



Normandale Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025 | 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



952.929.1697



normluthchurch
normluthyouth



Normandale Lutheran Church
Normandale Lutheran Youth

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

Sunday School Family Party Today!

Regular classes resume January 11, 2026

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

First Floor:

Preschool - Room 100

2nd Floor:

Grades K & 1 - Room 212

Grades 2 & 3 - Room 205

Not Registered? No problem! All are welcome.
Contact Lily @ 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 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.

Ways to Give

Online:
normluth.org/give

Text:
gift amount to: 952.260.5601

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



Gathering

Gathering Music

Savior of the Nations, Come

J. S. Bach

Words of Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Hymn

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (stanza 4)

ELW 240

Litany

We gather together in this place: we who dare to see hope for a world renewed; **we who dare to dream God's dream.**

We proclaim with expectation, beyond all fear, **guided by faith and hope.**

We rejoice in our savior, **who is true peace and love.**

We treasure these things in our hearts. **And God guides us on the way.**

We see Zechariah holding John, experiencing joy that leads to love. This love reclaims and reorients us toward the possibilities of God, with new commitment to mercy, justice, and peace. We light the candle of love, **because love makes the impossible possible.**

Come and worship, all you who seek. **We have come to wonder and praise.**

*Confession & Forgiveness

Through the holy prophets of old, God gives us knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of our sins. Let us approach God, who loves us, naming our need for redemption.

God of love, **you teach us songs of praise and call us to proclaim justice. We confess that we use our words and voices in ways that cause harm. We share half-truths, spread gossip, and speak unkindly. We fail to speak up for the vulnerable. We utter empty words instead of taking risks in the name of love. Merciful God, help us to love you and our neighbors with courage and conviction, in word and in deed. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

God looks upon us with favor and redeems us with mercy. Through the saving love of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and you are set free. Amen.

*Gathering Hymn

Savior of the Nations, Come

ELW 263

*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.**

*Prayer of the Day

God of steadfast lovingkindness, your love reaches beyond all boundaries of prejudice and fear. Your tenderness is offered not only to the powerful or deserving, but to all people, according to your infinite compassion. Teach us to love widely and boldly, honoring the dignity of all and trusting your promise that the way of love is the way of life, Amen.

Word

Children's Message

Pastor Rebecca Gamble

Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle

Luke 1:68-79

John the Baptist's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

"Blessed be the Lord | God of Israel,

for he has looked favorably on his people | and redeemed them.

He has raised up a mighty sa- | vior for us

in the house of | his child David,

as he spoke | through the mouth

of his holy prophets | from of old,

that we | would be saved

from our enemies and from the hand of | all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised | to our ancestors

and has remembered his | holy covenant,

the oath that he swore to our an- | cestor Abraham,

to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,

might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness

in his presence | all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of | the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to pre- | pare his ways,

to give his people knowledge | of salvation

by the forgiveness | of their sins.

Because of the tender mercy | of our God,

the dawn from on high will | break upon us,

to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the sha- | dow of death,

to guide our feet into the | way of peace."

***Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go?

ELW Page 151

***Gospel**

Luke 1:57-66

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. Zechariah asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For indeed the hand of the Lord was with him.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastor Maria Pederson

***Hymn of the Day**

Blessed Be the God of Israel

ELW 250

***Sharing of the Peace**

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Music at the Offering

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

arr. Katherine K. Davis

***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.

Holy Communion

*Prayer

Holy God, we bring our gifts and offerings to you because the voices of the prophets remind us of something bigger, something greater than any system this world offers us. We believe when we trust you with our resources, the reign of God comes much closer to reality on earth. Help us steward these gifts to create abundant life and love. With love we pray, Amen.

*Great Thanksgiving

ELW Page 152

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Sanctus

ELW Page 153

*Words of Institution

*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.

Agnus Dei

ELW Page 154

Distribution Hymns

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(Stanzas 1, 2, 5, 6, 8)

ELW 257

He Came Down

ELW 253

Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

Creator of all good things, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of blessing, small in their presentation, yet made magnificent by your holy imagining. May the hope of the Lord's table accompany each of us on our journeys from here. Amen.

Sending

*Sending Hymn

Love Has Come

ELW 292

*Blessing and Sending

Go into the world, seeing hope.
Thanks be to God!

Sending Music

Noel Étranger

Louis Claude Daquin

Worship Leaders

Preaching:	Pastor Maria Pederson
Liturgist:	Pastors Rebecca Gamble, Adam White
Organist:	Gregory Peterson
Cantor:	Karen Hansen
Choir:	Normandale, Gregory Peterson, director; Lorna Wolthoff, accompanist
Accolytes:	Wyatt Pence, Ayla Kluis
Advent Wreath Lighting:	Brad, Katie, Connor & Hudson Dahlman
Communion Crew:	Jim Niemeier, Pam Werley, Derek Camenga
Communion Servers:	Mary Quist Newins, Susan Sackrison, Pat Lindstrand, Wyatt Pence, Ayla Kluis, Kati Salmon
Greeters:	Kluis family, Susie Baker
Lector:	Scott Olson
Sacristan:	Emily Steuerwald
Ushers:	Kemme Team



Stay in the loop @ NLC

"Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"

We invite you to scan the QR code to receive Luther Seminary's free Advent devotional



Revelation Studies return in January

• **Wednesday Women's Bible Study**
Weekly starting January 7
9:30am-11:30am | Fireside Room

Large group lecture followed by small group discussion.

