



# NORTHDALÉ NEWS

## Inside This Issue

Stewardship Encouragement	MLT Meeting Highlights	Events/Things to Note	Church Events/ Mark Your Calendar	Reminders/ Things to Note/ Camps	School News
------------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	---	--	-------------

### Dear friends in our Savior,

The Apostle Peter ended his second letter with the encouragement, *“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* (2 Peter 3:18) As God’s people waited for the coming of our Lord Jesus, they were to stand firm against all of the false doctrine and teachings that would confront them as well as the temptations that would come their way. The way to do this was to continue growing in grace and knowledge as God’s people.

It is good for us to think about this. We all know what our ultimate goal is: to finish this life in faith and to live with Jesus forever in heaven. But what about until then? What is to be our goal and focus as we journey toward that goal? As Peter encouraged the Christians of the first century so he also encourages us: *“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* We are not only to grow in what we know about God and how he works, we are to grow in our maturity as God’s people. This gives us a short term goal to work towards as we look forward to our Lord returning to this earth.

So if we are to grow in our maturity as disciples of Jesus, what does that look like? It’s good for us to have a picture in our mind of what a mature disciple of Jesus looks like. Thankfully, God paints that picture for us throughout Scripture. A mature disciple of Jesus is someone who: **attends worship regularly** (Romans 12:1-2; Hebrews 10:23-25), **prays** (1 Thessalonians 5:17), **evangelizes** (that is, shares the good news of Jesus with others) (Colossians 4:3), **who knows and applies Scripture to their lives** (2 Timothy 2:15, Hebrews 5:11-6:3), **serves the body** (Ephesians 4:11-13), **partakes of Communion often** (1 Corinthians 11:23-26), **displays fruit of the Spirit** (Galatians 5:22-23), **gives of their finances** (1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15), **loves others** (1 John 4:7), **grows in faith and knowledge** (2 Peter 3:18), **bears fruit** (John 15:5), **bears each others burdens** (Galatians 6:2).

So as you look at this list it’s good to ask: how are you doing? What aspects of spiritual maturity as a disciple of Jesus are you excelling at? What aspects are you weak at and have areas to growth in? What are you doing to address these areas of weakness? What steps are you taking to grow and strengthen these areas? These are difficult questions to ask ourselves. They keep us accountable to ourselves and help us to progress in our spiritual maturity.

This is also the reason we gather together as a church family. We do so to provide opportunities to grow in our knowledge of God and his grace through worship and Bible Study. They also provide us opportunities to grow as we find avenues in which we can serve others and share with others the good news of Jesus. So I will ask again, what are you doing to strengthen your spiritual qualities as disciples of Jesus? Are you taking advantage of worship and Bible Class opportunities? Are you volunteering your time and energy to serve others through various ministries? Are you seizing the opportunities to tell your friends, neighbors, co-workers and relatives about the good news of Jesus their Savior and the salvation he offers fully and freely?

We are waiting patiently for Jesus to return. As we wait, what are we focusing our attention on? Let’ follow Peter’s encouragement and *“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”*  
Pastor Vannieuwenhoven

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

### Ideas for Teaching Stewardship to Children

Philanthropic strategist Bruce DeBoskey, in an article titled “Involve kids early in family philanthropy and give them input in giving,” shares, “The passing along of family values cannot take place all at once, in a few conversations towards the end of life or in a paragraph buried in a will. Rather, to be effective, it must be an ongoing and integral part of family communications from the time children are very young well into their adult years.” He offers the following ideas for passing along stewardship principles to children.

- Set an example by your own charitable giving.
- Include children in conversations about giving decisions. Teach them how charities work, the different charities that exist, and how our gifts help.
- Give them three jars for splitting their allowance between giving, spending, and savings. One possible breakdown is putting a tithe into a church jar, half into savings, and the other 40 percent into the spending jar.
- Children can donate their gently used stuff to a local charity. They can come along to make the donation.
- Instead of gifts for special occasions (birthdays, Christmas), children can request donations to a charity.
- Kids can help you with a volunteer project. Volunteering can even be worked into family vacations (perhaps a mission trip).
- Certain giving arrangements, including a donor advised fund or a family foundation, allow older children to research causes and advise on family gift distributions. (For more information about a donor advised fund visit [wels.net/foundation](http://wels.net/foundation).)

