



NORTHDALE NEWS

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Dear friends in our Savior,

“He (Jesus) told them, ‘This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.’” (Luke 24:46-48) Jesus spoke these words to his disciples in the upper room on the first Easter night. They had been hiding in the room out of fear of what would happen to them. Then Jesus appeared and confirmed all the reports that he was actually alive. After strengthening them and assuring them of his victory over death and how he was indeed the Messiah promised throughout the Old Testament to bring salvation to God’s people, he told them that he had a purpose for them: “You are witnesses of these things.” They were now to go out and tell others what they saw.

Imagine what they saw! They saw the miracles Jesus had done throughout his ministry. They saw him arrested in Gethsemane. Some of them were there to see him tried and beaten. They would have seen him from a distance as he hung from the cross. No doubt at least some of them saw his dead body and where it was placed in the tomb. Now here he was in front of them: alive! He had the holes in his hands and side to prove that what they saw had been real...but he was alive! He wasn’t bound by the walls or doors. He just appeared there before them. They saw he did everything the Old Testament had prophesied that he would do. Now, with the help of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was sending them out into the world to make disciples for him by telling what they had seen and heard.

Those disciples, like Jesus, are no longer on this earth. So the task of being witnesses now falls on our shoulders. This is our ministry—to serve people with the good news, the Gospel, of Jesus. Now we are to be the witnesses who tell others what we have seen and heard about Jesus on the pages of scripture. What a monumental task! What a glorious privilege! What an honor to be the ones God can work through to bring others to faith and change their eternal destination.

As we continue to bask in the glory and celebration of the resurrection, we strive to find more ways that we can get out into the community and serve more people with God’s word. This should be the ever present question on the lips of God’s people: What is another way that we can connect with people in our community to share with them the Gospel of Jesus and serve their spiritual needs? What more can I do, what more can I give, what talents and opportunities has God placed before me so that I can reach more people with the Gospel? Could that be reaching more families by meeting their need for a preschool? Could that be finding more ways to connect with people through social media to help serve their spiritual needs? Could that be getting involved in neighborhood or community projects which gives me the opportunity to meet new people and invite them to come and hear more about what God has done for them?

Gathering at God’s house on Sunday and hearing about Jesus’ life, death and resurrection makes us witnesses of these things. May we always look for those ways either individually as believers or collectively as a congregation where we can witness to love of God in Jesus our Savior.

Pastor Charlie Vannieuwenhoven

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

AS SALT, OUR HIGHEST RESPONSIBILITY IS TO REACH LOST SOULS BY BRINGING THEM THE SAVING GOSPEL OF CHRIST.

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?” (Matthew 5:13).



MISSIONS HIGHLIGHT—

Planting seeds, divine appointments, and caribou. A person may never know what to expect when canvassing and proclaiming God’s Word. Evangelism is far more about God and his promises than about ourselves. One of the greatest promises Christians can trust when proclaiming the gospel is that his Word works. Due to our human nature and the sinful world around us, personal evangelism is often scary and intimidating. Praise and Proclaim Ministries, a WELS-based gospel ministry, partners with WELS Board of Home Missions and established WELS/ELS congregations throughout the U.S. to provide training for members to verbally proclaim the gospel to lost souls.

To help conquer fears and provide a meaningful opportunity to put their training into action, members participating in an outreach initiative go out door-to-door to apply a simple methodology to verbally proclaim the gospel. When believers step out in faith to share their faith with others, God provides interesting stories.

At The Vine Lutheran Church, a new mission in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, a group of members from St. Matthew in Spokane, WA received training and utilized canvassing as a method to introduce their new church in the community. The Lord provided “divine appointments” at the door when people expressed a sincere desire to learn more. One man told a participant, “Just this morning, I was praying that the Lord would send a WELS church to Coeur d’Alene. You are an answer to my prayer!” He and his wife were WELS members from Arizona who recently moved into the area. Now they are active participants in reaching the lost.

Portland Praise Canvassing Group

Three WELS congregations in Portland, Oregon meet every three months to go out and verbally plant the seeds of the gospel. After training, members were so excited and privileged to be God’s messengers that they decided to come together as one to hit the streets surrounding one congregation and bring as many people as possible to heaven through the power of the gospel. The growing group calls themselves “Portland Praise” and includes two established WELS congregations (Gethsemane/Tigard, Amazing Grace/Portland) and one mission congregation (Beautiful Savior/Hillsboro).

Members at Grace Lutheran Church in Kenai, Alaska gathered to received training and immediately put it into action. While going door-to-door, a group encountered several caribou feeding on the summer grass. One caribou followed members for a few doors which made them a little nervous. Grace Lutheran regularly goes out canvassing to hand out little packets of coffee and batteries to replace smoke alarms during daylight savings time. They use these tools to engage people and provide a short gospel message.

