



# 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
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### Dear friends in our Savior,

Can you spare \$5/week? How about \$10? \$15? Maybe even \$20/week? For many, that's just one stop at Starbucks. For others, it's a couple of smoothies or cups of ice cream. In the scheme of a week, \$5, \$10, \$15, even \$20 is not that big of a deal.

\$32,000 is a big deal. No matter how you look at it, this is a lot of money. It's pretty daunting. This is the deficit budget your Ministry Leadership Team is bringing to the congregational voter's meeting on Sunday, September 9. Why do we have such a difference between the money we bring in and the money we expend? There are many reasons that why this is such a big number. The easy answer is lower enrollment this year at the school. Whether we like it or not, our budget is very dependent upon the number of students we have enrolled in school. With a change in principal, it's natural that there will be some attrition. Starting this year with a lower number of students than we ended last year with accounts for the majority of the difference in the budget.

We also don't have many areas where we can cut. For many years, we have been operating on a bare bones budget. The budgets we faced over the last 4 years don't allow us to do many of the things we need to do to operate effectively. We need to continually upgrade our technology to keep pace with the changing times. We are beyond a need for a secretary to assist the pastor and the principal, as well as be the face when people walk through our door. Our need for a secretary is getting to the point of critical. We won't grow much further until we provide help for our called workers. To stay accredited, our teachers need to keep up with their continuing education. All of these numbers have been cut or eliminated from budget in order to make ends meet.

But don't wring your hands too much. This isn't outside of our grasp. If we take this deficit and divide it up among the approximately 100 giving units of our congregation, it comes out to about \$6/week per giving unit. That means, if everyone increases their weekly offering by \$6, we'll have what we need to make this budget. Increasing it by \$10 or \$15 or even \$20/week allows us to meet these other needs, which are on standby but desperately needed for our ministry to function properly and grow. We can do it, but it will take everyone to help.

Let's remind ourselves what our God can do. When they had to feed about 20,000 people, the disciples brought forward 5 loaves of bread and two fish. Listen to what happened, "*Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.*" (Matthew 14:19-20) Our God used what meager resources the disciples had to meet the needs at hand. He will do the same for us.

Let's also remind ourselves that this is our mission. We have chosen as a congregation to band together and use our school to minister to families. This isn't just our staff's mission or the Leadership Team's mission. This is all of our mission. We're all in this together and if we band together, we can meet this need.

This also highlights the need for all of our members to make use of our school and be recruiting for our school. If money is a problem, scholarships are available to help make the cost of school affordable. Our principal would love to talk with you about the possibility of your children attending our school. Even if you have no children in our school, we need everyone to participate in the effort of spreading the work about our school.

Can you spare \$5? God has given us a great opportunity and provided us with a wonderful staff. Let's support our workers and all the children and families reached through our school by banding together to meet this need. Thanks in advance for your help.

Pastor Vannieuwenhoven

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

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### MISSIONS HIGHLIGHT

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The current political situation in Cameroon has created great difficulties for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

As we sat with fellow workers from our mission field, we learned much about the situation there. They had come from the place we call home, a place which had now become unsafe for us to return to. They had traveled in a military convoy of about two hundred vehicles, not sure if or when some opposition leaders might attack. The government is strong, but so are those who oppose them in the name of independence. Everybody here was raised with a “might makes right” attitude, so violence becomes the order of the day.

There is a hopelessness in the air as the proverb rolls off his tongue, “*We are walking between two elephants.*” We learn the other half of the proverb about five minutes later as he continues, “*When two elephants fight, it’s the grass that suffers.*” We (ordinary people) are only spectators in this fight, and we don’t choose sides. ANYBODY with a gun makes us run into the bush to hide, makes us afraid to be home, but we are the ones who suffer in this fight. We are the grass.

As Isaiah begins his encouragement to the people of Israel who had been informed of God’s impending judgement, he acknowledges the same idea, “The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever”(40:7-8). “It isn’t easy” is a common phrase that comes up in our area - it usually refers to a tragic event or near impossible project that needs to be done. This is a classic situation, walking between two elephants, and it's getting uglier every day.