Of course, the most important thing Christian parents can do to teach children stewardship is to go to the authority on the matter through daily devotions in God’s Word. Here we will learn how we are empowered by God to trust him and worship him with our gifts.

## MISSIONS HIGHLIGHT—

### "I Knew I Needed Peace"

Redeemer Lutheran Church in Edna, Texas began worshipping at its second site in Victoria on December 3, 2017. As is typical with a new mission start, we flooded our area with fliers, billboards, and door-hanger invitations. We had a few new people respond, but by Christmas, most had decided that Redeemer was not for them. We followed the grand opening invitation with a Christmas invitation just a few weeks later with nearly the same results...

Or so we thought.

About 2 weeks after Christmas, Magdalena and her high school aged granddaughter, Nikandra, attended worship with us. As part of our guest follow-up, I took a welcome gift to their house. Although we don’t usually like to enter the house for a visit on this first contact, Magdalena insisted. It was the first time a pastor had sat at her table to visit with her and to address her spiritual concerns and questions.

I asked how she had found out about Redeemer, and she pulled out the Christmas invitation that offered “Peace for the Broken” (the Christmas 2017 invite cards prepared by Pastor Jonathan Schroeder and ECHT Printing) from her Bible and said, “I saw this and knew I needed peace. So I came.”

Over the next several weeks, Magdalena and Nikandra studied with me nearly every week in their home and seldom missed worship or Sunday Bible study. As they neared the completion of the Bible 101 course, I invited them to consider baptism, confirmation, and church membership. They enthusiastically accepted and, for many reasons, chose Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018, as the date for Nikandra’s baptism and for their confirmations as well. It was a wonderful celebration of the power of Jesus’ resurrection. On a day our nation celebrates pranks and fools, these two became confirmed “fools” for Christ, who are wise unto salvation through faith in him.

Nikandra used the opportunity of her baptism and confirmation to invite a friend and her mother to worship. These ladies have also started attending worship, and we have invited them to consider the Bible 101 course as well. We pray that in this way our congregation and the Savior’s church will continue to grow.

Written By: Pastor Aaron Glaeske, Redeemer Lutheran Church - Victoria, TX

## MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM

---

The following are highlights from the Ministry Leadership Team meeting on July 30, 2018:

