



NORTHDALE NEWS

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Dear friends in our Savior,

What part do I play in carrying out the Great Commission? Have you ever asked yourself that question? You understand what the Great Commission is, don't you? Shortly before Jesus ascended into heaven he gave his marching orders to the church, *"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."* (Matthew 28:19-20). We as the church, that is, each one of us individually and collectively as a gathering of believers, are here to go out into the world to make disciples of Jesus by teaching everything he has commanded and baptizing in the name of our Triune God. I think most of us know this and understand this is what the mission of the Church is. But do we often take it to the next step and down to the personal level of: But what is my part/role in carrying out that mission? How can I carry out that role in my community, with my fellow believers, in my part of the world?

I would bet that many of us have never thought about the Great Commission in this depth. I am urging you to do so. I am urging you to ask yourself, "What gifts/talents/abilities has God given to me that I can use in spiritual ministry to someone else? What opportunities has God placed before me that gives me the privilege of using these gifts/talents/abilities to serve someone else?" Ministry sounds like a big word. It really is a word that means service. When we talk about ministry in the realm of the church, we mean a spiritual service one person offers to another to bring spiritual blessings to that person. So the question then becomes: What gifts/talents/abilities has God given to me that I can use to bring spiritual benefit to other people? This is a question that each one of us is to be asking of ourselves. The other pitfall that comes with the word ministry is the false thought that only Pastor or our called workers or elected leaders are the ones who have a ministry (or service) to carry out. The reality is each one of us has been called out of the darkness of sin into God's wonderful light so that we can proclaim his praises to the world. Each one of us has a ministry to carry out as we live out our lives on this earth.

What is your ministry? What service can you offer to others in our congregation and/or in our community that brings spiritual benefit to them? We are working here at Northdale Lutheran to provide more opportunities for you to use the gifts/talents/abilities and interests that God has given you to serve others. We have approved at the Ministry Leadership Team level new ministry teams that we will be introducing in the next few months. We will be working toward a Connect Sunday in the fall where we hope to connect you to a particular ministry where you can find fulfillment and joy in using what God has given you to serve others. In addition, we will be able to offer more things to more people because there will be more involved in the work.

So we are asking you to start thinking a bit more deeply about these things. Start looking around at areas that you see that could use some more attention or where we might be able to bring more benefit to other people. Add this to your prayer life to ask God to guide you in your evaluation of your gifts and abilities and to help you see an area where you might find joy in serving. Pay attention as we roll out these new teams in the next few months and be ready to connect yourself to one when the time comes in August. Then, working together, we can carry out the great commission that God has given us as his people!

Pastor Charlie Vannieuwenhoven

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Beginning Again

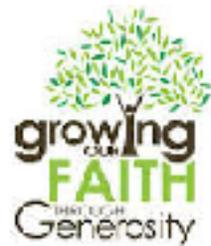
Sometimes it's good to get back to the basics. When the whirlwind of holiday events and celebrations is over, it's a good time to take stock of the past year and prepare for the coming year. For some this means remembering its blessings; for others, sorrowing over its setbacks.

Whether rejoicing or sorrowing, however, God is there with us. He was here "in the beginning." He created it all. When "the earth was formless and empty, [and] darkness was over the surface of the deep, the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, 'Let there be' . . . And there was . . ." (Genesis 1:2,3).

All it takes is a word from God's mouth and there it is. He created it, owns it, and loans it to us for our use. In addition, all the time, he is there with us; never will he leave us (Hebrews 13:5). God has forgiven our past sins, and there is no cause for worry over what the New Year will bring, for God has already been there.

Each of us can make a new beginning; in fact, each day, each moment, can be a new beginning. God promises to provide for all our needs. Paul wrote, "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). Believing this promise, we do not need to fear for our futures, financial or otherwise. We can afford to be generous givers because we are covered by God's promise to care for us.

By God's grace, let us make that new beginning. May we live according to God's plan for us and manage the vast resources he has loaned to us to the best of our abilities. May we honor him in all we say, in the way we live, and through our generous offerings as we work to make his name known.



MISSIONS HIGHLIGHT—

Each month, we designate and send a portion of our offerings to WELS as our congregational mission offerings. These offerings help to support missions and ministry that is taking place in our country and around the world. Here are few areas where your mission dollars are hard at work supporting workers who are proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus in your name:

Ground Breaking in Las Vegas

After nearly eight years meeting in a strip mall worship facility, Shepherd of the Hills is reaching milestones on its path to building its first ministry center for worship and education.

Rev. Tom Unke accepted the call to serve the mission and arrived in June of 2016. The congregation had already purchased land and were well into the planning of the new facility. The Lord has clearly blessed the congregation, even in the midst of the disappointment of the first property purchase falling through. The land that Shepherd of the Hills will build on this winter is located along a freeway and will be seen by thousands of commuters every day.

