



NORTHDAL
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.

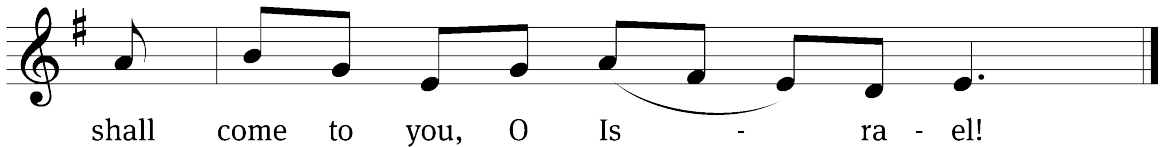
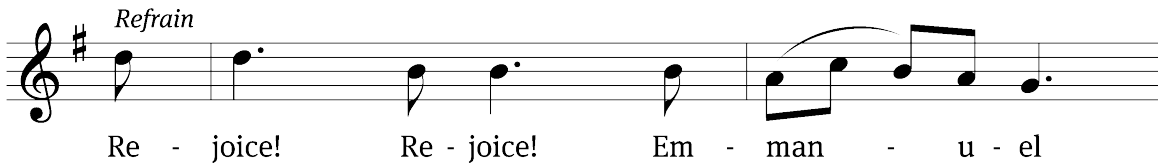
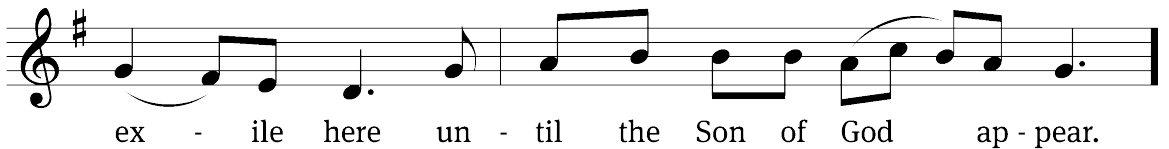
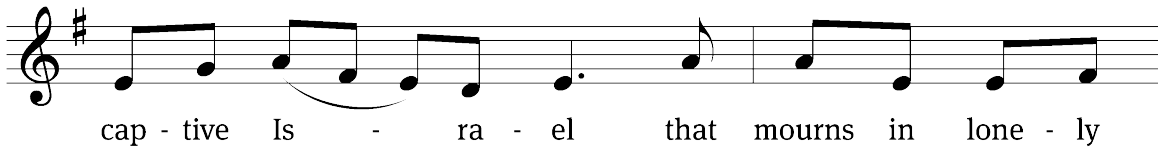
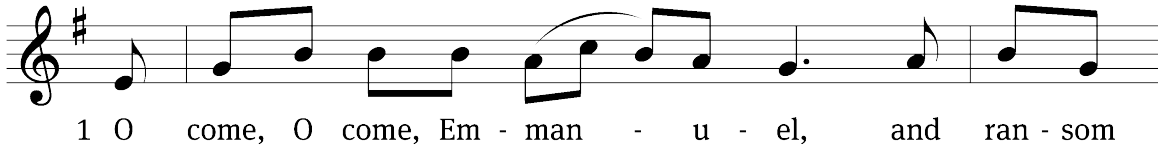
Christmas Eve – “The Christ Child Candle” (*White*)

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

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn, CW #327

O Come, O Come Emmanuel



Advent Gathering

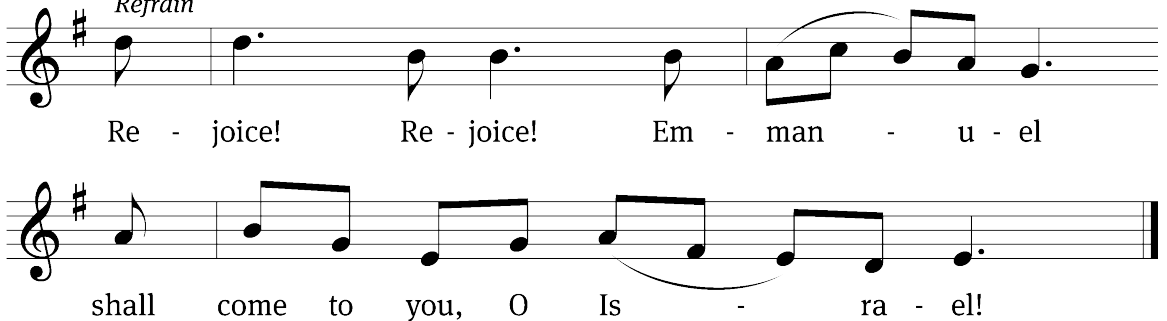
- M: We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.
- C: **We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.**
- M: We hear his call to repent.
- C: **We light two Advent Candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.**
- M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.
- C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

The lighting of the 2nd Advent candle



2 O come, O Root of Jesse, free your own from
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your
peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

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.



3 O come, O Day-spring from on high, and cheer us
4 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen



by your draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y
wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that

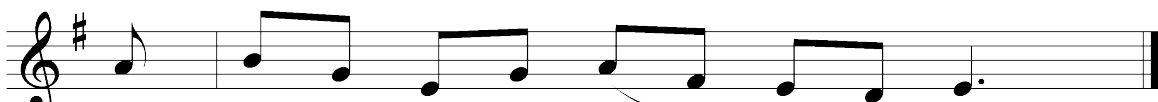


clouds of night, and death's dark shad-ows put to flight.
leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Prayer

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift of grace that we come into your presence and offer true and faithful service. Grant that our worship on earth may always be pleasing to you and in the life to come give us the fulfillment of what you have promised; through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The Word of God

First Reading Malachi 3:1-7

400 hundred years before the birth of Christ, the prophet Malachi foretells the coming of John the Baptist. John the Baptist would prepare the way before the promised Savior by preaching a message of repentance.