Verbally proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ is scary; yet one of the greatest exercises of our faith is sharing our faith. When church members regularly gather together to verbally proclaim the gospel, it can have a transforming effect. God’s kingdom is advanced. Trust in God’s promises is strengthened. And there is profound joy in knowing they are being used by God in a powerful way. With training, WELS members are breaking the thin ice of fear and boldly proclaiming the gospel with their friends and neighbors, plus assisting their pastor in making follow-up visits.

Building Our Faith - Family - Future

It has been one year since "Celebration Sunday" when we as a congregation brought forward our initial gifts and pledge cards to give glory to God and to raise money to add two classrooms to our school and expand our parking lot. God certainly blessed our efforts! Through his grace, we had \$370,000 in gifts and pledges that were offered to this project. God be praised for this wonderful response to his love! To date, we have received approximately \$165,000 of that money. What great progress for our first year! We will be sending out letters in the next few weeks letting each family know what they have given to the project and encouraging you to remain faithful to your pledges. We thank you all for your gifts and encourage you to continue with your pledge. If you were not able to offer a gift last year or are new to our congregation, we'd love to give you the opportunity to participate in this. Please speak to Pastor Vann and he will help you with the information that you need.

Here's an update on our building project progress. We had hoped to begin construction when school lets out for the summer, but we won't be able to reach that deadline. We ran into some architect issues. Those have been cleared up and we are expecting to have the drawings ready for bid by early April. We are looking for contractors who are interested in bidding our project. If you know of anyone who would be interested in doing so, please speak with Steve Ward about it. Our MLT meeting on April 30 is the deadline for our list of bidders. We will then put the project out to bid. After we have put the project out to bid and picked our contractor, we will finalize our financial package. Then the permitting process will take a few months. We are hopeful to begin construction in about 6 months time.

Thank you to everyone for your generous gifts to this project. As we serve the students and families under our care, we will continue ***Building our Faith - Family - Future***.



How do I Give the Money I Promised for the Building Project?

This question has been asked a few times already, so I thought it good to pass along the information. You can do it a couple of different ways. You can use the envelopes that were with the packet you received at the group presentations. You can use the specially marked "Building Fund" envelopes that are part of your regular envelope packed. Or, especially if you are giving a little each week, you can just add that amount to your regular offering and make note of either on your check or on the envelope. For instance, if you normally give \$100 weekly in offering and you promised to add \$25/week for the building fund, you can write a check for \$125 and just note that \$100 is for General offering and \$25 is for the Building Fund. If you have questions about this, please don't hesitate to ask.

We do ask if you are using online giving, that you do not use it for larger gifts. A portion of each gift is taken as fees for the service. We would encourage you to write a check for larger gifts.

April 2018



SENIOR WINNERS

Senior Winners will meet on Wednesday, April 18th @ 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. We will meet before worship that day. Any questions speak to John Kim, Sr. We'd love to have you join us.

VBS 2018!!

It's time again to start planning for our 2018 Vacation Bible School. Our VBS is planned for July 16-20. Registration is already accepting VBS campers at www.northdalelutheran.org. We will be looking for many volunteers to help us with this. If you are interested in helping, you can talk with Kristin Phillips or Pastor Vann and they will get you more information. We are excited to serve the many young campers who come to our VBS with the wonderful grace of our God!



Camp South Registration is Now Open

Registration is now open for Camp South this summer. Camp South is an awesome opportunity for our youth to grow in their faith, worship God, and have an amazingly awesome time with other Christians their age. The ambitious goal this year is 500 participants. All Registration is online.

Camp South-Soul Survivor

Covington, GA

July 23-27, 2018

\$285 per participant (Students completing 3rd grade thru completing 8th grade)

You can register at: <https://goo.gl/forms/sBBAnWkFbcLo1Ac43>

If you are interested in viewing the video from Camp South last year to get a better idea of what Camp South is all about, you can go to YouTube and search: "Camp South WELS 2017". The deadline for registration is April 30th. We will send one check per congregation. So you can sign up online and give your registration money to Chris Haring.

Principal Call Extended

On Sunday, March 11, our voters extended a call to Dane Mattes to save as principal and 7-8th grade teacher of our Northdale Lutheran School. Dane is currently serving at Trinity Lutheran School in Brillion, WI. Please keep Dane in your prayers as he considers this call.

Lynn Marggraf Holding Call

On Sunday, March 11, the voters of Grace Lutheran Church in Portland, OR extended a call to Lynn Marggraf to serve as a lower grade teacher in their school. Please keep Lynn in your prayers as she determines where she can best serve in God's kingdom.