When God decides that we need to walk between two elephants, or he finds it necessary to allow the elephants to fight, the best we can do is to prepare for any outcome. This is out of our hands. Almost any way we become involved, we will agitate somebody - we will most likely only make it worse.

“...BUT the word of our God stands forever.” A pretty important “but” that turns our attention away from the terrible things that are happening in a different part of the world, a war zone, across town, or even in our own home. Whenever we look to people or expect anything of this world to bring peace and happiness, we will surely be disappointed. In fact, the devil will use that to get our attention away from our Savior Jesus. As soon as independence, peace, prosperity, or personal satisfaction rule our hearts and lives, we can be lost and trampled underfoot.

Is there a way for us to leave the elephants alone? In spite of the worldly suffering in this situation, might we rather focus on the good news that our ever-gracious and wise LORD is still in charge, even stronger than the elephants. We remember always that he plans only good things for us (Romans 8:28). The best example is the sacrifice of his own Son to keep us close to Him for eternity. Let us continue to read and study his word to remind us that even our biggest elephant (death) no longer has power over us. Together with Jesus we cannot lose. The whole world needs to know about this great victory in Jesus - even if it means we have walk between two elephants while we tell them!

Written by: Missionaries Dan and Karen Kroll

### THERE’S AN ENDOWMENT FOR YOU

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WELS Foundation offers several options allowing individuals, families, churches, and WELS-affiliated organizations to provide ongoing support to WELS ministries.

- WELS endowments – Contribute to one of the synod-established endowments providing regular support and stability for missions, ministerial education, and the operating fund.
- Donor designated endowments – Through WELS Foundation, an individual or family can establish an endowment for the benefit of WELS ministries they designate, such as their church, school, and synod.
- Congregation endowments – A church or WELS organization can also establish an endowment to benefit local causes like community outreach, scholarships, and building maintenance, as well as wider synod efforts.

For free assistance with a gift or setting up an endowment, call Mark Arnold at 920-450-9587 to speak with our congregation’s WELS Christian giving counselor. Or make an online donation now to a WELS endowment at [community.wels.net/welsendowments](http://community.wels.net/welsendowments)

## MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM

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The following are highlights from the Ministry Leadership Team meeting on August 21, 2018:

- Opening devotion and prayer by Pastor
  - The following were new membership actions reported or approved:
    - Transfer In – Matt Burt from Living Savior Lutheran in Valrico, FL
    - Total Membership = 228 Communicant membership = 169
  - Pastor informed the board that he will be attending several meetings for Campus Ministry and be gone August 27th to the 30th. Pastor will also be gone September 12th-15th for Board of Home Missions meetings.
  - Pastor asked the MLT for permission for him and his wife Amy to attend their daughter's senior homecoming. The MLT had no problem with them attending. Pastor and Amy will be gone Sept 27- 30th and Pastor Werner will fill in for Sunday services.
  - NLS - Christian Education: Dane and Nick reported that current NLS enrollment for the 2018/19 school year is at 58.
  - Evangelism/Outreach: Pastor reported in Steve's absence that there are already 20 signed up for Moms & Tots.
  - Spiritual Growth/Worship/Stewardship: Chris stated a new BIC class will be starting Sept 4th. Chris is also starting to look into ordering envelopes for next year.
  - Treasurer: Larry stated he is still having a problem with the bank in regard to being able to sign bank documents for the church. He stated that the current members allowed to sign must stop at a branch of the bank and ask that Larry be added to the list. Dave Hartwig and Pastor will try to get other members together to take care of this. Dave will also look into how to obtain an auditor to go over our books because of the change in treasurers and that it has not been done in many years.
  - Land & Facilities: Mike reported that the men's bathroom in the church entrance had toilet flushing issues that required a plumber. The problem was age, and it was taken care of. Toilets are now fixed for our students and members. Mike also said he continues to work with getting bids on the repairs from our toilet backup, and hopes that the Land and Facilities team will have a recommendation soon for the MLT.
  - Building Committee: In Steve's absence Pastor stated Steve was meeting with the architect on Wednesday the 22nd to see how far he has come on the drawings now that he had the property land survey.
  - The bill for moving Principal Dane Mattes came in at \$6,600.00. There is some money left over from what was collected. The MLT agreed to keep the extra in a fund to start growing for the next time we need to call a called worker.
  - A job description was developed outlining the duties and responsibilities for the financial assistant. A motion was made by Mike Laurin and seconded by Larry Blaisel to approve and accept this description. Motion carried
  - Annual budget: The MLT spent about one and a half hours going through, line by line, the budget for next year. Every line was looked at and discussed as to whether to add or subtract from it. There was a lot of give and take on every line item. After reviewing and going over the numbers several times, the MLT will present a budget that shows a \$32,000 deficit, which can be covered by our reserve, but use it all. We will present this at our congregational meeting on September 9th after the late service. Because of the importance of this meeting, Dave Hartwig will encourage members attend this Sept. 9th meeting after services this Sunday. Pastor will also go over this at his evenings with Pastor home meetings..
  - Next Leadership Team meeting scheduled for **Monday September 24** at 6:30 p.m.
  - Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer in unison.
- *"Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you.* (Isaiah 54:10)



