

# Nazareth Lutheran Church

## Newsletter December 2022

Website <http://nazarethlutheranchurch.yolasite.com/>

**Marcia Kisner, Pastor**

**Eileen Lewis, Administrative Assistant**

## From the Pastor

Theme for Advent 2022 is Giving



God gave his Son, Jesus to us so we might have life. God sent Jesus to live, teach, die, and He rose from the dead for us as a gift. The greatest gift ever. Let us spend this Advent Season giving.

There will be Advent giving ornaments of the back table at church please take one or more during the season. Some examples are Do a chore for somebody as a surprise; Pray for people who are lonely or in pain; Help someone with a task without being asked; Donate to a food pantry; Donate clothes, supplies, or money to a charity or a shelter; Write uplifting chalk messages on the sidewalk...

Also, we will be collecting a special offering in the "Giving Thanks" basket on the back table for which will be given to Angel House Orphanage in Tanzania Africa. The money will be taken by Pam Travis in May and used for shoes for the orphans. We have given to this ministry in the past pre-Covid.

Advent in the Christian church calendar is the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas and also of the preparation for the Second Coming of Christ.

Join us for the Advent Season and many blessings be with you and your family during this joyful time in our lives.

*Pastor Marcia*

Due to the business of the Holiday season there will not be a newsletter in January.

## In Our Prayers This Month

All the people of the world as COVID-19 threaten.

Those in need: : Rosalee DeHaai, Nathan, Hovland, Olaf Espinoza, Pat & Kris Bartleson, Jayna Grauerholz, Sharon Hiatt, Ken Bauge, Richard Ness, Shirley Eshelman, Greg Leavengood, April Leber, Mike Peterson, Erik Jorgensen, Brent Ritz, Weston Stoner, Jean Olson, Tim Barker, Lori Ness, Neal Hovland, Mary Ann Apland, Scott, John, Janet & Roger Thorsen.

And all Veterans, & active military Drayke & Dylan Eshelman, Jacob Morgan, Taylor Bartleson, Alex Kuberry, Jackson Ringgenberg and Winter Heintz.

## December Birthdays

11 Kris Bartleson  
16 Kevin Lewis  
29 Tim Smith

12 Steve Lewis  
23 Winter Heintz



Please call Eileen at the church office, 515-383-4328 to let her know if someone's birthday is missing or incorrect.

## Updating the Parsonage

We will start painting in January. Wendy Ringgenberg, Sheila Duhn, and Joyce Allen have agreed to paint, if you are willing to help paint please let Pastor Marcia know.

After the painting is done we will be installing new flooring. We are planning to put in a top grade laminate flooring.

If you have questions or suggestions please contact a council member regarding these updates.

## Sunday School

Children's Sunday school is currently in rehearsals for the Christmas program. This year they will be presenting "Wombat Divine". It's a new take on the traditional Christmas story. The program will be December 18th during worship. We hope that you can come and cheer on the children.

When Sunday school resumes in January the children will continue the theme for the year, which is Power in Parables. Please feel free to invite friends to Sunday school. Children's ages are 3-12. All are welcome.

## Women of ELCA Bible Study

All the women of the community are invited to a monthly Bible Study and fellowship on the first Tuesday of each month at Nazareth Lutheran. We will be meeting at 7:15 pm. We will be having snacks along with the fellowship.

During the December 6th meeting we will be having a cookie exchange. Please bring a dozen cookies to share with the ladies in attendance. The meeting will be at the church at 7:15 pm.

Please come and invite other ladies that you know to join us.

## Nazareth Lutheran Church Council

**November 20, 2022**

Meeting was called to order by President Mark Lewis at 11:47 following worship. Present for the meeting were Mark Lewis, John Egeland, Vince Tomlinson, Lisa Smith, Pastor Marcia, and church administrator Eileen Lewis. Minutes from the September 18 Council Meeting were approved with a correction that the \$674.39 in donations/gifts for the new printer and deck, should be computer not printer.

**Treasurer's Report:** General Fund's balance began with a total of \$12,354.5810,512.06. \$5,854.31 was added. Disbursements came to \$8,128.48, with \$3,410.17 going towards repairs and upgrades at the parsonage, and the water heater for the church. Savings has a balance of \$421.96, Capital

Improvement stands at \$21,994.35, Mission is \$9,790.52. A motion was made by Eileen to move \$15,000.00 from Capital Improvement to Mission Investment Fund due to the much higher interest rate of 3.5 % that we earn there versus the rate at the bank in the savings account. The money is very liquid in the fund and can be withdrawn at any time without a penalty. John seconded the motion and all approved the move. Lisa will contact Mission Investment fund to move those funds.

