



**UNBOUND**  
Longing for Wholeness

**Normandale Lutheran Church**

**First Sunday in Lent  
February 22, 2026 | 9:30 am**

# Welcome to Normandale Lutheran Church



## 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.



Normandale Lutheran Church is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation.

## 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.

**NEW  
HERE?**



Use the QR Code to fill out our online connect Card.

*Connect* with us today



[normluth.org](http://normluth.org)

# Sundays at Normandale

Join us as we gather weekly  
for worship and fellowship!

**9:30 Worship**  
in the sanctuary

**10:30 Coffee & Donuts**  
in the Fireside Room

**A FLAME** 

**Sunday School  
Ministry**

**Ages 3 -3rd Grade 10:40-11:30am**

**First Floor:**

Preschool - Room 100

**2nd Floor:**

Grades K & 1 - Room 212

Grades 2 & 3 - Room 205

Not Registered? No problem!

Contact Lily @ [laskegaard@normluth.org](mailto:laskegaard@normluth.org)

## Worship With Us

**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, dairy free bread, and grape juice are available.

**Livestream** of worship services are available as a way to participate in the regular worship life of our congregation. Visit [normluth.org/livestream](http://normluth.org/livestream) to watch from wherever you are.

### 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.

**Extended PrayGround** is located outside the sanctuary next to the Fishbowl for children age 4 and up and their families. There are quiet activities and a screen to see and hear worship.

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

**Bulletins & Coloring Sheets** are located on a table by 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.

**Online:**  
[normluth.org/give](http://normluth.org/give)

**Text:**  
gift amount to: 952.260.5601

**Download the App:**  
ShelbyNEXT|Giving  
select "Normandale Lutheran"  
(55436)



*Ways To Give*

Congregational responses in **bold**  
\* Please stand as you are comfortable

## Gathering

### Gathering Music

*Sarabande*

Jason W. Krug

### Words of Welcome

### Call to Worship

*Love is Love is Love*  
From the Justice Choir Songbook

Abbie Betinis

### \*Confession and Forgiveness

Let us confess our sins to God and one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most loving God,

**We confess to you the sins that both bind and scatter us. We have knowingly believed dishonest words. We have questioned your gracious power again and again. We have given into temptation. We have acted out of fear, placing blame on others yet holding ourselves apart. In our disbelief and confusion we have hurt our neighbors and ourselves. Gather us back to you. Forgive us, free us, and make us whole for the sake of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Friends, beloved of God, Jesus came not to condemn the world but that all might be saved through him. In the name of Christ your sins are forgiven. May God unbind your guilt and shame, lead you by the Spirit, and bring you to wholeness in abundant life.

**Amen.**

### \*Gathering Hymn

*O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days*

ELW 319

### \*Greeting

The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

### \*Kyrie

ELW Page 156

### \*Hymn of Praise

*All Glory Be to God on High*

ELW Page 159

### \*Prayer of the Day

**God our Creator, we long for wholeness in our hearts and in our lives. When we are tempted by quick fixes or twisted promises, remind us that true sustenance, protection, and power is found only in you. Lead us by your Spirit to rest confidently in your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## Children's Message

Pastor Adam White

### Reading

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 32

Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,  
and whose sin is | put away!

**Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**

While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,  
because of my groaning | all day long.

**For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."

Then you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.

**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.**

You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.

**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;  
I will guide you | with my eye.**

Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;

who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near you."

**Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the LORD.**

**Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.**

## \*Gospel Acclamation

ELW Page 160

## \*Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But [Jesus] answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

"Longing for Wholeness"

Pastor Maria Pederson

## \*Hymn of the Day

*As Your Spirit in the Desert* (verses 1,4,5)

ACS 923

# Prayers and Offering

## \*Prayers of the People

Congregational response following each petition:

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

## \*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.**

## **\*Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ is with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## **Thanks for your Generosity**

Giving Voice Chorus

Jessica Clifton,  
Choral Operations Dir.