Pastor Vann Gone

Pastor Vann will be in Michigan and Wisconsin from April 9-14 for Campus Ministry work and the Board for Home Missions meeting, as well as a LWMS presentation. Pastor will be visiting a number of our Campus Ministries to counsel and encourage the pastors who serve those ministries as well as meeting with the local board to help give it direction. The Board for Home Missions meeting is Thursday afternoon and all day on Friday. Pastor then will be the main presenter at the LWMS rally at St. John's, Oak Creek, WI (just a few miles south of the airport) before he flies back to Tampa on Saturday. Pastor thanks you for giving him the opportunity to serve our church body at large in this role.

Taste of Carrollwood

This year, we will once again be participating in the Carrollwood Area Business Association event entitled, "Taste of Carrollwood" on Sunday, April 15. This event will allow us reach almost 3,000 people with information about our church and school. Our school students will also be singing for 20-25 as a part of this. What a great way for us to reach out into our community so that we can make contact with more people and share with them God's love in Jesus. The exciting thing about this year's event is that it will be held at the newly renovated Tampa Yankees Stadium. There will be many family friendly activities to participate in.



Youth Confirmation Service



Our annual youth Confirmation Service will be held in the late service on Sunday, April 29. This year, we have five young people who will be stepping forward to publicly confess their faith in Jesus and their fellowship with us: Sara Ashley, Rane Davis, Mary Sawyer, Lucas Tortorice and Richard Zarazua. Please join us for this special service. We pray for God's richest blessings in the lives of these young people.

Northdale Family Fun Fest

The annual Northdale Family Fun Fest is scheduled for Saturday, April 14 and will be held at the Northdale Community Park just a half block south of our property. This is a great event for families. There will be bounce houses for the kids, live music, free food and a parade. The parade begins at 10:00 a.m. We will have a booth to share information about our church and school with our community. It is a great event. We encourage you to join us that morning to have fun in the park and to help promote our church and school to our community. As we grow with the Word, may we also go with the Word and share it with our world.



MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM

The following are highlights from the Ministry Leadership Team meeting on March 26, 2018:

- There were no membership actions were reported or approved:
 - This leaves our Total Membership at 225 with Communicant membership at 171.
- Pastor Vann reported that a request has been submitted to the Board of Home Missions for Wesley Chapel. Zephyrhills has stated a willingness to sell their property when the time comes in. There have been a total of 21 requests for new home missions and normally they can approve 6-7 per year. Pastor thinks that there's some things that bode well for this start-up. There's 15-20 that worship in the summer and upwards of 80-90 during snowbird season plus the influx of funds from the sale of the money. If funding were to be approved, it would start in July but they typically like to have the individual serve for about 1 year to get to know the community and the people. This means that Steve Nuss may end up staying on for longer than anticipated. There are still a lot of 'ifs' associated with this process.
- Pastor also reported that Confirmation day is April 29th and we have 5 youth confirmands this year.
- Mark provided the School Ministry Board report. Springtime is a busy time of the year for the school. LPS basketball tournament trip, doughnuts with dad, soccer day, Arbor day, etc. We had a new kindergartner transfer in this past week (bringing kindergarten up to 10 kids which is our biggest class). Prospects have had the reigns taken over by Pastor and he met with 3 different moms (2 kids each). Two are coming from home-school environments and one just wants to make a change. Re-enrollment work is going on for next year (fairly routine work) and they are discussing how to make the transition flow easier with Mark's departure. We have 62 students total. Mark plans on listing their home mid-April and then transitioning to Georgia.
- Steve Ward reported for Evangelism. The Northdale Fun Fest is April 14th and Taste of Carrollwood is on the 15th at Steinbrenner field. Mark signed up for the Primrose of Carrollwood event on the 14th.
- Jeff provided the Land and Facilities update from Mike Laurin .
 - Because of circuit boards blown out on the two new AC units installed last year, I had TECO come out and look for any problems with surges in the line. They came out a week ago and reported no problems found. I will now contact Larry Rueff and have him install individual surge protection on each unit to prevent any further issues.
 - I met again with CDHR Services regarding outside repairs to stucco and soffit. Work should start about the 3rd week of April. A check for half the \$3,150 will be needed to begin work with balance due on approval and completion of project.
 - Pastor and I met with Michael Correa from Imperial Woodworks on new pews or chairs for church. I received his proposal, so you can compare the cost deference between the different styles. You can see the costs range from just under \$11,000 for metal chairs to just under \$22,000 for pews. Wooden chairs were \$17,000. The drawings also show an extra 3ft isle on each side for all styles, and a loss of capacity of 26 because of new size requirement for an individual sitting area. I would appreciate and comments and input. I like the wood chairs. By doing chairs versus pews we have more options on church use, and we would not have to replace carpet for a few years, and when we do replace it will be much easier with chairs. Let me know if I should pursue this or not. Michael Correa is also willing to meet with us if you wish.
 - Thanks to everyone who helped out on this past Saturday.
- Steve Ward gave the Building Committee report. Steve spoke with Chris Warren on Friday and the drawing work should be done (bid ready) within the next 2 weeks. A civil engineer is coming out to take a soil sample. As of right now, Steve has 4 contractors lined up to do the bidding once we have the finalized drawings. We will have to come up with the balance of Chris' contract. Chris is going to help work with us through the bidding process. Dave commented that if anyone knows of any contractors, it doesn't cost us anything to have multiple companies provide us with additional bids. Steve requested that we have the list of contractors identified by the April MLT meeting. Pastor will also email the congregation to ask if anyone knows of any local commercial contractors.
- The new software has been purchased. Jessica Kingsborough and Kati Hatfield are working to change over to it. They are entering in the information in by various groups (members, school families, prospects, etc.).
- Call extended to Dane Mattes to serve as principal and 7-8th grade teacher. So far Dane seems very positive about the questions he's asking as part of his consideration. He doesn't want to announce a decision during Holy Week but he will have an answer to us soon. Pastor also shared that there is a synod COLA (cost of living assessment). Currently there is a 3% increase for Tampa and this would be applicable for all called workers. We should also consider that Dane is graduating with his Master's degree this May and that can also count towards an increase in salary columns.
- Time to start thinking about elections for next fiscal year. The two positions up for election this year are Treasurer and School Ministry Board Elder. Brian's terms are complete. Rick has stated his desire to be completed with his service after this year.
- It is also time to select a delegate for the South Atlantic District Convention this summer, June 12-14 at Innisbrook at Palm Harbor. Brian Busch has stated an interest in serving. MLT is happy to have Brian attend the convention.



