

**A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS**  
*FOR*  
**CHRISTMAS EVE, 2020 A.D.**

## ***Welcome to Worship***

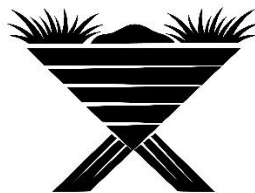
We are glad that you have joined us to celebrate the birth of the Christ child. Our order of service is printed for you in this worship folder. If you need anything, please speak to a member of our worship team.

- **Restrooms** are in the entrance and through the nursery hallway.
- **Nursery** If you have a young child or nursing infant and are in need of a reprieve from the worship space, 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.
- **Connection Card** If you are visiting with us, please fill out a connection card at the guest services in the entry way. Please place the cards in the offering plate or leave with. A member of the worship team.



## ***The Service of Lessons and Carols***

Our worship this evening is an adaptation of the Lessons and Carols service traditionally held at King's College, Cambridge, England, on December 24<sup>th</sup> every year. Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve, 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of King's College after experience as an army chaplain.



## ***Our Theme – The Greatest Gift***

Welcome to worship this Christmas Eve. We trust that God will bless you in this service of lessons and carols/hymns. Our focus, “The Greatest Gift,” is found in every lesson and song. The progression of lessons and songs gradually reveals more and more about this greatest gift. Imagine yourself as someone who over centuries is trying to figure out the nature of God’s gift. Or, if the readings are not familiar to you, let the meaning of God’s gift become clearer and clearer to you as you hear each lesson and sing each song.

Tonight we see God’s gift, in the words of the first hymn, “in that poor, lowly stable, with the oxen standing by.” By trusting what God’s gift means for us, we look forward to seeing that gift in heaven where God’s “praise will sound” for all eternity! God bless and strengthen your faith through Christmas worship.

## ***Serving in Worship***

- Pastor Paul Werner, Presiding Minister and Preacher
- Dane Mattes, Organist

## ***Lectors***

Those reading the lessons this evening are:

- Chris Haring, NCA Teacher
- David Mosakowski, Elders Chairman
- Ethan Jaeger, NCA Teacher
- Jeff Berg, Congregational President
- Jared Kassulke, Building Project Manager
- Dane Mattes, NCA Principal



**Christmas Eve Worship  
December 24, 6:30 PM**



***Christmas Carol***

***Once in Royal David's City***

Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for his bed;  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable, And his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.

But our eyes at last shall see him Through his own redeeming love,  
For that child, so dear and gentle, Is our Lord in heav'n above,  
As he leads his children on To the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor, lowly stable With the oxen standing by  
Shall we see him, but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high.  
Then like stars his children crowned, All in white, his praise will sound.

***Christmas Encouragement and Prayer***

*Please stand*

M: Beloved in Christ: In this Christmas season it is our privilege and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us, the Christ-child, lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall, and into the birth and glorious redemption brought to us by this Holy Child. Let us hear how peace was lost, and how peace is restored.

But first, let us pray, for this is good and right.

Heavenly Father, we pray for ourselves and all people who worship you and your Son this holy night. By your holy Word, lead us to say with the angels,

**C: Glory to God in the highest!**

M: We pray for your blessing upon the people of our city, our state, our nation, and our world.

**C: Glory to God in the highest!**

M: We pray for the poor and helpless, the cold and hungry, the sick and sad, that you would give them the joy of your salvation and the comfort of your presence.

**C: Glory to God in the highest!**

M: We pray for unbelievers and enemies of the Church, that through your Law and Gospel you would lead them to recognize your Son as their only hope for eternal life.

**C: Glory to God in the highest!**

M: Finally, we remember before you all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light and beauty than we, that multitude which no one can number, who died in faith, and now praise you in your heavenly temple. We confess that we are united with them and with one another.

**C: Glory to God in the highest!**

M: We humbly offer up these prayers and praises in the words that Christ himself taught us.

