atlantic District Youth Fund. The trip to Wisconsin also includes a tour of the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary where all of our pastors are trained. If you’re even remotely considering attending Michigan Lutheran Seminary or Luther Preparatory School, these trips are for you! Here are the details for each trip:

To Michigan Lutheran Seminary (2777 Hardin Street, Saginaw, MI 48602):
 - Arrive Thursday, February 13th and head home Monday, February 17th.

To Luther Preparatory School (1300 Western Ave, Watertown, WI 53094)
 - Arrive Thursday, March 5th and head home Sunday, March 8th.

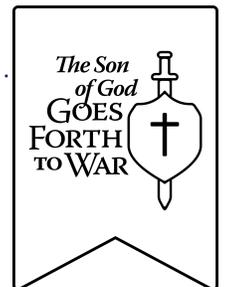
Itineraries for each trip as well as registration information can be found at www.sadcamps.org.



SCHOOL TOURS
OF WELS SCHOOLS

Mid-Week Lent Worship

Ash Wednesday is February 26. On this day we begin the solemn journey of Lent with weekly worship opportunities every Wednesday through April 1. We will worship at 2:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. This year, we are following a series entitled, “The Son of God Goes Forth to War”. Please set aside time during your busy weeks, to gather for this hour of worship and meditation.



Preschool Update

It’s hard to believe we’re already halfway through our school year! This month, we celebrated our 100th day of VPK. We made necklaces with 100 fruit loops, made a tower out of 100 blocks, brought collections of 100 from home, and of course, counted all the way to 100 together. We learned about snow, and since we don’t have any of the real stuff here in Florida, we made some of our own for the sensory table. It was fun to mix it and build snowmen with hit. We’re also looking forward to Kindergarten Round-Up day later this month. Our whole class will have the opportunity to spend the morning in Kindergarten with Mrs. Schwartz and see what it’s all about.



STAY CONNECTED...

**to your school.
to your teachers.
to your youth.**

Extracurricular Activities

The NLS basketball team will be traveling to Divine Savior in Doral to participate in the annual basketball tournament. We ask for God's blessings on our team, coaches, and parents who are traveling February 7-8. NLS will be showing our school spirit with various themes and activities.

New clubs have started this school year, led by some of our parents. This semester we have a craft club that meets monthly where students work on a scrapbook style craft which they can take home. A chess club has been formed to teach students how to play chess and build the skills of those who already know how to play. Next year we look forward to participating in a chess tournament. We thank the Lord for the blessings of volunteerism from our families which make these clubs possible.

Moms and Tots Power Hour

Moms and Tots Power Hour is an hour plus of free, action-packed fun for moms and tots. Each week, instructors present a new theme with coinciding stories, games, songs, and crafts! Kids will learn and grow, while moms will have a chance to talk, compare notes, and give encouragement to each other. A light snack is provided. There is no charge for this program courtesy of Northdale Lutheran Church and School. Power Hour is designed for children from 18 months through 4 years of age. Babies are welcome for moms who have eligible children.

We will be beginning a new Moms and Tots session February 11 and continue for 8 sessions until April 7. You can register by clicking on this link: [Moms and Tots Spring 2020](#) or by visiting www.northdalelutheran.org under the "Ministries" tab. Moms and Tots meets weekly on Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30 AM.

Now Accepting 2020-2021 Applications for VPK - 8th Grade

The application period for the 2020-2021 school year is now open. If you know of a family that could benefit from the excellent, safe, and Christ-centered 4 year old preschool through 8th grade education we offer, please have them contact Mr. Mattes to schedule a visit. Prospective families can learn more about the application process on our website: <http://www.northdalelutheran.org/school>. Enrollment information for current families will be emailed soon. Check future newsletters for more information.

Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza Spirit Night

Please join us for an Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza spirit night on Thursday, February 27th. You can go to the Anthony's at 13020 N Dale Mabry Hwy Tampa, FL 33618 any time that day. Tell them you're with Northdale Lutheran School and they will donate 20% of your order to our school. It's a great way to get a good meal and support our school.

Northdale Lutheran Church and School
(WELS)
15709 Mapledale Boulevard
Tampa, FL 33624

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Northdale Lutheran Church and School (WELS)
15709 Mapledale Boulevard
Tampa, FL 33624**

**Office Phone: 813-961-9195 Fax: 813-961-2435
Web site: www.northdalelutheran.org
E-mail: info@northdalelutheran.org**

**Pastor Charles Vannieuwenhoven: 813-787-4854
Principal: Dane Mattes: 920-588-7599
Teachers: Chris Haring: 517-202-7283
Aimee Hardman: 813-464-5113
Joanne Mattes: 920-588-7596
Bethany Schwartz: 920-222-9279
Amy Vannieuwenhoven 813-787-5025**

**Sunday Worship: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Communion Services: First and Third Sundays of the month
Sunday School & Teen Bible Class: 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. (September through May)
Sunday Bible Class: 9:25-10:15 a.m.
Fellowship: 11:30 p.m.**