Rev. Unke says, "Many businesses pay lots of money to be seen by that many people every day. We pray that the high visibility of our new property will translate into lots of visitors and countless opportunities to share the treasure of the Gospel of Jesus."

On January 29, Shepherd of the Hills broke ground for their construction project which, Lord willing, will be completed by October, 2017. In the mean time, the members and pastor will continue to reach out to all the people who are moving in to northwest Las Vegas each month. The harvest is truly plentiful!

By: Rev. Thomas Unke
Shepherd of the Hills, Las Vegas, Nev.

Building Our Faith - Family - Future

God has truly blessed us through the ***Building Our Faith - Family - Future*** campaign. We are currently at \$340,304 promised over the next three years for our building project! God is good. Thank you to everyone for their generous support. It is humbling to see the commitment and generosity of God's people.

We are thankful that Steve Ward has agreed to lead our Building Committee forward as we set out to complete the project before us. There are many things for us to do. We have a team that is working on securing a financing package so that we have all of our plans in place prior to bidding. The Building Committee will need to finalize the plans for the project, put the project out to bid, select the contractor who will build our project and go through permitting all before any building will begin. So we have a lot of work to do. The Building committee will hold its first meeting on Wednesday, May 24 at 6:30 p.m. This will be an organization meeting to decide the next steps for us to take in moving forward. Anyone who is interested in helping with this project is invited to join us for this meeting. We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall.



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.

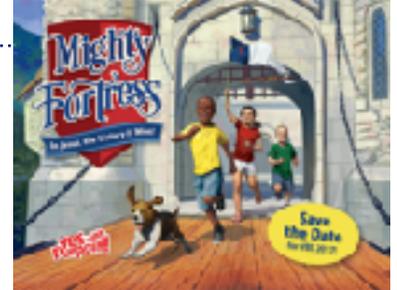


SENIOR WINNERS

Senior Winners will meet on Wednesday, May 17th @ 10:30 am 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 2017!!

It's time again to start planning for our 2017 Vacation Bible School. Our VBS is planned for July 17-21. 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!



Ascension Worship

Ascension Day is May 25. On this day, the church gathers to worship our God and celebrate Jesus' victorious ascension to the throne of heaven. We will offer an opportunity for worship that evening at 7:00 p.m. Please set aside some time to gather and worship our God who reigns on heaven's throne with all power and authority and who directs the affairs of this world for the benefit of his people.

South Atlantic District Summer Youth Camps

The South Atlantic District's summer youth camps are now accepting registrations! We are excited to host TWO summer camps in 2017. With the Lord's blessing and your recruitment/encouragement within your ministries, we have set a goal of 750 participants between both camps. How incredible to even consider such a large number of hearts to be touched by God's grace! That will only happen with your focused effort and support. Here are the dates of the upcoming summer camps:

The Amazing Race Teen Challenge
Orlando, FL

June 27-30, 2017

\$355 per participant (Students completing 8th grade thru completing 12th grade)

Visiting Disney's EPCOT Theme Park

Camp South-Soul Survivor
Covington, GA

July 24-28, 2017

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

You can find more information about each event as well as registration forms at www.hopelutheranwpb.com and click on the "Events" tab. Included in those files are: advertising flyer, schedule of the camp and links to the online registration. The deadline for registration is April 30th. Please send one check per congregation to the address provide in the attachment.



Pastor Vann to Campus Ministry Meeting

Pastor Vann will be traveling to Milwaukee, WI May 14-17 for Campus Ministry events. The WELS Campus Ministry Committee will meet on the morning of May 15 and the afternoon of May 16. They will also be hosting a staff conference for anyone involved in or interested in campus ministry Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning. Pastor thanks the congregation for the opportunity to serve our church body as the head of the Campus Ministry Committee. If there is any emergency during this time, you can reach Pastor on his cell phone: 813-787-4854.

Electronic Giving Now an Option at Northdale Lutheran

You can now stop writing checks for your offerings and do all your giving to Northdale Lutheran online. We are using called 'Pushpay', which allows for simple giving through a variety of ways, including mobile and online. Pushpay currently accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover, as well as ACH (bank account) gifts! To get started, you can use one of the 3 following options:

1. Visit our website at www.northdalelutheran.org and click on the 'Give' link at the top menu.
2. Text NORTHDALE to 77977
3. Visit our e-giving website directly at <https://pushpay.com/pay/northdalelutheran>

If you have any questions, please direct them to contact Jeff Berg at (727) 534-1679 or jeffrey.berg@floridamoves.com. We're excited about this easy way to give, and think you'll love it too!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 22, we will hold our annual Christian Education Sunday. Since part of our the Christian Education Ministry that we carry out is our school, we will also hold our 8th grade graduation in the 10:30 a.m. service. The children from our Northdale Lutheran School will be singing for that service as well. Come and join us for this great opportunity to worship our God and give thanks for the many avenues that God provides for our parents to pass down his precious truths to their children.