**Pastor's Report:** Children's Sunday school is going very well, there is an average of - children there most every week. The children are learning the parables, playing games and doing crafts. In December we will start rehearsing for the play Wombat Divine. Avery is going to be our Angel and Audry is the Wombat. We will have kangaroos, koala bears and even a Tasmanian devil!

Marcia has been wearing her orthotic brace and it is really helping. She has also been feeling better overall. Pastor has also asked for special prayers for members of the congregation who are struggling with illnesses of their family members.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Property:** It was decided that we should purchase the paint for the parsonage this year, so that we can spread out some of the expenses. Eileen and Marcia have decided on the colors and Eileen will purchase the paint before christmas.

**Christian Ed:** see the Pastor's Report

**Stewardship:** Nothing to report

**Inreach / Outreach:** Kringla and Lefsa sale was a hit again this year. At this point the total sales is over \$600.00. Lisa reminded the bakers to get an estimate of their costs for reimbursement or to record the donations.

**Music and Worship:** Hymns selected through January. Ellen was unable to play the organ this week due to a fall. Eileen mentioned that we did receive an advertisement in the mail for a company that would provide the accompaniment to the hymns if we needed an organist. A very brief look through indicated that the cost for the service would be \$65.00 each time they provided the music. It was discussed but determined that we would not ever utilize the service.

**Old Business:** Event Committee - we have 30 individuals that have agreed to be on the committee. We will divide the group into 3 smaller groups. Then should there be a need for the church to provide some items for a celebration or a funeral the smaller groups will take turns providing the items. We thank everyone who has agreed to be on the committee.

**New Business:** Wendy Ringgenberg who has been handling our Scrip account for the past many years has indicated that she may need to pass this job to another individual. If you are interested in taking on this position but would like more information, please get in touch with Wendy R and she can explain the process.

We need some additional volunteers to help with the services at church. Please contact Eileen or pastor Marcia if you would like to volunteer to read, usher or help with communion.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:27 by President Mark Lewis and closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Lewis, Admin Assistant.

## **Annual meeting will be January 15th following Worship**

# Income Report

October	Offering	Attendance
10/2	\$ 2,715.00	20
10/9	\$ 361.00	18
10/16	\$ 715.00	18
10/23	\$ 824.00	16
10/30	\$ 875.00	19
Total	\$ 5,490.00	
November	Offering	Attendance
11/6	\$ 1,837.00	23
11/13	\$ 440.00	15
11/20	\$ 957.00	23
11/27		
Total	\$ 3,234.00	

The church needs \$5,545.83 monthly to meet its budget and does so through your generous giving.

## Our Nazareth Bakers

Our Bakers worked really hard making the Kringla and Lefsa this year! They made almost 50 dozen orders of Kringla and 30 dozen orders of Lefsa. That is a lot of work! So instead of taking it a little easy they decided to add Kremekaka to their baking. Since this was a new endeavor they only made 100 of them. What?!? only a hundred!! I am tired just thinking about it!

What is Kremekaka you ask? Krumkake, which means "curved cake," is a Norwegian waffle cookie that's shaped like a cone. The cookies are traditionally made using a decorative griddle with flour, sugar, eggs, butter, and milk or cream.

Norwegian immigrants popularized krumkake in New England and the American Midwest. They're often served during the holiday season. When the cookies are served they are filled with whip cream, or a pudding like cream.

We still have some kringla and lefsa, so call the church at 515-383-4328 or email [nazareth\\_lutheranchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:nazareth_lutheranchurch@yahoo.com) to order. Unfortunately the kremekaka is gone!

Thank you to our bakers: John Egeland, Mark Lewis, Vince Tomlinson, Dave Lewis, Past Marcia and others who are able to come occasionally.



## Clothing Pantry

This year's Wishing Tree project for community members to help local families, is still going on at The Pantry until December 3rd. Please stop in and adopt an individual or a family to help them out this Christmas season.

In addition to these events, Jeriann is hosting a finance class for women on Wednesdays 5:30-8:00 pm.

## Upcoming Worship Volunteers

December	Greeters/Ushers	Lector	Altar Guild
<b>12/4</b>	John	Ray	Joyce
<b>12/11</b>	Kevin	Steve	Kevin
<b>12/18</b>	Vince	Vince	Lisa
<b>12/24 Christmas Eve</b>	Ray	Wendy	Steve
<b>12/25 Christmas Day</b>	Mark	Eileen	Nathan
January	Greeters/Ushers	Lector	Alter Guild
<b>1/1</b>	Eileen	Ellen	Dale
<b>1/8</b>	Dave	Eileen	Jessica
<b>1/15</b>	Kevin	John	John
<b>1/22</b>	Mark	Joyce	Joyce
<b>1/29</b>	Nathan	Mark	Mark

Attached below is the volunteer calendar for the year 2023.