## **Music at the Offering**

*Thy Holy Wings*

Daniel Kallman

## **\*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.*

## **\*Offering Prayer**

**O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

# Sending

## **\*Blessing**

## **\*Sending Hymn**

*Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song*

ELW 808

## **\*Sending**

Go in peace forgiven, whole and free.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Sending Music**

*Organ Sonata in G*

Scarlatti

# Worship Leaders

<b>Preaching:</b>	Pastor Maria Pederson
<b>Liturgists:</b>	Pastors Rebecca Gamble, Adam White
<b>Organist:</b>	Lorna Wolthoff
<b>Cantor:</b>	Harriet Dodington
<b>Choirs:</b>	Normandale Choir, Jennaya Robison, interim director Children's Choir, Lily Ahrendt, director
<b>Accompanists:</b>	Angela Anderson, Lorna Wolthoff
<b>Instrumental:</b>	Suzanne Klein, violin Normandale Bells, Lorna Wolthoff, director
<b>Greeters:</b>	Jack & Marilyn Kemme
<b>Lector:</b>	Rachael Leadholm
<b>Sacristan:</b>	Edel Henningsen
<b>Ushers:</b>	Feyder and Laaksonen Teams



## ANNUAL MEETING

&

## SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

For the purpose of calling  
Pastor Maria Pederson

Following the meeting, Normandale Foundation invites you to gather for lunch in the Fireside Room. No RSVP is required.



# Stay in the loop @ NLC

## Community

COMMUNITY MEALS IS NOW...



### Normandale Table

WEDNESDAYS FROM 5:00 - 6:30 P.M.

Chef-created, healthy and delicious meals.  
FAST, EASY, and focused on community.



Check out the Menu:

Served in the Fellowship Hall.

#### PRICING:

\$10 - Ages 16+

\$6 - Ages 3-15

FREE - Ages 2 and under

No RSVP required!

Come hungry.  
Leave connected.



## Easter Egg Hunt

SATURDAY, APRIL 4 | 10 AM

Join us for this family event  
All are welcome!

#### Schedule:

10 am | Crafts, cookies, community

10:30 am | Children's message

11 am | Egg Hunt

Bring a basket or bag to collect eggs.

## WE NEED CANDY!



Help us fill over 1,000 eggs  
by donating individually wrapped  
candy that will fit in a standard  
size plastic egg.

Donations can be dropped  
off at the front desk.



## Prayers for Peace

All are Welcome!

Come weekly for a simple morning  
service of prayer and reflection.

Tuesdays in the Chapel | 9:00-9:20am

## Adults



### Walk with Ease

**Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays**  
**March 24 - April 29 | 9:30 - 10:30 am**  
**Mall of America in Bloomington**

Walk With Ease is an evidence-based program developed by the Arthritis Foundation in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that helps you create a routine to stay active and healthy. You'll learn a safe, relaxing and enjoyable way to make walking part of your everyday life. This class will meet at the Mall of America 12 times over the course of six weeks. Each meeting will start with a small education session, followed by walking as a group. The class is FREE, but registration is required. To register, contact the Center at [info@normandalecenter.org](mailto:info@normandalecenter.org) / 952.977.9357.

Strengthen your body & soul!

Pilates  
with Jen

\$15 per session.  
Payable via cash or  
Venmo at the door.

**Thursdays**  
**February 19- March 12**  
**9:00-10:00am**  
**Studio B**

Led by Jen Pederson, NLC member & physical therapist. Bring a mat & towel. No experience required.

Wednesday  
Women's  
BIBLE STUDY

**Every Wednesday**  
**9:30-11:30am**  
**Fireside Room**  
**Livestreamed on YouTube**

All women are welcome to participate in this thought provoking study on the book of Revelation. Each week begins with a large group presentation, followed by small group discussions. No previous experience in Bible study is necessary!