## SENIOR WINNERS

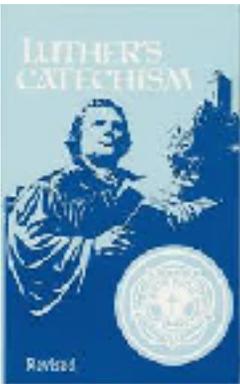
The Senior Winners group will resume meetings on **Wednesday, September 19 at 10:30am** in the Fellowship Hall. Please see John Kim, Sr. with your questions. *Reminder: **September 30** is the month's 5th Sunday for the Senior Winners Fellowship Team!*

## 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 6:30-8:00pm. 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 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 6:30-7:30pm**. These classes began 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 resumes meetings this month on **Sunday, September 9**. 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 on the second Sunday of the month at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday School begins for our young children ages 3 through 5th grade on **September 9** (the Sunday after Labor Day) **at 9:15am**, between worship services. This is our registration and kickoff 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

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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.

### **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.

### **Women of Northdale**

The Women of Northdale exist to further God's kingdom in and outside of our congregation by providing a way for our women to serve the body of Christ. They do this through various different committees: the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS), the Altar Guild, Service Projects, Fellowship after worship, Sunshine Committee, and Cradle Roll. They also coordinate meals with various annual ad hoc events which may include pot lucks, Easter breakfast, conferences, weddings, funerals, baptisms, graduations and other special events.

**Interested in joining a Ministry Team?** Join us in the Fellowship Hall for meetings on the following dates:

Month	Date	6:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
September	3	No meetings because of Labor Day	
	10	Evangelism/Community Outreach Teams	
	17	School Ministry Board	Women of Northdale
	24	Ministry Leadership Team	

## Evenings with Pastor

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We've started doing our "cottage meetings" with small groups of Northdale families that live near each other, gathering together with Pastor for devotions and discussions about our congregations's current situation and future projects. We have divided the congregation into 12 groups. So far Pastor has met with two groups and found great success in this small group setting for questions and conversations with our Northdale family! Be sure to check each month's newsletter for upcoming groups meeting near you. Your host family will contact you with invitation details.

## Moms and Tots



Moms and Tots Power Hour is an hour plus of free, action-packed fun for moms and tots. Power Hour is designed for children from 18 months through 4 years of age. Babies are welcome for moms who have eligible children.

Each week, instructors present a new theme with coinciding stories, games, songs, and crafts! Kids will learn and grow, while moms will have a chance to talk, compare notes, and give encouragement to each other. A light snack is provided.

Moms and Tots Power Hour will meet this fall for 8 sessions, beginning **Tuesday, September 18th** and continuing each Tuesday through November 6th. We are excited to welcome Joanne Mattes as our new leader. Joanne has a Bachelor of Science in Education degree with an emphasis in Early Childhood from Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN. She is also leading the way towards opening a preschool in the fall of 2019!