• **Revelation with Pastor Adam's**
Fridays: January 9, 16, 23
7:00am-8:00am | Fireside Room

Video, commentary and conversation for all adults.

Dinners resume January 7. See you next year!

COMMUNITY MEALS

Wednesday evenings from 5:00-6:30PM
in Fellowship Hall

Pricing:

- \$10 - Ages 16+
- \$6 - Ages 3-15
- FREE - Ages 2 and under

See what's on the menu!



2026 Young Adult Pilgrimage to Leipzig

August 9 -25, 2026

Ten young adults, ages 18-26, from the Minneapolis Area Synod will be selected to attend.

Scan the QR code to apply by Dec. 31



JOY of Giving

Christmas 2025

Thank you for your Generosity!!

Thank You for sharing the Joy of Giving!

Because of your generosity, Normandale Housing, Asylum-Seeking, and SAYFSM families received:

- 21- personalized gifts
- 45- \$75 gift cards
- 8- \$50 grocery cards



**Second Saturday Topic:
When Grief Boils Over
Saturday, January 10, 2026**

**9:00-10:30am:
Education**

**10:30am-Noon:
Caregiver Support Groups**

Caring for a loved one through illness or loss can evoke guilt, fear, and grief. This workshop provides DBT-based calming techniques, tools for managing family relationships, and communication skills to ease tension and reduce potential conflict.

Respite is available - register online at: normandalecenter.org/events. Presented by **Molly Darsov**, mediator and owner of *Still Waters Mediation*, with a background in counseling, group facilitation, and conflict resolution.



**Wednesday, January 14
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Fireside Room**

January's Topic: Not a Trivial Pursuit: A Brief History of Board Games

Step into the fascinating world of board games with Normandale's Lead Pastor Adam White. Discover how tabletop play continues to foster community, spark strategy, and bring people together in an age dominated by screens.

All are welcome. A suggested donation of \$10 and includes lunch.



**Normandale Preschool
Blessing Place**

A place for all children to feel safe, loved, and accepted
Inspiring children 16 months to 5 years

Register for 2026-2027 school year!

Early registration for Normandale Lutheran Church members opens **January 5, 2026**.

For more information visit our website
www.normandalepreschool.com

Questions? Contact our director at

Kari@normluth.org
952-977-9371



Scan to Register starting Jan. 5



Director of Worship & Music Update

After five years of service, our Worship and Music Director, Gregory Peterson, will be retiring. His final worship service in this role will be December 24, Christmas Eve. We are deeply grateful for Greg's faithful leadership and ministry. We will have opportunities to celebrate Greg soon - updates to come.

A five-person Worship and Music Selection Committee is actively engaged in the process of finding Greg's successor; we're optimistic that a new Worship and Music Director will be in place by Lent 2026.

In the interim period, Normandale Choir will be directed by Jennaya Robison, Artistic Director and Conductor of the National Lutheran Choir. Lorna Wolthoff will serve as primary Organist for the congregation and will continue as Normandale Choir Accompanist and Handbell Choir Director.

This Week at Normandale Lutheran Church

December 22 - 28, 2025

Monday, December 22

No Events Planned.

Tuesday, December 23

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

Prayers for Peace
REACH Youth Juggling Club
Alcoholics Anonymous

Chapel
Gym
Room 207

Wednesday, December 24

12:00pm - 1:00pm
3:30pm - 4:30pm
5:00pm - 5:45pm
9:00pm - 10:00pm

Al-Anon
Christmas Eve Service
Christmas Eve Service
Christmas Eve Service

Multi Purpose North
Sanctuary
Sanctuary
Sanctuary

Thursday, December 25

Merry Christmas! Building Closed.

Friday, December 26

No Events Planned. Building

Saturday, December 27

No Events Planned.

Sunday, December 21

9:30am - 10:30am
10:30am - 12:00pm
11:30am - 1:00pm

Worship
Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship
Virtual Coffee Hour

Sanctuary
Fireside Room
Zoom (Virtual)

Christmas Day Digital Worship

Thursday, December 25, 2025

On Christmas day we invite you to worship online with a special Christmas Day service created specifically for the digital space. We hope and pray that this online worship experience will reach you wherever you may be, shining a light as you See HOPE this Christmas.

Access the Christmas Day Digital Worship at normluth.org or by scanning the QR code:



Seeing HOPE



Advent & Christmas 2025 Schedule

All are welcome for worship, celebration, & community this holiday season.

Wednesday Evening Prayer Service Weekly at 6:30 p.m.

Short, Centering Mid-Week Worship

DEC 3		DEC 10		DEC 17
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Sunday Worship Weekly at 9:30 a.m.

Traditional Service & Music

NOV 30		DEC 7		DEC 14		DEC 21
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Children's
Christmas Program

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Wednesday, December 24

3:30 p.m.		5:00 p.m.		9:00 p.m.
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Family Friendly
Featuring
Cherub &
Children's Choirs

Family Friendly
Featuring
String
Quartet

Featuring
Normandale
Choir & Strings
Holy Communion