¹“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty.

²But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

⁵“So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the Lord Almighty.

⁶“I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them.

Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord Almighty.

Hymn, CW #322

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

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 Philippians 1:3-11

As Paul gives thanks for the faith of the Christians living in Philippi, he encourages them to keep living their Christian faith to the glory of God the Father.

³I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Hymn, CW #316

On Jordan's Bank The Baptist's Cry

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— ²during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.
⁵Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.
⁶And all people will see God’s salvation.’”

“Prepared for Christmas?”

1. Prepared with repentance
2. Prepared with joy

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?

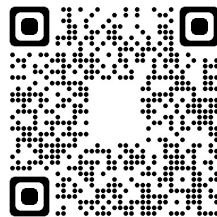
I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His 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 # 302 vs 1-2

Prepare The Royal Highway

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 #302 vs 3-4

Prepare The Royal Highway

Announcements:

New!!! Sunday Morning Bible Study

Night Driving: Notes From A Prodigal. Chad Bird was a “rising star” in his church body’s eyes. Intelligent and talented, he had his dream job of teaching Old Testament and Hebrew at his seminary. But sin was right there with him and temptation led him to fall. He had an affair. He contemplated suicide. Our next Bible study is based of his book, *Night Driving*, where Chad shares how he rediscovered God’s forgiveness in Jesus Christ. (You do NOT need to read the book for this class)

Women's Bible Study

How is your prayer life? How do you pray? Is there a right or wrong way to pray? How often should I pray? What a tremendous blessing and privilege Christians have to talk to the Almighty God! Join us on Thursday nights at 6:00 PM in the Northdale Christian Academy Library. We are using the People's Bible book entitled: [Prayer: An Audience with the King by Joel V. Petermann](#). Feel free to bring your supper along if you are coming straight from work! Please see Aimee Hardman for more information or any questions. We hope you can join us.

Advent Wednesday Night Worship

Come settle your hearts and minds for the Christmas season, with a special service on Wednesday, December 11th @ 6:30pm. We will be having a “cookie share” after the service, so bring your favorite Christmas cookies to pass around.

White Elephant Christmas Party

White elephant potluck is today after second service. Bring a wrapped and labeled gift and a dish to share.

Northdale Christmas Season Schedule

Sunday, Dec. 8th	Congregation White Elephant Christmas	11:30am
Wednesday, Dec. 11th	Advent Worship/Cookie Share	6:30pm
Thursday, Dec. 19th	Academy Grades 3-8, Christmas Program	6:30pm
Friday, Dec. 20th	Academy Grades PreK-2, Christmas Program	11:00am
Tuesday, Dec. 24th	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship	7:00pm

Pastor Timothy Flunker

Pastor Flunker returned his call to serve Northdale Lutheran. Our next call meeting will be scheduled in January after the first of the year.

Sunday School Helper

If you have a knack and talent for helping children this is for you! We are looking for someone to work with pastor, to help with the organizing and scheduling of our Sunday School year. It is not hard work, but work that needs to oversee and keep things running smoothly for the Christian education of our children. Please speak with pastor.

Every Member Visits - Sign-up Today!

These visits will be updating you on all the blessings of our church, current ministries, future plans, and your thoughts on things. This presentation includes a slideshow and will take about 45 minutes to 1 hour. There is a sign-up sheet with times and dates so you can arrange your visit.

"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: Lynda and Tom Faucette as Lynda's brother, Gary McCleary, passed away and was called home to eternal rest. **Those Shut-in:** Paul Ulbricht at Concordia Village, Jean Schofer at Arden Courts, Bob Jarvis at Concordia Village, Grace Ballieu at Accordia Woods Assisted Living. **Continued Prayers:** Busch Family as Melissa Busch's father, Robert Hatch, was called home to eternal glory, Karen Jacobs who had been hospitalized and under treatments for a brain bleed, Our Nation as we ask the Lord to bless our newly elected president and leaders to carry out their duties and serve faithfully, Erika Badiali and Eddie Forte as they celebrate engagement to be married in December, Amanda Tortorice as she suffered a severe broken leg and is homebound, John Kim Jr. as his home was flooded from hurricane Helene, Sharon Shores who has been diagnosed with lymphatic cancer, Hurricanes Helene and Milton for all our members, churches, and community still enduring hardship and loss, Nations at War for the Lord end the hostility, bring peace, and to protect the innocent, **Prayers for the Kingdom:** World Missions, that the Lord would bless the families and work of our foreign missionaries, as they seek to bring Christ to the ends of the earth. Home Missions, that the Lord would continue to provide his church with pastors and teachers needed to serve in full-time ministry.

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 - Elizabeth Guse
Ushers: 8:30 - Roemhildt/Schofer
10:30 - Schebel
Streaming: Storm
Counters: Busch

Serving Next Week

Music: 8:30/10:30 - Daniel Roemhildt
Ushers: 8:30 - Koren
10:30 - Mosakowski
Streaming: Berg
Counters: Schinke/Klecka

2024-2025 Year to Date Offerings Through October 2024

General Offering Received: \$ 77,183.44
General Offering Budgeted: \$ 99,333.32
Ahead or (Short) Year to Date: (\$22,149.48)
Average Weekly Offerings Received (17 weeks): \$ 4,540.20
Average Weekly Offerings Budgeted (52 weeks): \$ 5,770