



**NORTHDALÉ LUTHERAN CHURCH
TAMPA, FL
DECEMBER 11, 2016**

Northdale Lutheran Church and School

15709 MAPLEDALE BLVD

TAMPA, FL 33624

WWW.NORTHDALELUTHERAN.ORG

813-961-9195

"WE GROW IN GOD'S WORD SO THAT WE CAN GO WITH GOD'S WORD"

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Welcome to Northdale Lutheran! We are so glad you are joining us to proclaim what God has done and to sing his praises. Here the Lord also comes to us and strengthens us with his mighty Word. Take a moment to meet and greet those around you! Also:

- ❖ Restrooms are in the entrance and through the nursery hallway.
- ❖ Snacks and drinks are available for everyone after the second service.
- ❖ Help us be more welcoming by signing the guest registers in each row.

Please Note: To help keep the sanctuary as a quiet place of worship and meditation and for your convenience:

- ❖ A Quiet Room is available for the whole service for young children in the back of the sanctuary. Please make use of this room if your child becomes loud in worship.
- ❖ In the entryway, Busy Bags are provided for all the children during worship. There are coloring books, toys and snacks provided in each of the bags.



ADVENT

Advent is a Latin word that means “coming.” The season of Advent is the four week period before Christmas that the Church uses to remember the “coming” of the Christ. We celebrate that he came once as a baby in Bethlehem, and that he will come again at the end of time. The color for this season is blue. As we wait for our Savior to return, we do so with our eyes looking to the skies. The blue reminds us to keep looking to the sky for the return of our Savior.

ADVENT WREATH

The Advent Wreath is a combination of two very common symbols: light and the fir tree. From the early centuries of Christianity it has been the practice to represent Christ by a burning candle. The fir tree has a long history of religious use. No doubt the Advent Wreath was suggested by the Christmas tree.

It seems that the Advent Wreath originated a few hundred years ago among the Lutherans of eastern Germany. A wreath of evergreens, made in various sizes, was either suspended from the ceiling or placed on a table. Four candles representing the four Sundays of Advent were fastened to the wreath.

Eventually the use of the Advent Wreath became wide spread and moved also from the home into the church. The general symbolism of the Advent Wreath lies in the growing light of the wreath, increasing each week as we approach the birthday of Jesus, the Light of the world.

WORSHIP THEME

The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as “Gaudete Sunday”. Gaudete is Latin for “Rejoice.” We find our true joy at Christmas in knowing the salvation that God brings us through Jesus. We prepare hearts to celebrate this joy.

Notes for worship:

- ❖ All hymns from *Christian Worship (CW)* are in the red hymnals in front of you unless printed in this service folder.
- ❖ All hymns from *Christian Worship Supplement (CWS)* are in the blue hymn books on the end of each of the pews.
- ❖ Everything else will be printed in the worship folder.

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING RITE

The opening hymns and songs of Christian worship mean to "gather" individual Christians into a worshiping assembly. What the traditional service does with hymns, canticles, and opening liturgy, this Advent gathering rite does with contemporary song and responses.

COME, COME EMMANUEL

JAMES CHEPPONIS

The service will begin without a greeting. After pastor introduces the song from the back, the congregation will continue to repeat this phrase until the song is completed.

Gently *mp* James J. Chepponis

Come, come Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

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During the song, pastor will chant these phrases:

Shout for joy, for the Lord has come.
Oh be strong, fear not and come.
Oh rejoice in the Lord, and come.
For our God comes to save us, so come.
The Almighty works marvels, so come.
Oh make straight his way and come.
Lord, have mercy upon us and come.
Christ, have mercy upon us and come.
Lord, have mercy upon us and come.

PLEASE STAND

INVOCATION

(The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.)

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

DIALOGUE FOR ADVENT

M: Arise, shine for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

C: **I will sing of the Lord's great love forever. With my mouth I will make his faithfulness known through all generations.**

M: See, darkness covers the earth, and thick darkness is over the peoples.

C: **But the Lord rises upon us and his glory appears over us.**

M: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, and that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

C: **Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.**

M: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known in all the world. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.