**C: 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.**



## God Promises a Needed Gift



***Lesson***

***Genesis 3:8-15***

*Humanity's separation from God dates to the beginning of time, to the fall into sin by the first humans, Adam and Eve. As tragic as this was, the account ends with God's promise of a stunning gift—that the woman's offspring, Christ, would ultimately defeat Satan and restore us to God.*

**T**hen the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.<sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

<sup>10</sup> He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." <sup>11</sup> And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

<sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."<sup>13</sup> Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>14</sup> So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.  
<sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

*Christmas Carol*

*Now Sing, We Now Rejoice*



1 Now sing we, now re - joice,      Now raise to heav'n our  
 2 Come from on high to me;      I can - not rise to  
 3 Now through his Son doth shine      The Fa - ther's grace di -  
 4 Oh, where shall joy be found?      Where but on heav'n - ly



voice;      He from whom joy stream - eth Poor  
 thee.      Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O  
 vine.      Death o'er us had reign - ed Through  
 ground?      Where the an - gels sing - ing With



in a man - ger lies;      Not so bright - ly  
 pure and ho - ly Child;      Through thy grace and  
 sin and van - i - ty;      He for us ob -  
 all his saints u - nite,      Sweet - est prais - es



beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.  
 mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,  
 tain - ed E - ter - nal joy on high.  
 bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!      Thou my Sav - ior art!  
 Draw me un - to thee!      Draw me un - to thee!  
 May we praise him there!      May we praise him there!  
 Oh, that we were there!      Oh, that we were there!

Text: Latin hymn, 14th century; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt.  
 Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO (66 66 66 55) German melody, 14th century, alt.



## God's Gift Described



### *Lesson*

*Isaiah 11:1-9*

*Striking symbolic language describes the gift more than 700 years before it was given.*

**A** shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. <sup>2</sup>The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord— <sup>3</sup>and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. <sup>6</sup>The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. <sup>9</sup>They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

### *Christmas Carol*

### *Joy to the World*

**1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**3 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**2 No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.**





## God Reveals Where His Gift Will Appear



### *Lesson*

### *Micah 5:2-4*

*God wants there to be no doubt about his gift. Through prophecy he reveals the exact tiny village where Jesus would be born. The wonder of fulfilled prophecy continues to convince people about the validity of God's gift even today.*

“**B**ut you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times.”

<sup>3</sup> Therefore Israel will be abandoned  
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,  
and the rest of his brothers return  
to join the Israelites.

<sup>4</sup> He will stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they will live securely, for then his greatness  
will reach to the ends of the earth.

### *Christmas Carol*

### *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin  
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!





## God's Gift Comes Through a Miracle



### *Lesson*

*Luke 1:26-38*

*So many of God's ways of intervening in our world are beyond our understanding. We are blessed to receive God's gift when, like Mary, we humbly accept God's plan and marvel at it.*

**I**n the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,<sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.<sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,<sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail."

<sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

### *Christmas Carol*

### *What Child is This*

**What Child is This who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet With anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the Son of Mary.**

**Why lies he in such mean estate Where oxen now are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through; The cross he'll bear for me, for you.  
Hail, Hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the Son of Mary!**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings Salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song of high; The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the Son of Mary!**

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, alt.



## The Gift is God With Us



### *Lesson*

### *Matthew 1:18-25*

*The first lesson described the human race's separation from God. God's gift to end this separation is his Son, Immanuel — "God with us."*

**T**his 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.<sup>19</sup> Because 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.<sup>20</sup> But 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.<sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:<sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.<sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

### *Christmas Carol*

### *O Come O Come Emmanuel*

**Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free Your own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell your people save, And bring them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**Oh, come, O Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home.  
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

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



## God's Gift Arrives



### *Lesson*

*Luke 2:1-7*

*In a fulfillment of the prophecy in tonight's third lesson, God uses the mighty powers of this world to accomplish his will and to deliver his gift to an otherwise doomed world.*

**I**n those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

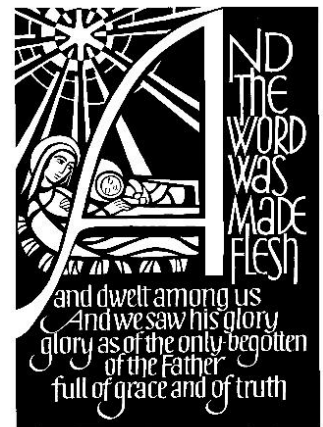
### *Christmas Carol*

### *Away in a Manger*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky.  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with you there.