## Christmas Caroling

We would like to have a night of Christmas caroling on December 17th. We will start at 5:00 pm. and go to some homes in the Cambridge area. We are currently getting some music sheets together and will be getting music recorded to accompany us. We hope that you would like to join us for this old time activity.

After we are finished caroling we will be having hot cocoa and cookies and other treats at church.

## Mid Iowa Community Action

Each year we donate some of the money that we collect to Mid Iowa Community Action Inc. (MICA). This agency provides services to people in our community who could not make it on their own. MICA touches the lives of more than 5,000 people each month with assistance with food, energy and crisis assistance, early childhood education, health services, and much more.

The majority of the families that they serve are working full-time, but not making a living wage. They provide immediate assistance, then assist them to get other programs in place to provide ongoing support.

During MICA's existence they have changed the lives of 18,062 people in 6,802 families, (that's enough to fill Wells Fargo and Hilton coliseum with over 1,000 people still waiting for a seat! Of the number served, 2,983 were under the age of 5.

Every single one of these families has a story of how MICA changed their lives. They have helped with reconnecting hundreds of households with heat and water when they are in need, serving mothers and their children with nutritious food and health education through WIC, and giving hundreds of young children a head start through Early Childhood programs.

Every donation no matter the size has the ability to be life changing. Thank you for helping us support this tremendous program. If you want to help directly you can contact MICA at [donations@micaonlin.ord/donate](mailto:donations@micaonlin.ord/donate) or call 641-752-7162.

# Activities for the Month of December and January

**Sunday** 9:15 Adult Sunday School  
**Dec 4:** 10:15 Worship  
 11:15 Kids Sunday School

**Tuesday** 6:00 PM Food Pantry  
**Dec 6:** 7:15 PM Ladies Bible Study

**Wednesday**  
**Dec 7:** 2:00 PM Confirmation

**Sunday** 9:15 Adult Sunday School  
**Dec 11:** 10:15 Worship  
 11:15 Kids Sunday School

**Tuesday**  
**Dec 13:** 6:00 PM Food Pantry

**Wednesday**  
**Dec 14:** 2:00 PM Confirmation

**Saturday**  
**Dec 17:** 5:00 PM Christmas Caroling

**Sunday** 9:15 Adult Sunday School  
**Dec 18:** 10:15 Worship  
 Christmas Play during Worship

**Tuesday**  
**Dec 20:** 6:00 PM Food Pantry

**Saturday**  
**Dec 24:** 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Service

**Sunday** 10:15 AM Christmas Day Worship  
**Dec 25:** 11:15 AM Christmas Brunch

**Tuesday**  
**Dec 27:** 6:00 PM Food Pantry

**Sunday**  
**Jan 1:** 10:15 Worship

**Tuesday** 6:00 PM Food Pantry  
**Jan 3:** 7:15 PM Ladies Bible Study

**Sunday**  
**Jan 8:** 10:15 Worship

**Tuesday**  
**Jan 10:** 6:00 PM Food Pantry

**Sunday** 9:15 Adult Sunday School  
**Jan 15:** 10:15 Worship  
 11:15 Annual Meeting

**Tuesday**  
**Jan 17:** 6:00 PM Food Pantry

**Wednesday**  
**Jan 18:** 2:00 PM Confirmation

**Sunday** 9:15 Adult Sunday School  
**Jan 22:** 10:15 Worship  
 11:15 Kids Sunday School

**Tuesday**  
**Jan 24:** 6:00 PM Food Pantry

**Wednesday**  
**Jan 25:** 2:00 PM Confirmation

**Sunday** 9:15 Adult Sunday School  
**Jan 29:** 10:15 Worship  
 11:15 Kids Sunday School

**Tuesday**  
**Jan 31:** 6:00 PM Food Pantry

**Wednesday**  
**Feb 1:** 2:00 PM Confirmation



## A Very Special Invitation

On **Sunday, December 18** you can participate in the Children's Christmas program at Nazareth Lutheran Church. We are looking for a few kids (ages 4-12) to act in "Wombat Divine." This is based on an Australian Wombat, Emu, Kangaroos, Koalas, Bilbies, Dingoes, Platypus, Tasmanian Devil, Australian Possum, putting on the Nativity.

Wombat Divine is the story of a Wombat who really wants to be in the Christmas Nativity. Wombat loves everything about Christmas...especially the Nativity play. But at the auditions, the first part goes to someone else. So does the next. And the next... Will there be a part left for Wombat?

Join us for two rehearsals on **Sunday, December 4 and Sunday, December 11 at 11:15am. On December 4 we will cast the play so just show up.** This is a unique way to begin our Christmas season. Please join us at Nazareth...517 Vine Street. There is a part for everyone! If interested or you have questions, call Pastor Marcia at 515-215-0609.