C: **May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun. All nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed.**

M: Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous things.

C: **Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory.**

M: The Lord who came once in Bethlehem will come again in glory. Let us prepare for his coming with sincere repentance of our sin.

All: In preparation for your coming, O Lord, we confess our sins to you. Forgive us for all of the sins that we have committed against you in

thought, word and deed. Forgive our sins, cleanse our hearts and keep us faithful and ready for the promised coming of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

M: God sent His Son, the Babe in Bethlehem, to show his love for you and to forgive your sins. With his authority, I forgive you all your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: Prepared to meet your King, rejoice now in his grace and sing his praise!

C: *(Sing CW #8, vs 1)*

**Come, O precious Ransom, come, Only Hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to you all portals.
Come, your beauty let us view; Anxiously we wait for you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: 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.

C: **Amen**

BE SEATED

THE WORD OF GOD*



THE FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 61:1-3, 10-11

Look at how beautiful the salvation that God brings is!

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
³and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of joy instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.

¹⁰I delight greatly in the Lord;
my soul rejoices in my God.
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,

***The Word of God**

"The reading of the Lessons is a highlight of a service. The spiritually hungry have come to be fed and nurtured and to drink from the waters of life. Knowing that 'faith comes from hearing the message,' God's people listen intently with attention aroused to be blessed by the hearing of God's Word." Christian Worship Manual

as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
11For as the soil makes the sprout come up
and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness
and praise spring up before all nations.

PSALM OF THE DAY, PSALM 126

We find our joy in all of the great things God has done for us.



Refrain

When the LORD brought back the captives to Zion,*
we were like those who dreamed.

Our mouths were filled with laughter,*
our tongues with songs of joy.

The LORD has done great things for us,*
and we are filled with joy.

Refrain

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the desert.*
Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy.

He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow,*
will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

THE VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.

THE SECOND LESSON: I THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

Cherish the message that comes from God's Word. This message prepares you for the real Christmas and the real joy that God wants you to have at Christmas.

Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray continually, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²²reject every kind of evil.

²³May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

SERMON HYMN, CW #14, "ARISE, O CHRISTIAN PEOPLE

SERMON TEXT: JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light...

¹⁹Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

²¹They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

²²Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.' "

²⁴Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

²⁶"I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

²⁸This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

SERMON THEME:

Pay Attention to What Matters Most



THANKSGIVING

PLEASE STAND

THE APOSTLES' CREED

(Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word.)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

BE SEATED

OFFERING

Please sign the Friendship Register in each of the pews and pass it to those sitting next to you.

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 His Word and in thanks for the many ways he has blessed us. We have joined together as a congregation to use these offerings to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world through the work of our Synod. Your gifts moved by the Holy Spirit out love for God and his blessings are welcome.

PLEASE STAND

OFFERING HYMN, CW #469, "TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE" (vs. 1, 4, 6)



1 Take my life and let it be Con - se -
2 Take my hands and let them move At the
3 Take my voice and let me sing Al - ways,
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a
5 Take my will and make it thine; It shall



cre - ted, Lord, to thee. Take my mo - ments
im - pulse of thy love. Take my feet and
on - ly for my King. Take my lips and
mite would I with - hold. Take my in - tel -
be no long - er mine. Take my heart— it



and my days; Let them flow in cease - less praise.
let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
lect and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.
is thine own; It shall be thy roy - al throne.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Francis R. Havergal, 1836-79.
Tune: Pevens (77 75) William H. Havergal, 1793-1870.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

All: **Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
 now and forever. Amen.**

BE SEATED

HYMN, CWS #703, "MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS"

PLEASE STAND

FINAL PRAYER

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace



BE SEATED

Copies of today's sermon and last week's sermon can be found on the table in the narthex on the way out of church. You can also find them on our website at www.northdalelutheran.org. In addition, all of our services are live streamed & can be viewed through the live streaming link located on our church website. We also e-mail out daily devotions. If you would like to receive these daily devotions, please e-mail Pastor Vann at pastorvann@tampabay.rr.com and let him know. You can also become a friend on Facebook.