## Children, Youth & Family (CYF)

# 2026

## SUMMER ADVENTURE

**REGISTER NOW!**

**Summer Stretch After Dark: June 9-11**  
Current 6th Graders to 8th Graders

**Vacation Bible School: June 15-18**  
Current 3-year olds to 4th Graders

**Vacation Bible School After Care: June 15-18**  
Current 3-year olds to 4th Graders

**Colorado Urban Trek: June 21-26**  
Current 8th Graders to 12th Graders

**Summer Stretch: July 7-9**  
Current 3rd Graders to 5th Graders

**Guatemala 2026: July 11-21**  
Current 8th Graders to 12th Graders

**Camp Vermilion: August 2-7**  
Current 3rd Graders to 8th Graders



[normluth.org](http://normluth.org) | [cyf@normluth.org](mailto:cyf@normluth.org) | Normandale Lutheran Church

# UNBOUND

Longing for Wholeness

## LENT MID-WEEK

**Lenten Vespers: Wednesdays at 6:30pm**

February 25,  
March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25  
*short, centering mid-week worship*

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER

**Palm/Passion Sunday: March 29**

**9:30am Worship Service**  
*with palm procession*

**Maundy Thursday: April 2**

**6:30pm Worship Service**  
*with Holy Communion*

**Good Friday: April 3**

**5:00pm Family Friendly  
Worship Service**  
*leaving in silence*

**6:30pm Worship Service**  
*leaving in silence*

**Saturday, April 4**

**10:00am Easter Egg Hunt**  
*all community event*

**Easter Sunday: April 5**

*Children's Message at all services*

**8:00am Darkness to Light:  
The First Service of Easter**

**9:30am Easter Worship**  
*with Cherub and Children's  
Choirs*

**11:00am Easter Worship**  
*with Holy Communion*

In 2025 we removed 3 diseased ash trees from our west boulevard and planted 10 new trees on our property on the boulevards and outside the east entry doors. This was done at a cost of approximately \$20,000, which was funded by a supporting gift offered by a single church member for these purposes! Generosity at work, caring for our part of God's creation!

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS & FUN FACTS ABOUT  
CHURCH FINANCES AND HOW YOUR GIVING  
SUPPORTS OUR COMMUNITY.

**GENEROSITY  
CORNER**

# This Week at Normandale Lutheran Church

## February 23 - March 1, 2026

### Monday, February 23

No Events Planned

### Tuesday, February 24

9:00am - 9:20am  
 9:00am - 12:00pm  
 4:00pm - 8:00pm  
 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Prayers for Peace  
 Giving Voice Chorus  
 REACH Youth Juggling Club  
 Alcoholics Anonymous

Chapel  
 Rehearsal Room  
 Gym  
 Room 207

### Wednesday, February 25

9:30am - 11:00am  
 12:00pm - 1:00pm  
 5:00pm - 6:30pm  
 5:00pm - 5:45pm  
 5:30pm - 7:30pm  
 5:45pm - 6:30pm  
 6:30pm - 7:00pm  
 7:10pm - 8:00pm  
 6:30pm - 7:30pm  
 6:30pm - 7:30pm  
 7:30pm - 9:00pm  
 7:30pm - 8:30pm  
 8:30pm - 9:30pm

Wednesday Women's Bible Study  
 Al-Anon  
 Normandale Table  
 Cherub Choir  
 Spanish Class  
 Children's Choir  
 Lenten Vespers  
 Normandale Choir Rehearsal  
 SPARK  
 IGNITE  
 Wooddale Ave AA Meeting  
 Life Out Loud  
 ABLAZE

Fireside Room  
 Multi Purpose North  
 Fellowship Hall  
 Multi Purpose South  
 Studio B  
 Multi Purpose South  
 Sanctuary  
 Rehearsal Room  
 Multi Purpose South  
 Fireside Room  
 Studio A  
 Fish Bowl  
 Fish Bowl

### Thursday, February 26

1:30pm - 3:00pm  
 3:15pm - 4:30pm  
 4:00pm - 6:00pm  
 5:45pm - 6:45pm

Virtual Caregiver Support Group  
 RJET Book Club  
 REACH Youth Juggling Club  
 Handbell Choir

Virtual: on Zoom  
 Virtual: on Zoom  
 Gym  
 Multi Purpose North

### Friday, February 27

No Events Planned

### Saturday, February 28

No Events Planned

### Sunday, March 1

9:30am - 10:30am  
 10:40am - 11:30am  
 10:40am - 11:30am

Worship  
 Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship  
 Sunday School

Sanctuary  
 Fireside Room  
 Classrooms

**For more information  
 and to view a full  
 calendar of events,  
 visit [normluth.org](http://normluth.org).**

