



NORTHDALE
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Northdale Lutheran Church & Academy

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TAMPA, FL 33624

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“WE GROW IN GOD’S WORD SO THAT WE CAN GO WITH GOD’S WORD”

Meaning of the Advent Wreath - “Advent” means *Coming*

For centuries the Christian Church has made use of the Advent wreath during the four weeks of Advent leading up to Christmas Eve. The Advent wreath as a whole reminds us of the immortality of our souls and God’s promise of everlasting life to us through Christ.

During each Sunday of Advent, one candle is lit as it draws our attention to theme of that Advent week. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, each with their own significance.



1st Sunday in Advent – “The Watch Candle” (*Blue*)

The Christ Child who first came in humility at Christmas will one day come again in glory at the end of the age. And so we watch for the coming of that day.

2nd Sunday in Advent – “The Prepare Candle” (*Blue*)

Just as John the Baptist came preaching a message of repentance, so also we prepare our hearts with repentance for the birth of our Savior.

3rd Sunday in Advent – “The Proclaim Candle” (*Pink*)

Just as the angels proclaimed the news of Christ’s birth on that first Christmas Eve, so also we continue to proclaim the salvation of Christ to the ends of the earth.

4th Sunday in Advent – “The Behold Candle” (*Blue*)

Just as the Virgin Mary beheld the face of the Christ Child, so also we gaze into the manger to behold the face of the Christ Child’s forgiveness, grace, and love.

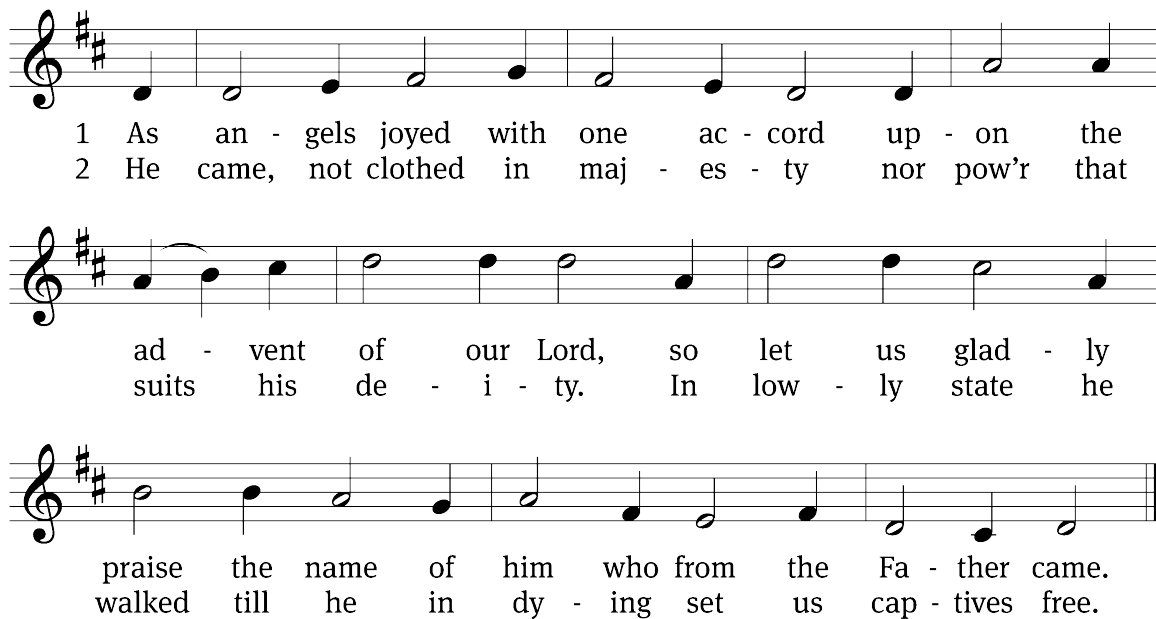
Christmas Eve – “The Christ Child Candle” (*White*)

The final candle lit on Christmas Eve, as we rejoice in the night our Savior is born.

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn, CW #320

As Angels Joyed with One Accord



1 As an - gels joyed with one ac - cord up - on the
2 He came, not clothed in maj - es - ty nor pow'r that

ad - vent of our Lord, so let us glad - ly
suits his de - i - ty. In low - ly state he

praise the name of him who from the Fa - ther came.
walked till he in dy - ing set us cap - tives free.

Advent Gathering

M: We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

C: **We remember Jesus, who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.**

M: We hear his call to see the light.

C: **We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

The lighting of the 3rd Advent candle



3 This done, he soared to God's right hand, yet or - phaned
4 In ev - 'ry age— let praise a - bound— he comes; we

not his cho - sen band, for he, not bound in
hear his voice re - sound. His glo - rious gos - pel

grace and pow'r, at - tends his own each day and hour.
does not cease to bring us com - fort, joy, and peace.

Advent Confession and Absolution

M: Dear people of God, in the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to once again hear the glorious message of the angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy child, Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly celebration of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us set our hearts and minds on our repentance before God, and confess our sins for which the Christ Child was born to be our Savior.

C: Dear Lord Jesus, it was because of your great mercy and love for us, that you were born this Christmas season.

It is our innate sinfulness that demanded your perfect birth.

It is our daily failures that demanded your perfect life.

It is our deserved damnation that demanded your perfect death.

In the humbleness of your birth, you became our sacrifice for sin. May we gaze upon the manger this Christmas season to see the face of our only Savior and Savior of all.

M: On that first Christmas Eve the angels proclaimed, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Indeed this day, the Lord's favor rests upon you. For the Christ Child born to die, has now become our risen and ever-living Lord through his resurrection from the dead. Death is defeated and you are forgiven. In the name of the Father, and of the Son (+), and of the Holy Spirit.

