

March 2023

# Nazareth Lutheran Church

## March Newsletter



### News From Pastor Marcia

I've had the opportunity to spend much time in the past 2 1/2 weeks visiting. I came into hospital very sick and sadly the only option was to remove right foot. It was a miracle that was the only removal and that there was no other infection. Yet, then the visiting began.

First Jesus and I spent many an hour together visiting and learning and growing. At first it appeared very lonely for me then as healing began my words, thoughts, and thanks grew louder. Visiting with Jesus can be very exciting and I would recommend it to you all.

Then you came to visit and I was so thankful to hear your fears and share my fears. And sharing the love we have for each other. I love each of you so much. As we heal together I look forward to visiting even more with each of you. Visiting has become a priority for me and looking forward to spending more visits with you.

### THANK YOU...

I want to take time in thanking the church council at Nazareth. Thank you to volunteer fire department for showing up! Thank you to my dear friend Jen Henry for supporting me through the trauma. There are so very many of you I thank. Thanks to Joyce and Greg for taking care of Olive Jean.

Programming Will move Forward...

The Church Council at Nazareth has been in conversation of programming and fundraisers. We will need some help with Silent Auction specifically and play. We appreciate any amount of help.

Updates on Pastor Marcia will continue through Eileen Lewis. If you have any questions feel free to call the church or her. And thank you for your prayers.

*Thank you!*

# Emergency Council Meeting

February 9, 2023

An emergency meeting for the Nazareth Council members was called to order at 6:59 PM by President Mark Lewis. No previous minutes were read, nor was a Treasurer's report given. Present for the meeting were Mark Lewis, Dave Lewis, Nathan Hovland, John Egeland, Vince Tomlinson, Lisa Smith, Joyce Allen, Church Administrator Eileen Lewis, and Pastor Marcia's friend, Pastor Jennifer Henry, joining via Zoom. Meeting was called to discuss Pastor Marcia's recent hospitalization, and how to carry forward in her absence.

Pastor Jen had a recent phone call from Pastor Marcia, and said she sounded good - quite unlike a few days earlier when she was pretty disoriented. Her great toe on her right foot had been removed late Tuesday (February 7), and an MRI was done following the amputation to make sure all the infection was gone. However, Pastor was told to be prepared that more of her foot may need to be taken.

Our next concern was whether or not she had a POA to make any medical decisions and take care of other legal issues. Pastor Jen replied that Pastor Marcia was in the process of working on one with her brother in Missouri.

Next topics concerned the parsonage, beginning with the couch. Joyce stated there was debris on one of the arms, and the center cushion was in pretty bad shape, as was the base of the couch under the center cushion. Discussion given on steam cleaning vs replacing, so will need to look into the price of steam cleaning it. Pastor Jen mentioned the refrigerator will need to be cleaned out, and there are a few perishables that will need to be taken home by somebody, mainly bananas and oranges. Joyce mentioned a loaf of bread that was sitting on the counter was put in the refrigerator, but maybe should be moved to the freezer. Lisa said she would take care of the fruit and bread, and check on Olive Jean, which is another thing to consider. Joyce volunteered to take her home while Pastor is out since she has a cat, along with the necessary litter box, cat food dishes, cat beds, toys, but was worried how she might react to being in strange surroundings. In the end, Lisa volunteered to check on her for now.

Discussion then went to possible scenarios after Pastor Marcia is released from the hospital. Pastor Jen had spoken to Pastor Marcia's sister-in-law, who was concerned she might need to be transferred to a rehab facility for wound management and balance issues, especially since she had balance issues before the amputation. In all likelihood, this would be for at least a couple months.

Home health care is another possibility, and unless someone is there 24/7, John suggested someone check on her daily if at least by phone call. Eileen called the synod office regarding a "pulpit supply pastor" while Pastor is out, but unfortunately, they weren't very helpful or informative. Pastor Eric Klempil at Palastine was called to see if they would be available for emergencies. Eileen will contact Memorial Lutheran Church in Nevada where Pastor Marcia traveled twice a month, as well as First Lutheran in Newton to fill them in on her condition.

# Emergency Council Meeting

February 9, 2023 Continued

Topic returned again to cleaning the parsonage, with Mark mentioning the “study” on the floor level will need to be cleared out for painting, and steam cleaning. Pastor Jen volunteered to be “that person” who would decide on what stays and what could go, to take that off any of us. In the end, we decided not to take that course right now. Before Pastor Jen signed off, she let us know Pastor Marcia was still in CCU, but would be moved into a room soon, and would appreciate visitors. She then led us in prayer, and let us “get on to the meeting.”

Topic of discussion returned to the parsonage. The mattress and box springs need to be replaced. Joyce mentioned they are looking to get a new mattress, and would be glad to donate theirs. It’s still in very good condition, but is a fairly soft which might be an issue if she has back trouble. We then returned to steam cleaning, mentioning Ross Steamway, and Stanley Steemer. Roger Hudson used to be a parishioner, and at least at one time had a steam cleaning business. Mark will call him to see what he might be able to offer, and get an estimate on both floors and the couch. Lisa will check on someone she knows who is/was a biohazard cleaner. In the meantime, Mark, John, Vince, and Dave will be pulling up the linoleum, and will box up the items in the spare room for either Pastor Jen or Pastor Marcia to go through.