CABA Golf Outing to Support Northdale Lutheran



We found out in April that the Carrollwood Area Business Association (CABA) has chosen Northdale Lutheran to be the recipients of the proceeds from their charity golf outing this year. We are very excited about this! This outing will be held at the Westchase Golf Club on Friday November 3. This choice to support Northdale Lutheran is really more of a partnership.

We have agreed to help in the planning, preparation and carrying out of this golf outing. We are looking to put together a list of volunteers to help in this endeavor. You don't have to be a golfer to participate. Here are a few things we will be looking for people to help with: recruiting golfers, requesting and gathering donations from area businesses and attractions for the raffle and silent auction items, making phone calls, recruit sponsors, stuff goodie bags, day of event volunteering, etc.

Jessica Kingsborough has agreed to be the communication coordinator between our group and CABA. She will create a list of volunteers and share upcoming dates, announcements and committee meetings with the group. So if you are interested in helping in some way, please talk with either Pastor or Jessica Kingsborough. We will be receiving more information in the next month or so that we will pass along. But it will be good to start forming our volunteer list.

MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM

The following are highlights from the Ministry Leadership Team meeting on April 24, 2017:

The following membership actions were reported or approved:

Adult Confirmation – Rich Cotrell, Chelsea Higgins, Doris Hansen, Caroline Hansen

Youth Confirmation—Daniel Radcliff, Elyse Vannieuwenhoven, Natalie Yancey

Transfer In –Jacob Flitterer from St. Pau’s Lutheran Church, St. James, MN

Gregg and Susan Obarski from Living Savior Lutheran Church, Valrico, FL

Lisa Cotrell from Hope Lutheran Church, St. Charles, MI

Dillon Rannow from Peace Lutheran Church, Trinity, FL

Mike and Kay Kutsch from Living Savior Lutheran Church, Valrico, FL

Paul Schumann from Zion Lutheran Church in South Milwaukee, WI

Transfer Out – Erik and Kristin Nelson, Grace, Lydia, Matthew and Anna to St. Paul’s, Green Bay, WI

This leaves our Total Membership at 214 with Communicant membership at 160.

- Pastor Vann reported that he is leaving May 14th with the Campus Ministry Meeting and returns on the 17th. Pastor will do the service on Sunday and then flies out. We were selected for the CABA golf tournament and it is going to be on November 3rd at Westchase Golf Course. The next meeting for this committee is at 4:30pm at McCallisters (attended by Jessica & Pastor) but anyone else is welcome to attend. They will be looking for title and hole sponsors as well as silent auction items and the push for golfers will likely be in Aug/Sept. Pastor will meet with the committee chairman & President of CABA early to let them know how to talk about the project so they understand more about our school and building fund.
- Pastor is starting a new BIC class tomorrow and he has 2 students. Confirmation is this coming Sunday – Daniel, Elyse and Natalie.
- Mark provided the School Ministry Board report. Mark provided the update. Jeff Davis was here last week (Wed & Thurs) and Mark attended 4 visits with Jeff. We have had \$22,200 come in as offerings from these families that Jeff visited. Mark had a list of his primary families that he wanted to visit and added a few more. Mark said that he learned a lot from Jeff in doing these visits and Mark will be doing additional home visits in the coming weeks. There will be 2 group informational meetings in the coming weeks to help share the messages on Wednesday May 3rd and Thursday May 4th. There were custom printed materials that have already arrived.
- We have our musical and silent auction coming up in 2-3 weeks and the auction will run May 7th through the 12th. The musical will be May 11th and 12th. We will be inviting local preschools to attend again. Mark was able to attend an event at the Primrose Preschool in Carrollwood and have a table to talk with families (good conversations with 5 families and information distributed to about 2 dozen families). Students sang at Steinbrenner Field for the Taste of Carrollwood and there were more than 2.5 times the attendance at Steinbrenner vs. previous years at the India Cultural Center. Pastor thinks that the Northdale Fun Fest is a better draw for us specifically but it is still a good thing for us to attend the Taste of Carrollwood and show our support for CABA.
- Mark distributed a sheet containing a policy proposal for a 6% discount for tuition paid in full by July 15th. The school board is proposing that we are to offer school families a discount if they pay their tuition in full by July 15th. The proposal was read in its entirety to the MLT. The whole point is to get the cash in July as opposed to August or September. Motion made by Steve Ward seconded by Mike Laurin to approve the tuition discount proposal as presented to the MLT, motion carried.
- Steve Ward reported on Outreach/Evangelism. The CABA golf announcement was well received. VBS has 40 registrants already. Moms & Tots is on summer break. Steve needs to talk with Mike Philips about the Church golf outing this year. We have 10 kids and 4 chaperons going to Camp South and 2 kids and 1 chaperon going to the Amazing Race in Orlando
- Chris Teeples reported that Easter week attendance was slightly down for all 3 days compared to last year (53 at Thursday, 66 on Friday, 185 on Sunday). Christian Education Sunday is May 21st and Ascension is May 25th. Pastor will not do communion on May 21st but will offer communion on May 25th.
- PushPay update. \$2,900 in general offerings and \$938 for the building funds have come in through the e-giving options and several families have registered for the recurrent e-giving option. We received an iPad by mistake from PushPay but Jeff is working with the organization to get it returned. We will continue to promote the electronic option of giving to our congregation.
- There was no Treasurer’s report for the meeting.
- Steve Ward has agreed to lead the Building Committee. We tentatively have May 24th at 6:30pm as the 1st meeting of this committee. Steve has asked Mark to start to assemble a wish list of things that the teachers would like to see in the new rooms. Congregation members will be allowed to attend the meeting. The plan is to bring Massmann back into the project. Steve also wants the committee to consider adding a new roof, HVAC units and soffit replacements as part of the overall scope of work. We would ask Massmann bid it and then open it up to public bidding. Mark commented that on his visits there have been families that have connections to certain trades, but Steve said that logistically in order to keep the project on track, it will be awarded to one company with a General Contractor and Project Manager assigned to the entire project. While we appreciate the volunteers, it will be more efficient for us to use one general contractor who will likely bring his/her own subs to the job.