1 As an - gels joyed with one ac - cord up - on the
7 Lift up your heads! All grief and pain shall van - ish

ad - vent of our Lord, so let us glad - ly
when he comes a - gain. Where we shall see him

praise the name of him who from the Fa - ther came.
face to face, there joy a - lone shall have a place.

Prayer

Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Word of God

First Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray continually, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²²reject every kind of evil.

²³May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

Hymn CW #357

A Glory Fills the Midnight Sky

Children's Devotion

At this time, we invite all our young people to come forward to hear a special message prepared just for them.

Second Reading John 1:6–8, 19–28

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

¹⁹Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

²¹They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

²²Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

²⁴Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

²⁶"I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Hymn CW #344

What Child Is This

Sermon Text: Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11

¹The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn, ³and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of joy instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.
¹⁰I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God.
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹For as the soil makes the sprout come up
and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness
and praise spring up before all nations.

"God's Advent Proclamation."

Magnificat

After the angel Gabriel announced to Mary she would give birth to who would be the Savior of the world, Mary burst forth in a song of praise. “Magnificat” means to “Magnify” or “Give greatest praise.” In response to the Word of God this Advent season, we also sing Mary’s song of greatest praise.

My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir-it re-
joic-es in God my Sav-ior, for he has looked with fa-vor
on his low-ly ser-vant. From this day all gen-er-a-tions
will call me bless-ed. The Al-might-y has done great
things for me, and ho-ly is his name. He has mer-cy on
those who fear him in ev-'ry gen-er-a-tion.

He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat-tered the
proud in their con - ceit. He has cast down the might - y
from their thrones and has lift - ed up the low - ly.
He has filled the hun - gry with good things, and the rich
he has sent a - way emp - ty. He has come to the
help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el, for he has re - mem - bered his
prom - ise of mer - cy, the prom - ise made to our fa - thers,
to A - bra - ham, and to his chil - dren for - ev - er. A - men.

Tune: Kurt J. Eggert

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Confession of the 2nd Article and its Meaning

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 sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.

**All this he did that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.
This is most certainly true.**

Offering

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 the many ways he has blessed us. 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>.

Hymn CW #355 vs 1-4

Let All Together Praise Our God

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Final Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with his favor and give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn CW #355 vs 5-6

Let All Together Praise Our God

Announcements:

Christmas Worship Schedule

Thursday, December 21st	NCA Christmas Program	6:30pm
Friday, December 22nd	Pre-K Christmas Program	11:00am
Sunday, December 24th	Christmas Eve Morning	8:30am & 10:30am
Sunday, December 24th	Christmas Eve Candlelight	7:00pm
Sunday, December 31st	New Year's Worship	8:30am & 10:30am

Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to donate a poinsettia plant in honor/memorial of someone, envelope are on the entryway table. You will be able to take your poinsettia home after service on Christmas Eve.

Congregational White Elephant

Our Congregational "White Elephant" Christmas Party will be today starting at 11:30am. Please bring a main dish and a side along to share for the potluck meal. Bring in wrapped gifts with a clue on the label (example: over 21, sports fan, kids 12 and under, etc). These gifts will be auctioned off to the highest bidder in a seasonal, FUNdraiser for the *Women of Northdale* sacristy organizational project (IKEA storage units to house banners, paraments, flowers, candles, Pastors robe, communion ware, etc.)

Bible Brunch

Our next Bible Brunch will be on December 13th @ 11:00am. Please bring a small dish to pass as we join for luncheon around God's word.

Bucs vs Packers!

Join us on Sunday, December 17th for a *Bucs Packers* party at church. Bring your own drinks, a tailgate dish to pass, and maybe your own comfortable chair. We will have the big TV setup and and Ready to go for game time. *Team clothing and decorations are optional.*

Upcoming January Events

Sunday, Jan. 7th	Church Cookout 11:30am
Wed. Jan. 10th	Online NCA Forum 6:30pm
Friday, Jan. 12th	Pioneer Camping Trip
Sunday, Jan. 14th	WLCFS Sunday / Bible Class Presentation
Wed. Jan. 17th	Party Planning Committee 6:00pm
Sunday, Jan. 28th	Luther Prep Sunday / Bible Class Presentation
Sunday, Jan. 28th	Congregational Voters' Meeting / Congregational Forum
Tuesday, Jan. 30th	Bible Information Class Begins 7:00pm

"Prayers For".....

"I urge then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for all people." (1 Timothy 2:1) As a body of Christ, we can show our love by praying for one another. Please submit all your prayer requests to the church office - office@northdalelutheran.org

Congregational Prayers For....

Contact Information

Pastor Matthew Guse:	920-517-9000 Pastor@NorthdaleLutheran.org
Principal Dane Mattes:	920-588-7599 Dane.Mattes@NorthdaleLutheran.org
EC Director Joanne Mattes:	920-588-7596 Joanne.Mattes@NorthdaleLutheran.org

Serving Today

Music: 8:30/10:30 - Dane Mattes
Ushers: 8:30 - Roemhildt/Schofer
10:30 - Berg

Serving Next Week

Music: 8:30/10:30 - Daniel Roemhildt
Ushers: 8:30 - Raines/Picone
10:30 - Allan/Faucette

2022-2023 Year to Date Offerings Through October 2023

General Offering Received: \$78,368.50

General Offering Budgeted:\$91,666.68

Ahead or (Short) Year to Date: \$-13,298.18

Average Weekly Offerings Received (13 weeks): \$4,354

Average Weekly Offerings Budgeted (52 weeks): \$5,288