



FIRST SUNDAY OF
Christmas
SERVICE OF LESSONS & LAUGHTER

December 29, 2024 | 9:30 am

Congregational responses in **bold**

* Please stand as you are comfortable

Gathering Music

Carol Fantasia

Gordon Young

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

As we gather in God's presence, we ponder the question: What brings us joy?

The hug of a loved one.

A good book and a comfortable chair.

A warm cup of coffee on a cold morning.

The laughter of children.

Music that touches the soul.

We have named our joy out loud, and it is clear— God is in our joy.

God is in this room.

We have reason to celebrate.

We have a reason to sing.

Thanks be to God for the bright hope of this day! Amen

*Gathering Hymn

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

ELW 386

*Confession and Forgiveness

Joyful God, **you told us that to enter the kingdom of heaven, we must be like children. Did you mean that like children, we must practice unhindered joy? Did you mean that like children, we should lean into laughter, release our cynicism, and open ourselves to delight? In a broken world, we confess, this is easier said than done.**

Patient God, forgive us for the moments we've focused on the bad and missed the good. Forgive us for living from a place of sorrow and fear. Break open our hearts with the joy of Christ's birth. By your Spirit, lead us to live in joy and love. Hopefully we pray, Amen.

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel: We are seen. We are loved. We are forgiven. That is news worth celebrating! It makes us want to cheer, laugh, cry with relief, dance, and sing all at the same time! In response to God's goodness and mercy, we make a joyful noise to the Lord.

*Sung Response

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289

*Prayer of the Day

God of angel choruses and contagious laughter, we know that you speak to us in the quiet. When we bow our heads and fall to our knees, you are there, hovering close, calling our names. We also trust that when we throw our heads back in laughter, when we dance and clap with joy, when we skip and sing with gratitude, that you speak to us there as well. So on this Sunday morning we pray: open our ears and hearts to hear what you are saying. Meet us in this joy. Meet us in this delight. Meet us in the hope of this Christmas season, and reveal the wisdom we need to hear today. With hearts full of gratitude we laugh, listen, and pray. Amen.

Lesson One

Listen for Joy

Luke 2:10

But the angel said to [the shepherds], “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people....”

Isaiah 9:2-3

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Sing with Joy

Go Tell It On the Mountain

ELW 290

Practice Joy

Joy Found in Scripture
Shepherd's Pipe Carol

Dale Wood

Lesson Two

Listen for Joy

Matthew 2:10

When [the magi] saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148 (spoken)

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

**Praise the Lord, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

Praise the Lord, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

**Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
who commanded, and they were created,
**who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
**fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
**wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**

sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

**young men and maidens,
old and young together.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

**The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!**

*Sing with Joy

Angels from the Realms of Glory

ELW 275

*Practice Joy

Joy Found in Community

The peace and joy of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Lesson Three

Listen for Joy

Psalm 126:1-3 (NLT/NRSV)

When the Lord brought back his exiles to Jerusalem, it was like a dream! We were filled with laughter, and we sang for joy. And the other nations said, "What great things the Lord has done for them." Yes, the Lord has done great things for us! What joy!

Isaiah 55:12-13 (NIV)

"You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the Lord's renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever."

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Sing with Joy

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270

Practice Joy

Joy Found in Prayer & Giving
In Dulci Jubilo

arr. Noel Goemanne

On the provided paper squares, write three prayers of gratitude for things that bring you joy. When you are finished writing, we encourage you to come forward and hang your written prayers along the twine on one of the prayer looms. We also encourage you to place your offerings in the plates on the stands up front. If it is more graceful for you to remain seated, raise your hand and an usher will collect your prayers and offerings.

*Noisy Offering | Offertory Response

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Children are invited to cheerfully bring their "Noisy Offering" to the front during the Offertory Response. This offering will help Every Meal in their fight to end child hunger.

*Prayers of Gratitude

*Lord's Prayer

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. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

*Sending Hymn

Joy to the World

ELW 267

*Blessing and Sending

Christ is born! So may you be quick to laugh and quick to hope. May you look for reasons to be grateful. May you not hesitate to join in the dance, or join in the song. May you extend a hand to your neighbor, and find God in every moment of joy.

For unto you a child is born. Go in peace, trusting in that good news. Go in peace, and go with joy as you serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Sending Music

Joy to the World

arr. J. Wayne Kerr

WELCOME TO NORMANDALE



We're Glad You're Here!

Led by the Holy Spirit and living in God's grace, Normandale Lutheran Church is a community of believers who love, learn, worship, and serve as we walk in relationship with Jesus Christ and others. We hope you find in us a place of welcome, a place of worship, a place for you.

Welcoming Statement

We affirm that all people are created in the image of God, and as beloved children of God, all are worthy of God's love and grace. We welcome all people into full participation in the life and ministries of Normandale Lutheran Church.

We celebrate that there are differences among us, and believe that we can love one another, even though we may not think alike. We proclaim this statement of welcome to all who have known the pain of exclusion or discrimination in the church and society.

We are committed to a ministry of reconciliation. We welcome and affirm our human family's diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, faith, history, socioeconomic status, physical and mental ability. We embrace this diversity as a gift from God, and invite all into a faithful journey toward greater love, understanding, and reconciliation.

Connect with us today



952.929.1697



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Normandale Lutheran Church
Normandale Lutheran Youth

normluth.org

SUNDAY AT NORMANDALE

Livestream of Sunday worship is available as a way to participate in the regular worship life of our congregation. Visit normluth.org/livestream to watch from wherever you are.

Hymnals are located in the pew backs. Both the ELW (red) and ACS (purple) hymnals are used in worship.

Hearing Devices are available to enhance your worship experience. Please ask an usher if you need assistance.

Holy Communion is offered during worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. All are welcome at God's Table. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available.

WAYS TO GIVE

Online: normluth.org/give

Text: gift amount to: 952.260.5601

Download the App:

ShelbyNEXT|Giving

Select "Normandale Lutheran" (55436)



NLC Kids

PrayGround is located at the front of the worship space and is filled with quiet toys and comfy seating for the littlest in our midst and their caregivers.

Busy Bags filled with quiet activities are hanging outside the main entrance of the sanctuary.

Bulletins & Coloring Sheets are located on a table outside of the main sanctuary doors.

Noisy Offering

Children are invited to cheerfully bring their "Noisy Offering" to the front during the Offertory Response. This offering will help Every Meal in their fight to end child hunger.

No Sunday School Today

Regular Programming Resumes January 12th.

10:40-11:30am | Age 3 - 4th Grade

First Floor: Preschool - Room 100

3rd Floor: Grades K, 1 & 2 - Multi Purpose Room N.
Grades 3 & 4 - Multi Purpose Room S.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preaching: Pastor Maria Pederson

Organist: Lorna Wolthoff

Greeters: Gordy & Dee Sprenger, Mel Henry

Lector: Karen Newcomer

Sacristan: Kim Sannerud

Ushers: Bruce & Maren Kleven, Mark Schiefelbein, Matt Neuger, Jan Hahn