## God's Gift is Celebrated



### *Lesson*

*Luke 2:8-20*

*The angels can't help but celebrate God's gift. The shepherds eagerly spread the word of this gift as announced by the angels. We join them, glorifying and praising God for all that we have come to know about God's great gift.*

**A**nd there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

<sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

### *Christmas Carol*

### *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

**Hark!The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful,all you nations rise; Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark!The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Christ,by highest heav'n adored,Christ the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time, behold him come,offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,Hail th'incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,Jesus,our Immanuel.  
Hark!The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Hail the heav'nly Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark!The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**



He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

**Theme:** God Gave the Greatest Gift



## Thanksgiving, Prayer & Blessing



### *Offering*

The members of Northdale Lutheran Church have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you would like to learn more about our church body and our world-wide mission check out [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net).



If you are a guest and would like to receive regular communication from Northdale Lutheran, please take a moment to fill out the Connection Card in the back of the sanctuary. You can leave it in the offering plate.

*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.*

If electronic giving isn't for you, you are invited to drop off or mail your offerings to the church.

### *Christmas Prayer*

**M:** O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ; grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, so may we also behold him with sure confidence when he shall come to be our judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

### *Blessing*

**M:** May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit — be upon you and remain with you always.

**C:** Amen.



Distribution of Candles  
&  
Closing Christmas Carol



The worship space will be darkened and the pastor will light the candles of the ushers. The ushers will proceed down the aisles, lighting the candle of the person at the end of each pew, who will light the candle of the person next to them until the whole congregation is holding lighted candles. **NOTE!** Always tip an unlit candle towards one that is burning. Never tip a burning candle. When all the candles are lit, and all the lights turned down, the carol will be introduced and the congregation joins in singing. Please extinguish your candles following the singing of the hymn.

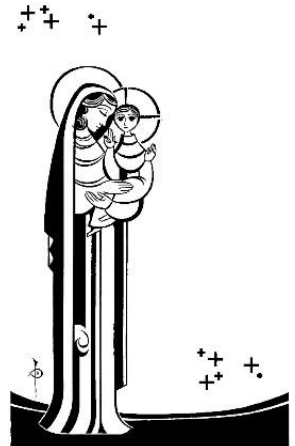
***Christmas Carol***

Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar;  
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

***Silent Night! Holy Night!***



## ***Worship During the Twelve Days of Christmas***

*“O Jesus Christ, your manger is; My paradise where my soul is reclining...”* said one hymn writer. The words are so beautiful, because the scene is so beautiful. God is with us! Come and worship and adore your Savior during the twelve days of Christmas. A Christmas Day service with Holy Communion is offered tomorrow at 10:00 AM. Our Christmas celebration continues next Sunday, December 27, at 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM.

<b>FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25</b>	10:00 am	Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion
<b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27</b>	8:00 am	Christmas Worship Continues
	10:30 am	Christmas Worship Continues
<b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 3</b>	8:00 am	Worship with Holy Communion
	10:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
<b>TUESDAY, JANUARY 5</b>		NCA Resumes



### ***A Little about Northdale Lutheran***

**Who we are:** Our mission at Northdale Lutheran Church and Academy is simple: “To preach and teach the word of the Triune God to all people so that all may worship and serve Him now and in eternity.” This is what we exist to do as God’s people and the purpose for which we have organized together as a congregation.

**Northdale Christian Academy (NCA):** NCA assists families by providing an excellent education in a safe, Christian environment. Northdale Christian Academy prepares students four years old (VPK) through eighth grade with a comprehensive educational program. The Biblical viewpoint encompasses all aspects of our academy’s ideology through the social, emotional, physical, and academic disciplines. Our qualified Christian teachers partner with families to equip students with the skills to be life-long learners who successfully navigate and contribute as members of a diverse society.

**Come Grow With Us:** If you have been searching for a church, check out our weekly Sunday worship at 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM. If you would like to learn more about the ministry of Northdale Lutheran Church, please fill out one of the Connection Cards in the entryway and leave it with an usher or drop it in the offering plate.



### **Mission Statement**

*"We Grow in God's Word so that we can Go with God's Word"*

#### **Northdale Lutheran Church & Academy**

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*A Blessed Christmas*