STAY CONNECTED...

**to your school.
to your teachers.
to your youth.**

A Blessed Easter to You

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! A blessed Easter to you from all of us at Northdale Lutheran School! This joyous season is a great reminder of God's everlasting love for the world. Christ's resurrection means everything for us. We are thankful for the opportunity to share the good news of eternal life in heaven through Jesus with our students. We also pray that everyone enjoys Easter Monday (April 2nd) off from school. We'll see you back at school on Tuesday, April 3rd.

Upcoming SALSA Events

This month we are looking forward to two South Atlantic Lutheran Schools Association events: the Academic Fair and Soccer Day. The Academic Fair will be on Friday, April 13th at Bay Pines Lutheran School in Seminole. Grades 5-8 will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of different events: math, spelling, speech, quiz bowl, piano, and art. It is always a fun day and a great opportunity to gather with our fellow Lutheran schools. Soccer Day will be on Friday, April 27th. The event is hosted by Peace Lutheran School in Kissimmee. Soccer players in grades 3-8 will form two teams (3rd-5th grade team and 6th-8th grade team) and compete against the other schools present in a tournament format. May God bless both of these events and those who participate.

Musical Preparations

One of the highlights of the school year is the annual spring musical which is just about ready to get underway! This year's production is Pirates 2 - The Hidden Treasure. Some may recall the wonderful performance of Pirates 1 a few years back. Our musical production is done by students in grades K-8 and is a lot of fun. This year's musical will be presented on Thursday, May 17th at 10 am and Friday, May 18th at 10 am and 7 pm. We hope you will join us!

Silent Auction

In addition to the musical, we are also making final preparations for our annual spring silent auction. The silent auction will be open starting Sunday, May 13th and continuing through the final musical performance on Friday, May 18th. Bidding will close and raffle drawings will be held at the conclusion of the final musical performance. This year's proceeds from the silent auction will be directed towards our playground improvements fund as we continue to work on updating our playground equipment structures.

Spring MAP Testing

Our final round of MAP testing will start Monday, April 23rd with the goal of wrapping up all testing for the school year by Friday, May 4th. This will be our third round of testing for the school year. Following our winter testing we analyzed our results from the past year and a half on the MAP testing program. We are proud to share that our average/median test scores are well above the national scores. In Science we are about 25 points higher, and in Language Arts, Math, and Reading we are about 12 points higher than the national average/median scores. Great work, teachers and students!

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**Sunday Worship: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Communion Services: First and Third Sundays of the month
Sunday School & Teen Bible Class: 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. (September through May)
Sunday Bible Class: 9:25-10:15 a.m.
Fellowship: 11:30 p.m.
School hours: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. M-F**