Announcements:

Bible Class: Today we continue our study of Luke's account of Jesus' life in his Gospel in our Sunday Morning Bible Class. We encourage everyone to join us for this. Join us at 9:25 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Thursday Night Bible Study: We continue our study of the book of Exodus in our Thursday Bible Study. We'd love to have you join us for this study. We meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays. Please consider joining us for this.

Stewardship Appeal Team: We are thankful for the many people who have agreed to serve on the Stewardship Appeal team and lead our congregation as we seek to expand the ministry of our school. The next meeting for the Appeal team is Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in helping, you can contact Pastor Vann or any one of the Ministry Leadership Team members. We are excited about the opportunity and thankful for the help that we will receive.

Thanksgiving Food Drive: Today is the last day for our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive for Metropolitan Ministries. God has blessed each of us tremendously. This is one opportunity we have to give thanks to him for all of his good news by giving to others who are less fortunate for us. Thank you to all who have participated in this. If you haven't been able to donate yet and would still like to do so, you can contact Metropolitan Ministries directly.

The Northdale Lutheran ONLINE church directory is now up and available for our members to access! Visit www.northdalelutheran.org and select "Resources" then log in to the Member Directory (if you don't have a login, you can create an account.) If you did not take advantage of our church directory family photo sessions at the end of last year, but would like a family photo included in the directory, please email your family photo to our office volunteer, **Kati Hatfield, at beautybykati@gmail.com** along with any updates (or if any information is missing) - such as address, phone, name, or birthdate - changes to your household records. Thank you to everyone for their contributions to the directory!

Annual Christmas Dinner/White Elephant Gift Auction: Our annual Christmas Dinner/White Elephant gift auction is today after our second service. This is an annual gathering that is a blast. The dinner will start right away after the service. After everyone has had an opportunity to eat, we'll begin the auctioning of the gifts. Even if you weren't able to sign up ahead of time or if you didn't bring a gift, please join us and participate. We have more than enough gifts and food to go around!

Christmas Worship Schedule: It is time to once again be thinking about our Christmas worship of our Lord and King. What joyous days of celebration these are for God's people as we ponder God's love in the miracle of Jesus becoming flesh. We invite you

and any guests you might want to invite and/or bring to join us for each of these special opportunities to gather before God and worship him for his goodness in sending Jesus to be our Savior. Our Christmas Worship is as follows:

Christmas Eve Worship: Saturday, December 24

5:00 p.m. Children's Service

7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

Christmas Day Festival Service: Sunday, December 25 10:00 a.m.

New Year's Day: Sunday, January 1 10:00 a.m.

(Note that we will follow the Holiday schedule for both Sundays. There will be no Bible Class or Sunday School on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.)

Poinsettia Sign Up: There is a sign up sheet to purchase poinsettias for Christmas Eve worship. You can take home your plant after that service. The price is \$10/plant. Please sign up in the back. Money can be given to Jean Roate.

Ladies Bible Study: The Ladies Bible Study normally meets the second Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This year they are studying through the book, "Prepared to Answer." Since we have so much activity going on today, we are going to change this meeting. We will meet next Saturday, December 17 at 1:00 p.m. at Panera Bread on North Dale Mabry. You can get a coffee, eat lunch or just join in the Bible Study. It will be a great time. All ladies are invited to join us for this study.

Bible Information Class: Pastor Vann will be starting his next Bible Information Class on Tuesday, January 17. The class will meet from 6:30-8:00 p.m. for 13 weeks. The Bible Information Class is an overview of all of the main teachings in the Bible. It is a great introduction for someone who is interested in learning more about what the Bible teaches. It is a great way to share with a friend or relative what our church teaches. It is also a good review for our members of all those truths that were taught at Catechism class so many years ago. This class is also required for anyone who wants to join our congregation. If you are interested in attending, or if you have a friend or neighbor interested or that you would like to invite, please talk to Pastor Vann about that. The class is a free class and a great way to dive deep into the truths of scripture.

