



NORTHDAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Northdale Lutheran Church & Academy

15709 MAPLEDALE BLVD

TAMPA, FL 33624

WWW.NORTHDALELUTHERAN.ORG

CHURCH: 813-930-5280 ACADEMY: 813-961-9195

“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.

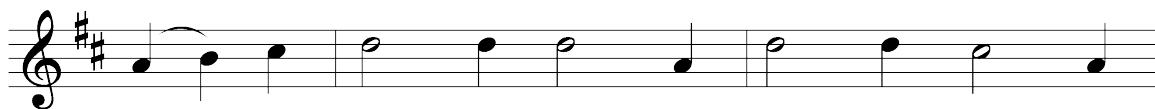
Call to Worship

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.**

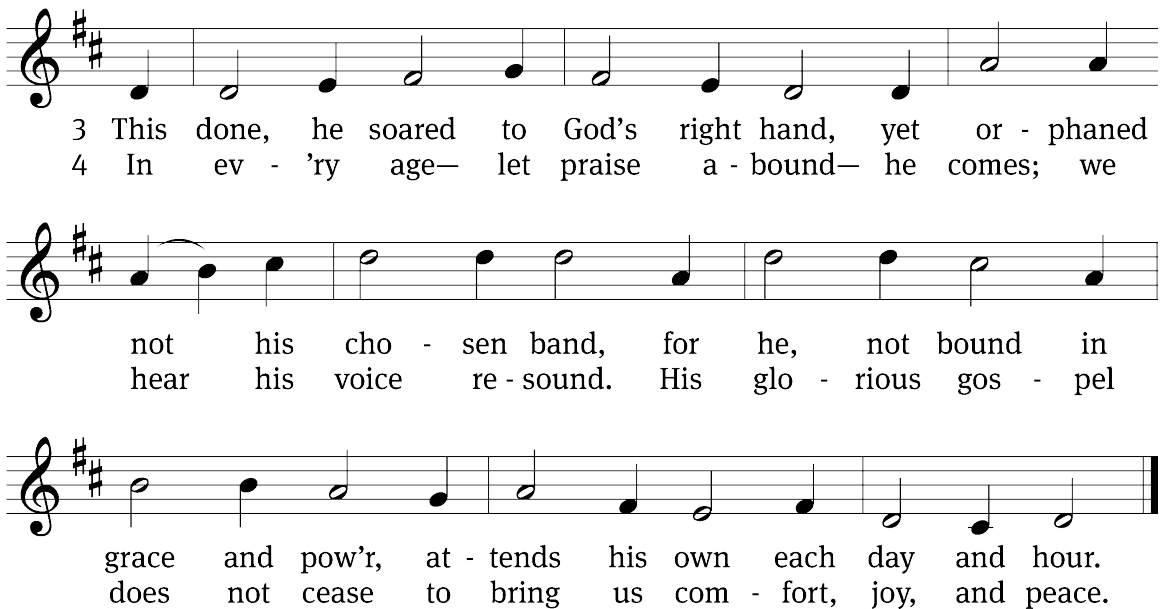
M: We hear his call to see the light.

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.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism (10:30am)

Today we rejoice in the baptisms of Luke and Zoey Jedlicka. May the Lord bless you and keep you in his grace always!

The Word of God

First Reading Zephaniah 3:14-17

Even though Israel was about to endure a time of punishment for the sins, the prophet Zephaniah looks ahead to a time of the Lord's forgiveness and deliverance. Christmas is the time we celebrate God's ultimate deliverance with the birth of His Son, our Savior.

¹⁴Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The Lord has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. ¹⁶On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. ¹⁷The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."

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 Philippians 4:4-7

The Apostle Paul encourages the Christians in Philippi to live their faith by displaying the love of Christ in their life. It is the love and salvation of the Christ Child, born this Christmas, that we display to the world everyday in our lives.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Sermon Text: Luke 3:7-18

⁷John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰“What should we do then?” the crowd asked. ¹¹John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?” ¹³“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

¹⁴Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

¹⁵The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

“Christmas Fruits”

1. Fruits of Repentance
2. Fruits of Faith

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.

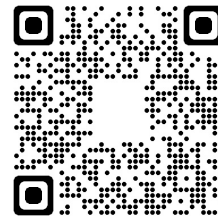
What does this mean?

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:

Since we believe in the Biblical principle found in 1 Corinthians 11:26, that communion at the Lord's table is a confession of faith, we ask that nonmembers please speak with pastor before communing. Thank you.

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:

Northdale Christmas Season Schedule

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
Wednesday, Dec. 25th	Christmas Day Worship @ Peace Lutheran	10:00am
Sunday, Jan. 5th	New Year's Worship	8:30 & 10:30am

Christmas Eve / Christmas Day Worship

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship will be at 7:00pm. Christmas Day Worship will be held jointly at Peace Lutheran @ 10:00am, 12708 Memorial Dr. Trinity, FL 34655.

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

Women's Bible Study will meet on Thursday, December 12th as planned. Then we will take a 3 week break for the holidays. We will resume our study of prayer on Thursday, January 9, 2025. God bless your celebrations of Jesus' birth and the gift of a New Year of God's grace.

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: **Erika Badiali and Eddie Forte** as they were united in marriage this weekend, **Luke and Zoey Jedlicka** as they receive their baptisms into the Lord's grace this morning, **Mattes family** as principal Mattes received a divine call to serve in Norfolk, NE. **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:** **Lynda and Tom Faucette** as Lynda's brother, Gary McCleary, passed away and was called home to eternal rest, **Karen Jacobs** who had been hospitalized and under treatments for a brain bleed, **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, **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 - Daniel Roemhildt
Ushers: 8:30 - Koren
10:30 - Mosakowski
Streaming: Berg
Counters: Schinke/Klecka

Serving Next Week

Music: 8:30/10:30 - Grace Mosakowski
Ushers: 8:30 - Busch
10:30 - Allan/Faucette
Streaming: Haring
Counters: Newton

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