Attention then was given to bills to pay. Health insurance comes out of her checking account, but car insurance does not, and is due. Eileen will check with Pastor about bill paying, and Lisa will make sure her paycheck is deposited.

Ideas were then kicked around about how services might play out going forward. At least for this Sunday, John will lead the worship, and Joyce volunteered to deliver the message. Depending on substitute / interim pastor availability, service times may need to be shifted, especially for a pastor who might have another parish. Another possibility might be for us to facilitate two or three times a month and have a fill-in the other weeks since the synod charges \$65 for a pastor. If we facilitate every week, we wouldn’t be able to have communion, and it would be nice to have someone who can let us partake at least once a month. But that decision will be made once we hear from Pastor Erik or the synod. As to Lent, we may need to attend Palestine for Ash Wednesday, etc.

As to replacement flooring, Mark shared that Lowe’s gave a bid of \$6800, which included labor and leveling the floor, compared to Carpet One’s bid of \$7900. We’re also hoping to use some Lowe’s gift cards, and utilize Vince’s military status for an added discount.

And now for something completely different, the Silent Auction. Pastor Marcia devoted a lot of time to this, and unfortunately, it’s probably too late to reach out to a lot of sport franchises. Per Lisa, not doing the auction really isn’t an option since this is one of our big money makers, which takes care of our insurance payment. Lisa mentioned she might have the folder with the list of names of

## Council Meeting Continued

companies who have donated, along with their addresses, and Eileen will compose the Silent Auction letter and email them out. Mark will ask for volunteers during a brief congregational meeting Sunday when he lets the parishioners know and vote on the Lowe's bid for flooring. Eileen suggested maybe this is the year to center on crafts and baked goods rather than focusing so much on corporations.

Lastly, our hardest topic, what to do in the unfortunate event that Pastor cannot return to the pulpit? Ideas passed around included maybe finding a retired pastor, someone part time, share with another church. But, in the meantime, we will be optimistic and pray for healing, and look forward to her swift return, and wait till we know more about when, and not if, she'll return.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 by President Mark Lewis and closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Allen,  
Council Secretary.

## Attendance and Offerings

January	Offering	Attendance
1/1	\$ 1,713.05	14
1/8	\$ 830.00	24
1/15	\$ 1,030.00	16
1/22	\$ 366.00	14
1/29	\$ 430.00	14
Total	\$ 4,369.05	
February	Offering	Attendance
2/5	\$ 4,465.00	16
2/12	\$ 597.00	17
2/19	\$ 1,405.00	16
2/22 Ash Wednesday	no Service	
2/26		
Total to date	\$ 6,467.00	

## March Birthdays

7 Becky Lewis  
7 Quenton Ullom  
8 Caden Hasbrouck  
10 Wendy Ringgenberg  
18 Taylor Larkin  
24 Janna Grauerholz



## Upcoming Worship Services

With Pastor Marcia out for the next while, we will have the following worship services for March.

March 5 Communion Service  
Pastor Pam Schroeder  
March 12 Service of the Word  
March 19 Service of the Word  
March 26 Hymn Sing

Eileen is trying to find a pastor(s) for April 2, Palm Sunday, and April 9, Easter Sunday.

The council has not discussed Holy Week Services yet. Each time we have another pastor come in for services they are paid \$200.00 plus mileage. So the cost is a concern on how many times we have a pastor come in to preach.

If you have suggestions or concerns please contact a council member.

## Easter Celebration

Easter Sunday is coming up and to celebrate this holy day we will have our annual Easter breakfast and Fellowship. Followed by the Easter Egg Hunt and the Worship. In preparation for the egg hunt Eileen will be filling the candy eggs, if you would like to help please let Eileen know.

## Sunday School

We are going to continue to have children's Sunday School during the month of March. We will be working on the story of Easter and preparing some Easter crafts. Do you want to help? Working with the children is so much fun!!

## Decorating Hospital Rooms

Some of the Easter Crafts that the Sunday school children will be doing will also be decorations for Pastor Marcia's hospital room. Seeing all the fun things hung up for Pastor Marcia in her room made me think that maybe we could make this a ministry for the children. I bet there are other people who would love some decorations in their hospital or nursing home room.

What do you think? Should we spread a little joy to other people in the hospitals?

## Lenten Handbook

Attached to this newsletter is a packet of information about Lent that we received from Palestine Lutheran Church in Huxley. It contains some very interesting information about how to prepare for easter. Next month we will send the booklet about Holy Week and Easter.

## Silent Auction

Preparing for the Silent Auction has started. We are going to need some extra help gathering items for the Auction. We have a list of local businesses that we have contacted in the past that we will contact again. We would appreciate it if you know any person or company that would be willing to donate items. We are thinking that we would like to feature a number of craft items. do you know anyone who would like to donate an item please contact the church.

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Phone: 515-383-4328



# March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
26 09:15 am Adult Sunday School 10:15 am Sunday Worship 11:15 am Children Sunday School	27	28 05:00 pm Food Pantry	01	
05 09:15 am Adult Sunday School 10:15 am Sunday Worship 11:15 am Children Sunday School	06 07:15 pm Women's Bible Study	07	08	
12 09:15 am Adult Sunday School 10:15 am Sunday Worship 11:15 am Children Sunday School	13 05:00 pm Food Pantry	14	15	
19 09:15 am Adult Sunday School 10:15 am Sunday Worship 11:15 am Children Sunday School	20 05:00 pm Food Pantry	21	22	
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