- The meeting began with a presentation by Michael Corea from Imperial Woodworks on the two chair styles we had picked. Members sat on and looked over the construction of both chairs. The chairs come with a 15 yr warranty. The chairs would open up the sanctuary and allow for other uses of the sanctuary because they are stackable. This would be handy for the school play and VBS. There was talk and concern about losing 26 seats vs. going with pews. It was felt that in most services there would be no problem. We can also add more chairs in the future for the overflow room which would make up the difference once the kindergarten is moved into one of the new classrooms. The current prices are only good until Oct 1st, and a 30% down payment would be needed at the time of the order. The MLT will continue to study this and try to coordinate with the flooring replacement from our recent water problem. No decision will be made without bringing our recommendation to the voters first.
- The meeting continued with a devotion by Pastor Vann
- The following Membership Action was taken:
  - Release – Amanda Patterson and Natalie Yancey
  - Our Total Membership is 227 with Communicant membership at 168.
- Pastor updated the board on his first evening with Pastor. Pastor was very pleased with it and had 5 people attending. He has 2 per month scheduled through December. Pastor also informed the board that he will be attending several meetings in Milwaukee and be gone August 27th to the 30th. Pastor is also working on a meeting schedule for next year for the newly formed committees. New BIC and Catechism classes will be starting soon. Pastor and Dane were invited to speak to the Rotary club meeting on July 31st to talk about our school and what we offer.
- Dane and Nick reported that current enrollment for the 2018/19 year is at 59. The school board asked the MLT what exactly we would like reported each month. Several ideas were discussed. School begins August 13th.
- Steve reported that we had 108 kids attend VBS. The Project Timothy kids were a big help with VBS, and the MLT recommends continuing using the Project Timothy Program in the future. Steve also reported that the 4th of July parade went well.
- Rick reported on the 2017-2018 Year to Date Actuals Through June 30 The Total Income for the fiscal year was (Church and School): \$600,609.65. The Total Expenses (Church and School) for the fiscal year were: \$588,843.72. This gave us a gain of \$11,765.93 for the fiscal year. Annual giving was down about \$9,000 from budget, but school revenue was up about \$10,000. We were also up about \$1,500 for VBS. With all that stated, we ended the year about \$2,500 ahead of budgeted income topping \$600,000 for the first time ever in revenue. What a Blessing!
- We will begin to switch members over to the new accounting system from Push Pay. Jeff Berg will contact Push Pay to ask for our \$1,800 credit, as we did not see a 10% increase in our giving as they promised.
- Mike reported that the stucco and soffit repairs are continuing but rain has slowed the progress. Mike reported that we need to add mulch to the play area as we do every year at a cost of \$1,275. MLT approved Mike to go ahead with ordering the mulch since monies were recently donated for a small project around school. Mike also said he met with 2 contractors on Monday to start getting estimates for repairs related to the toilet overflow. Several ideas for flooring will be looked at and the MLT will bring a recommendation to the voters before any new flooring is decided on.
- Steve reported that the survey drawings have been found and are now in our possession. They have been given to our architect and we should be able to have final drawings very soon. Then we can get bids and apply for our loan. The ball is rolling again.
- So far \$7,345 has been collected for the principal's moving fund. We aren't sure if this will cover all the cost because we have not received the bill yet. Therefore we will keep it in the service folder until we are sure that all costs have been taken care of.
- We received a check for \$35,000 and it has been put into a special account. These monies are to be used for upfront money to start and get ready to start a pre-school. Joanne Mattes has stepped forward and is willing to look into what is needed to start a program. The school board along with Joanne will put together a report and present it to the MLT on what is needed including additional staffing, cost projections, and revenue projections. A motion was made by Nick Koren and seconded by Steve Ward to pay Joanne Mattes \$15.00 / hr out of the \$35,000 for her work. Motion carried
- Treasurer Larry Blaisel would like to hire a bookkeeper to assist him with his duties. This is allowed as outlined in the church bylaws, and because of the size our budget has grown to, it is a good idea. A motion was made by Steve Ward and seconded by Mike Laurin to hire Rick Bublitz for \$375 / mo as the bookkeeper to assist Larry. Motion carried.
- Recently we had several issues and over draft charges with the debit card used by Dane and Pastor. It is too hard to communicate when the card is used, and when more money needs to be put into the account. After some discussion including safety concerns about using a debit card, and because this would be much easier to track items purchased. A motion was made by Steve Ward and seconded by Larry Blaisel to get two bank credit cards. One for Dane and one for Pastor. Motion carried We will pay off the balance monthly (this is not a line of credit). We will also ask the bank to forgive some of the overdraft charges when applying for the new cards.
- Next Leadership Team meeting scheduled for August 21, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.



## SENIOR WINNERS

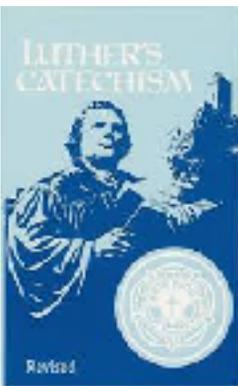
The Senior Winners Group will not be meeting for the summer. They will begin meeting again in September. If you have any questions, please speak to John Kim, Sr.

## Bible Information Class (BIC)

Pastor Vann will be starting the next Bible Information Class on Tuesday, September 4. The class will meet for 13 weeks from 6:30-8:00 p.m. This class is required for anyone who wishes to become a communicant member. This is a great review of the foundational truths of God's Word for those who are many years removed from Catechism Class. It is also a great way to invite a friend or neighbor to learn more about what the Bible says. If you are interested in attending this class or if you know of someone who is, just let Pastor Vann know.



## 6th-8th GRADE CATECHISM



It is that time of year for Catechism classes to start up again. At Northdale Lutheran, Catechism instruction is for all students in 6-8th grade and is required for a young person to be confirmed and become a communicant member of our congregation. Those students who attend our Lutheran School receive their instruction during the school day. For all those children who do not attend our school, Catechism will be offered on Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. These classes will begin on Wednesday, August 22. If your child will be attending this class, please speak to Pastor Vann to let him know so that he knows how many books to order for the class.

## LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The Ladies Bible Study meets the second Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This year, they have been studying through the book, "Prepared to Answer." This is a book that deals with many contemporary topics. This study will help the participants to think through these different questions ahead of time so that each person will be prepared to answer when the question is asked. All ladies are invited to join us for this study. They will not be meeting for the summer. They will meet again in the fall.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday School begins for our young children ages 3 through 5th grade the Sunday after Labor Day: September 9. This is our registration and kick off day. We encourage all of our families to participate in our Sunday School program. If you are interested in helping with Sunday School or teaching, you can speak to Pastor Vann or Kristin Phillips.

## Ministry Teams at Northdale Lutheran

We have established a number of ministry teams to better serve God's people here at Northdale and involve more people in the ministry. We try to use Monday as our meeting night. We have published a meeting schedule for each of the meetings. We are asking each member of Northdale Lutheran to consider what gifts, abilities and interests God has granted to you to see if there is a place where you could serve. These are the Teams that will be meeting this month. The meeting schedule is also listed below. Please consider the gifts, abilities and interests God has given you and decide where you might be able to serve. We'd love to have you be an active part of our ministry.

### **♣ Youth Ministry Team**

The Youth Ministry Team will oversee and carry out all the ministry to the youth of our congregation (with the exception being our Lutheran Elementary School). This will include Sunday School, Teen Ministry, and any other programs that can be started to serve and enrich the youth of our congregation. They will develop a program of spiritual growth, service, and fellowship for teens. They will help to promote participation in Teen Bible Class, WELS Youth Rallies, South Atlantic District Rallies, Camp South and Sunday School. They will work to plan fellowship and service activities for our youth to get to know one another better and serve others in our congregation and community.

### **♣ Land and Facilities Team**

This team will work with the Land and Facilities Elder to oversee all the properties and buildings of the congregation. They will help him to take care of the repair and upkeep of all the land and facilities owned by the congregation and ensure the regular maintenance and cleaning of the buildings. They will also help him to oversee any new construction, remodeling or any capital projects undertaken by the congregation and to propose new projects to the congregation to provide the facilities that will facilitate the ministry of the congregation. The Land and Facilities Elder will be the chairman of this team and will lead all meetings.

### **♣ Community Outreach Team**

The responsibility of this team is to look for ways that we can help others in our community. Since we know God's love for us in Jesus, we are compelled in Christian love to look for ways that we can help others around us. Motivated in thanks for all that God has done for us, the responsibility of this team is to look for opportunities in our community where the members of our congregation can use their time, talents, and treasures to meet the physical needs of others in our community. Our goal in doing this is not only to meet a need, but more importantly to have the opportunity to share with them the Gospel of Jesus to meet their spiritual needs as well.

### **♣ Evangelism Team**

The Evangelism Team is responsible for leading our congregation in reaching out with the love of Jesus to the people of our community. They plan and lead outreach activities and make sure that church prospects are visited in a timely manner. They organize and man display tables in local community fairs, participate in the Lutz Fourth of July parade, oversee our Vacation Bible School, carry out a program to follow up with visitors who attend worship, lead canvassing efforts and help with our Moms and Tots group.

Month	Date	6:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
August	6	Land and Facilities Team	Youth Ministry Team
	13	Evangelism/Community Outreach Team	
	20	School Ministry Board	
	21	Ministry Leadership Team	

## **Bookkeeping Assistance Hired**

At the end of the fiscal year, we heard the report from our outgoing Treasurer that we surpassed the \$600,000 mark for income for the first time in our history. What a blessing from God that we are able to serve so many people! While this blessing is great and means that we are growing in the people we can serve, it also means we need to change our thinking about the way we have been doing things. Managing this big of a budget has become more than what a volunteer treasurer is able to do in his free time. Besides, it takes more than simple accounting skills to properly and adequately manage a budget this large with a staff as large as ours. So our Ministry Leadership Team approved a recommendation to hire Rick Bublitz to do the bookkeeping under the oversight of our current Treasurer, Larry Blaisel. Being hired with pay will allow Rick to focus some specific time on taking care of our finances. While this is a new paradigm for our congregation, it is important that we are willing to take these steps to keep moving forward in our ministry together.