New Offering Envelopes: The offering envelopes for 2017 are here. They will be placed in your mailboxes in December. Be sure to check your member mailboxes. If you have any questions about your envelopes, you can direct your questions to our Church Ministry Elder, Chris Teeple.

Called Staff

Pastor Charlie Vannieuwenhoven: 813-850-7520

Principal Mark Thiesfeldt: 941-209-0010

Aimee Hardman: 813-464-5113

Amy Vannieuwenhoven: 813-850-7520

Christopher Haring: 517-202-7283

Lynn Marggraf: 262-613-3020

This Week:

Monday (12/12) 10:00am - Tampa Bay Circuit Meeting at Northdale

Tuesday (12/13): 5:30pm - Catechism Class

Wednesday (12/14): 6:30pm. Stewardship Appeal Team Meeting

Thursday (12/15): 6:30pm - Thursday Bible Study

Sunday (12/20): 8:00 & 10:30am - Worship

9:15am – Teen Bible Study and Sunday School for Children

9:25am – Adult Bible Study

11:30am - Fellowship

Serving Today

Music: Mark Thiesfeldt

Ushers: 8:00—Mike Laurin

10:30 —Chris Haring/Tim Madden

Acolyte: 8:00—Julia Busch

10:30—Elyse Vannieuwenhoven

Hostess: Lourdes Jacobs

Elder: Chris Teeples

Serving Next Week

Music: Lynn Marggraf

Ushers: 8:00—Mike Laurin

10:30 — Chris Haring/Tim Madden

Acolyte: 8:00—Mary Sawyer

10:30—Natalie Yancey

Hostess: Lourdes Jacobs

Elder: Chris Teeples

Attendance Last Week

8:00 a.m.—19

10:30 a.m.—76

Total: 95

Yearly Average: 111

% of Members in Worship: 51%

Mid Week Advent Worship

2:00 p.m. - 64

7:00 p.m. - 25

Total: 89

Financial Information

Contributions for 12/4: \$6,140.75

Contributions for 12/7: \$560.13

Contributions budgeted: \$4,884.61

Contributions budgeted to date: \$112,346.03

Contributions received to date: \$86,844.50

Ahead or (Short) through 12/4/15: (\$25,501.53)

2016-2017 Year to Date Actuals Through October 31

Total Income (Church and School): \$172,0267.18

Total Expenses (Church and School): \$182,236.31

Ahead of (Short) Year to Date: (\$10,210.13)

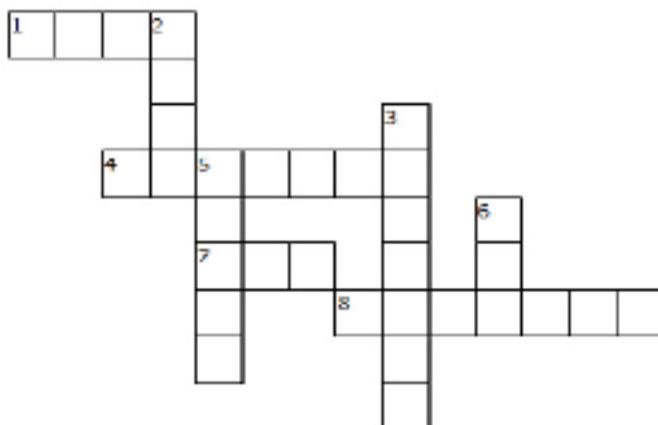
KIDS PAGE

Reflecting the Light

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. John 1:6-7

Puzzle is based on John 1:6-8

Jesus Is the Light



ACROSS

- The man sent from God to tell about Jesus (John 1:6)
- To have confidence that something is true (John 1:7)
- The creator of heaven and earth (John 1:6)
- A person who has personal knowledge of something (John 1:8)

DOWN

- What a person, place, or thing is called (John 1:6)
- To tell others about what you have seen or heard (John 1:7)
- Something such as the sun, a flashlight, or lamp that allows you to see (John 1:8)
- An adult male person (John 1:6)

BELIEVE	MAN	TESTIFY	LIGHT
JOHN	WITNESS	GOD	NAME