



NORTHDAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Northdale Lutheran Church & Academy

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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 #301

Savior of the Nations, Come

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are arranged in two columns, with the first column corresponding to the first staff and the second column to the second and third staves. The lyrics are: 1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, by the
Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
Spir - it of our God was the Word of
heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
God made flesh, wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.

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Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
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Advent Gathering

M: We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

C: **We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

M: We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

C: **We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

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

The lighting of the 4th Advent candle



3 Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child of the
4 From the Fa - ther's throne he came and as -

vir - gin un - de - filed, though by all the
cend - ed to the same, cap - tive lead - ing

world dis - owned, yet to be in heav'n en - throned!
death and hell. High the song of tri - umph swell!

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 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's
5 Praise to God the Fa - ther sing, praise to

Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
God the Son, our King, praise to God the

heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
Spir - it be ev - er and e - ter - nal - ly.

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 2 Samuel 7:8–16

As the Prophet Nathan blesses King David, he reminds David to “behold” the greatness of the Lord. A greatness that not only put him on the throne of Israel but also from his descendants a greater King and Savior would come for the salvation of all people.

⁸“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“ ‘The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: ¹²When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. ¹⁵But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.’ ”

Hymn CW #339

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

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 Romans 16:25–27

The Apostle Paul concludes his letter to the Romans with these final words. They are words of thanksgiving, blessing, and praise as all people are able to “behold” God’s love and salvation in the eternal Christ.

²⁵Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Hymn CW #328

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Sermon Text: Luke 1:26–38

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He 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, ³³and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

³⁴“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

³⁵The 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. ³⁶Even 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. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail.”

³⁸“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

Behold! A Virgin Birth!

- 1) How it was possible
- 2) Why it was necessary

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>.

Sacrament Of The Lord's Supper

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. It is in the joy of knowing the forgiveness we have in Christ, that we prepare to receive in this holy sacrament, receiving Christ's very body and blood in this bread and wine for the assurance of our forgiveness and for the strengthening of our faith. May we come forward with hearts filled with the comfort of your promises, guided by these words from the psalms....

M: Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being praise his holy name.

C: Praise the Lord, O my soul; and forget not all his benefits.

M: Who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

C: Who redeems your life from the pit, and crowns you with love and compassion.

M: As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on all those who fear him;

C: From everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children.

M: The Lord has established his throne in heaven,

C: And his kingdom rules over all. Praise the Lord, O my soul.

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

DISTRIBUTION

(The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith.)

GUESTS: SO THAT THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING, WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE SPEAK WITH THE PASTOR BEFORE COMMUNING WITH US.

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 #350

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Announcements:

Bucs vs Packers!

Join us today 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.*

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.

No Bible Class or Sunday School

We will not be having Bible Class or Sunday School on December 24th and 31st. We will resume Bible Class and Sunday School at regular time on January 7th.

Upcoming January Events

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

Serving Next Week

Music: 8:30/10:30 - Dane Mattes
Ushers: 8:30 - Busch
10:30 - Smayling/Schebel

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