## **Pastor Vann to Milwaukee for Home Missions Training**

Pastor Vann will be traveling to Milwaukee, WI August 27-30 for a Board for Home Missions training meeting. The Board for Home Mission is implanting a new form of planning called the VTO plan (Vision/Traction/Organization). They will be training each of the District Mission Boards as well as the various Committees like the Campus Ministry Committee on which Pastor Vann serves on working with this new planning form. It will be beneficial not only for the work Pastor does on this committee, but the knowledge he learns will be helpful in the work which we carry out together.

## **Preschool Exploratory Work will Begin**

Northdale Lutheran has received a check for \$35,000 to help cover the upfront costs of beginning a preschool as part of our School ministry. We have many contacts in this area and from the number of people who have inquired and shared their excitement about a preschool, we believe this is an area which we should begin work. The Ministry Leadership Team approved hiring Joanne Mattes on a part time basis to begin exploring the steps which we need to take in order to open our preschool for the 2019-2020 school year. This is a big step for us. We are convinced that we will have enough children and parents interested to support this venture. We also believe it can become a good feeder for our school.

## **Congregational Meeting**



Last year, the congregation gave the Ministry Leadership Team the ability to wait until September to approve the budget for the current year. That will help us make a better plan because we will know the number of students we currently have enrolled in our school and will allow us to work with a more accurate income number. The Congregational Budget Meeting has not been scheduled yet, but take place some time in September. Look for more information that will be coming at that time and join us for this meeting.



August 2018

## STAY CONNECTED...

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

### Welcome to the New School Year!

We give thanks to God for the many blessings he gives to us through Northdale Lutheran School. At NLS it is our privilege to share God's Word each and every day with our students. May God bless us this year as we embark upon the 19th year of Northdale Lutheran School. Thank you for being part of our school family.

### School Year Theme

Each year the faculty selects a school year theme. This year's theme will be: Humble Service. The theme is based on Galatians 5:13 – *"Serve one another humbly in love."* While there are many different qualities and characteristics God wants his people to have, humble service is right at the top. In Jesus, we see the humblest of service as he was willing to set aside his divine power and glory to come down to this earth and serve us in his role of being our Savior. In love for what God has done for us and the way he has served us, we also want to serve others. May God bless our work this year as we seek to serve one another humbly in love!

### Mission Project

Our mission project for this year will be our church body's work through the Commission on Christian Aid and Relief. The mission of Christian Aid and Relief is to reflect Christ's love and compassion to souls suffering from disasters and hardships. The Lord is giving us new opportunities to show how much we care by bridging the gospel proclamation with acts of compassion. As we provide for people's physical needs, we open doors for WELS missionaries to share what they know about our Savior and his good news for their lives. Chapel offerings are voluntary and can be given at our weekly chapel service on Wednesdays at 11:15am.

### Enrollment

As of today our enrollment stands at 59 students. Praise God for blessing our school with more precious lambs. We are thrilled to have this opportunity to make a difference in our students' lives by providing Christ-centered education. Thank you for entrusting your children to us. We are still working with several additional prospective families so our enrollment by the first day of school may be even higher. As our enrollment rises, we are committed to maintaining the safe and caring environment with individualized attention that our families know they can expect from us. Here is the current breakdown by grade level:

Kindergarten – 3	1st grade – 9	2nd grade – 3	3rd grade – 8	4th grade 8
5th grade – 6	6th grade – 7	7th grade – 8	8th grade – 7	

### First Day of School

The school year will officially begin at 8:00am on Monday, August 13th. Parents are invited to walk their child to his/her classroom and then enjoy coffee, refreshments, and fellowship in the church fellowship hall. A school year opening service will be held at 8:15am in the church for the student body and parents.

**Northdale Lutheran Church and School  
(WELS)  
15709 Mapledale Boulevard  
Tampa, FL 33624**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Northdale Lutheran Church and School (WELS)  
15709 Mapledale Boulevard  
Tampa, FL 33624**

**Office Phone: 813-961-9195 Fax: 813-961-2435  
Web site: [www.northdalelutheran.org](http://www.northdalelutheran.org)  
E-mail: [info@northdalelutheran.org](mailto:info@northdalelutheran.org)**

**Pastor Charles Vannieuwenhoven: 813-850-7520  
Principal Dane Mattes: 920-588-7599  
Teachers: Chris Haring: 517-202-7283  
Aimee Hardman: 813-464-5113  
Lynn Marggraf: 262-613-3020  
Amy Vannieuwenhoven 813-850-7520**

**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**