There is no charge for this program, courtesy of Northdale Lutheran Church and School but **space is limited, so be sure to register today!** Two time slots are available every Tuesday. Sign up at [www.northdalelutheran.org](http://www.northdalelutheran.org) for either 9:30-10:30am or 11:00am-12:00pm. If you have any questions, you can contact Joanne Mattes at [momsandtots@northdalelutheran.org](mailto:momsandtots@northdalelutheran.org).

## Pastor Vann to Milwaukee for Home Missions

Pastor Vann will be traveling to Milwaukee, WI September 12-15 for the fall Board for Home Missions meeting. Pastor is in his last year of service on the Board for Home Mission. If you need to get in touch with pastor during this time, you can reach him on his cell phone at 813-787-4854.

## Early Childhood 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



A number of years ago, 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 will be held on Sunday, September 9 after the 10:30 a.m. service. Look for more information that will be coming at that time and join us for this meeting.



## STAY CONNECTED...

...to your school! ...to your teachers! ...to your youth!

### 2018-2019 School Year is Off to a Great Start!

We give thanks to God for the many blessings he gives to us through Northdale Lutheran School. This year's theme is: Humble Service. The theme is based on Galatians 5:13 – “*Serve one another humbly in love.*” The faculty is privileged to serve 58 students in Kindergarten through 8th grade with the love of Jesus each day. We thank the Lord for the gift of these students and their families. May He continue to bless our Christian school!

### New Student Information System

NLS is making use of a new communication tool for this school year called the Teaching and Learning Exchange (TLE). Our families are now able to monitor their child's grades online through our cloud-based student information system. As soon as teachers enter grades in to the online gradebook, families are able to see how their child is doing in any subject area. Such a tool takes away the apprehension sometimes associated with marking periods. It also provides a more up-to-date stream of information for strengthening the partnership we have with our school families. In addition to grades, teachers can also use the system to track attendance, lunch count, and develop student improvement plans. Please see Mr. Mattes if you have any questions about your family's TLE account.

### Survey Underway

A survey was recently launched to solicit input from our families regarding our school ministry. It covers a wide range of topics from academics, extracurricular activities, school pictures, the formation of a parent group, and before and after school programs. The survey collects information regarding how families first heard about NLS and why they decided to enroll. These testimonies will prove valuable as we reflect on our purpose and outreach. Additional questions were asked concerning ministry opportunities such as the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program as well as an expanded childcare program. Additional surveys will be taken regarding Preschool and childcare. Preliminary results show that our families are extremely thankful for the high-quality staff at NLS and think very highly of our curriculum. There are also areas of improvement which will be strategically addressed as we seek to strengthen our school's ministry. If you have not done so already, please complete the survey online: <https://goo.gl/ziTTqP> All responses are completely anonymous. Current, former, and prospective families are welcome to provide their input. Thank you for sharing your thoughtful feedback.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Each year NLS has many volunteers who make a big impact in our school's ministry. Many people put in many hours, both in front of and behind the scenes. At the Back to School orientation, each family received a blue form with information about volunteering. Please consider how you can partner with the staff at NLS to advance our educational program. Excellence is an important part of our mission and we need your help to take us there. Thank you to all of you for your time and commitment in providing and supporting many wonderful opportunities for our students. Please see any of the teachers or Mr. Mattes to learn more about our volunteer opportunities. Also check out our website where you can access additional volunteer information.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## **NORTHDALE LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**

**15709 Mapledale Blvd., Tampa, Florida 33624**

**Telephone: (813) 961-9195 — Fax: (813) 961-2435**

**[www.northdalelutheran.org](http://www.northdalelutheran.org) — [info@northdalelutheran.org](mailto:info@northdalelutheran.org)**

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

<b>Weekly Sunday Worship</b>	<b>8:00am &amp; 10:30am</b>
<b>Communion Services</b>	<b>1st &amp; 3rd Sundays of every month</b>
<b>Sunday Bible Class</b>	<b>9:25-10:15am (year-round)</b>
<b>Sunday School &amp; Teen Bible Class</b>	<b>9:15-10:15am (Sept-May)</b>
<b>Sunday Fellowship</b>	<b>11:30am</b>
<b>School Classroom Hours</b>	<b>8:00am-3:00pm (Mon-Fri, Aug-May)</b>