STAY CONNECTED...

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

Building Our Faith - Family - Future Group Informational Meetings for School Families

Thank you to everyone who has so generously supported the Building Our Faith - Family - Future project! It is truly wonderful to see the love that you have for Northdale Lutheran Church and School and especially the school ministry. We are excited to see how God will continue to bless our ministry efforts. Recently we have begun reaching out to our non-member school families to enlist their support for the project as well. We have already received additional donations and commitments from these families. Praise God! Additionally, we will be holding two informational meetings especially for our school non-member families. This will be an opportunity to share the project with as many of our school families as we can. Meetings will be held on Wednesday, May 3rd at 7:00pm and Thursday, May 4th at 3:30pm. What a wonderful opportunity for all of us to come together in support of this gospel ministry. If you have any questions about the project or how you can help, please feel to contact Mr. Thiesfeldt.

Spring Musical – “Let’s Eat!”

This year’s K-8 musical production is called “Let’s Eat!” We hope you will join us for one of our performances (Thursday, May 11th at 10am, Friday, May 12th at 10am, or Friday, May 12th at 7pm). This year’s show reminds us that we are fortunate to live in a land of plenty, and as we celebrate food in wonderfully wacky ways with songs like "The Fast Food Tango," "Chicken Pot Pie," "My Banana Split," and "Pizza," we are also reminded to be "Thankful" for the bounty we regularly enjoy.

Silent Auction

Coinciding once again with the spring musical is our annual silent auction. We will have a diverse selection of auction items available including theme parks, family outings, restaurants, and more. We annually raise around \$3,000 for various school projects through the silent auction and hope you will take the opportunity to join us once again. The auction will open Sunday, May 7th and will close Friday, May 12th following the 7pm musical performance. Door prizes and raffle items will also be available. Don’t forget everyone’s favorite raffle item – the pie in the principal’s face! Who will be this year’s lucky winner?

Christian Education Sunday

This year we celebrate Christian Education Sunday on May 21st. We will focus on the many blessings that come through Christian Education as well as marking the graduations of our kindergarten and 8th grade classes. Grades K-8 will sing. A reception will be held in the fellowship hall for the graduates following the service. The last day of school for the 2017-2018 school year will be Wednesday, May 24th (half day with noon dismissal). Praise God for all his blessings to us this school year!

Scrip Gift Cards

We have the following Scrip gift cards on hand in Mr. Thiesfeldt’s office for purchase: Walmart/Sam’s Club, Winn-Dixie, Walgreens, Whole Foods, Wa Wa, Home Depot, Target, and Bed Bath & Beyond. All of our inventory cards are currently \$25 value cards.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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E-mail: info@northdalelutheran.org**

**Pastor Charles Vannieuwenhoven: 813-850-7520
Principal: Mark Thiesfeldt: 941-209-0010
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**