



**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.



### 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### 4<sup>th</sup> 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



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.

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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      Micah 5:2-5

*The Prophet Micah foretells the Savior, whose origins reach back into the farthest depths of eternity, would be born in the little town of Bethlehem.*

<sup>2</sup>“But 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.

<sup>5</sup>And he will be our peace

**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    Hebrews 10:5-10**

*The Christ Child born of the Virgin Mary came to be our sacrifice for sin. Through his complete obedience to his heavenly Father's Will, we would be eternally saved.*

<sup>5</sup>Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. <sup>7</sup>Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, my God.'"

<sup>8</sup>First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them"—though they were offered in accordance with the law. <sup>9</sup>Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

## **Hymn CW #328**

## **The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came**

## **Sermon Text:        Luke 1:39-45**

*This morning we listen to Mary's song of greatest praise. A song of her humble faith, as she would be the mother of the Christ Child.*

<sup>39</sup>At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, <sup>40</sup>where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup>In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! <sup>43</sup>But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

## **The Advent of Our King**

1. A Time for Sharing
2. A Time for Rejoicing



## 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?*

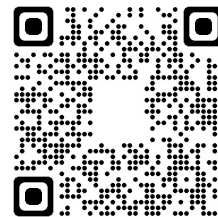
**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His 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 #360**

**Behold A Branch is Growing**

## **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 #361**

**Go Tell It On the Mountain**

# **Announcements:**

## **Northdale Christmas Season Schedule**

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*.

## **No Bible Class Next Week**

There is no Bible Class Next Week. Bible Class and Sunday School will resume Sunday, January 5th at 9:30am.

## **2025 Offering Envelopes**

You can pick up your 2025 offering envelopes from the table in the overflow room. If you do not have offering envelopes but would like them, you can follow the instructions printed on the table.

## **New Year - Stronger Faith!**

As we prepare to begin a New Year in the Lord's grace, let us recommit ourselves to the Lord's Word by making a commitment to attend Adult Bible Study and by bringing our children to Sunday School. Let us make use of the Christian Education opportunities to come to a deeper understanding of our faith and for a closer relationship with our Savior.

## **New Year Bible Study!**

Join us on Sunday, January 5th at 9:30am for a new Sunday morning Bible study: "A Christian's Reaction to Blessings and Challenges." We will be taking look at the many circumstances of life and how we are able to respond and hold it all together with a steadfast faith! Join us on Sunday, January 12th.

## **Church Cookout - Sunday, January 5th**

Stick around after late service on Sunday, January 5th for a time of fellowship, free lunch, and friends! Just a heads up..... to mark on your calendar now.

## **Call Meeting/Voters' Meeting/Congregational Forum**

Our Biannual Voters' Meeting and Congregation Forum will be held Sunday, January 26th at 11:30am. We will be updating on congregational life, current ministry, and give a financial overview. Our Voters will also be holding a Call Meeting to call for our Mission Enhancement position of a full-time Spanish speaking pastor.

## **Some Committees & Meetings!**

**Member Care Committee** Monday, January 6 @ 6:30pm

**NCA Open Online Forum** Wednesday, January 8 @ 6:30pm

**Party Planning Committee** Wednesday, January 15 @ 6:00pm

## **Communicating Christ - A Bible Information Course**

Want a refresher on our Christian doctrines of faith? Want to know more about what Northdale Lutheran Church teaches and believes? Join us on Tuesday nights at **7:00pm - Starting Tuesday, January 28th**. Everything is provided, even the treats! Babysitting is provided! Speak with pastor for more information!

## **"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](mailto:office@northdalelutheran.org)

**Congregational Prayers:** **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:** **Mattes Family** as principal Mattes received a Divine Call to serve in Norfolk, NE, **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.

## **Principal Mattes Receives Call**

Principal Mattes has received a Divine Call to serve St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School in Norfolk, NE. Your prayers, thoughts, and comments are welcome to him as he deliberates this call.

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

### **Serving Next Week**

Music: 8:30/10:30 -  
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