**Nazareth Lutheran Church**

Website http://nazarethlutheranchurch.yolasite.com/

**We welcome all to join us every Sunday!**

**Worship service @ 10:15 am**

**Marcia Kisner, Pastor**

**Eileen Lewis, Administrative Assistant**

**December 2019**

Nazareth Lutheran Church

517 Vine St

PO Box 227

Cambridge IA 50046

**From the Pastor**

***2****Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.* Hebrews 13:2

We are now in Advent Season. It is a season of waiting and sharing hospitality. We invite you to come and share some hospitality with the children of the church for the Christmas program on Sunday, December 22 at 10:15am. The program is “Angel’s On High.” The cast is of angels who learn what Christmas means and they meet the baby Jesus. It is a tender, gentle, and a little bit of humor play of our sweet children acting out what the time was like when Jesus came to earth. A new song with a familiar tune will be sung by the children *I’ve Got the Joy of Christmas in My Heart*, the tune is to *I’ve Got the Joy in My Heart*. Of course some familiar Christmas carols will be sung by all and a couple of special music offered by members.

I hope you will attend and since this is the last Sunday of Advent and our waiting will be soon over and we continue to show hospitality. I know it seems impossible but I do believe there are angels among us in the costumes and faces of our children.

I found an Alabama song that I think fits well with our Christmas program*…”I believe there are angels among us sent down from somewhere up above. They come to you and me in our darkest hours to show us how to live, to teach us how to give, to guide us with a light of love. They wear so many faces, show up in the strangest places. They grace us with their mercies in our time of need. To guide us with a light of love.”*

As our Christmas season fast approaches take the time to find the angels among us and be sure to show much hospitality to all. Blessings and peace to all during Advent and Christmas.

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**In Our Prayers This Month**

Jean Olson, John Leoni, Mitch Piecher, Tim Barker, Dale Dunlap, Amy Chapin, Lori Ness, Shari Kisner, Jessyca Hovland, Arnie Pearson, Liam Griggs, Don Rhode, Neal Hovland, Eva Mae Sampson, Mary Ann Apland, Max Dobson, Scott, John, Janet & Roger Thorsen, all the Veterans, and active military especially Taylor Bartleson and Jackson Ringgenberg.

We lift up our community as we faithfully pray for peace and faith in our country and the world.

**Weekly Income for October and November**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| October |  Offering  | Attendance |
| 10/6 |  $ 1,139.00  | 17 |
| 10/13 |  $ 980.00  | 20 |
| 10/20 |  $ 337.00  | 23 |
| 10/27 |  $ 910.00  | 33 |
| Total |  $ 3,366.00  |   |
| November |  Offering  | Attendance |
| 11/3 |  $ 768.00  | 25 |
| 11/10 |  $ 782.00  | 25 |
| 11/17 |  $ 871.00  | 24 |
| 11/24 |   |   |
| Total |  $ 2,421.00  |   |

Your church needs $5,495.83 monthly to meet budget and does so through your generous giving.

**Christmas Worship Service**

Christmas Program…Sunday December 15 at 10:15 am

Christmas Eve Worship Service of Light…Tuesday, December 24 at 9pm

Christmas Day Worship Service…Wednesday, December 25 at 9am

Brunch to follow worship. Please bring dish to pass.

**![C:\Users\Marcia\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\1M4BJQYF\Angels_Home_Drawn[1].jpg]()Christmas Program**

Sunday, December 22 at 10:15am

*“Angels on High”*

All children are invited to participate…

Speaking and non-speaking roles are available.

Practices are Sunday, Dec 1, 8, and 15 at 9:30am

**Nazareth Lutheran Church Council**

**Sunday, October 20, 2019**

Meeting was called to order in Jesus’s name at 11:33 by President Mark Lewis following Fellowship. Present for the meeting were Mark Lewis, Dave Lewis, Vince Tomlinson, John Egeland, Lisa Smith, Pastor Marcia, Joyce Allen and Church Secretary Eileen Lewis. Minutes from the July 21 and August 18 meetings were approved as read.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Been a rather grim few months as regards meeting budget. July’s opening General Fund balance was at $1,071.65. Deposits totaled $4,356.21 (including a $700 transfer from SCRIP, a dividend from Huxley Communications for $270.82, and VBS supplies donation of $329.45), but disbursements came to $5,088.75, leaving a balance of $339.11. Capital Improvement’s total was $13,653.92. In August, $700 needed to be transferred from Capital Improvement Fund, lowering its balance to $12,953.91. Total deposit amount came to $4,480.92, which included a $100 wedding donation and $6.92 from Amazon Smile.

However, disbursements came to $4,671.66, thus leaving its balance at $148.37. September’s budget called for yet another transfer of $500 from the Capital Improvement Fund, which now stands at $12,457.25. Deposits totaled $5,137.11, but disbursements were $5,098.89. Besides the usual monthly bills, $330.60 went towards Pastor Marcia’s phone, $100 of which Eileen graciously offered to donate. $154.62 went to Rotor Rooter at the Parsonage, and $130 to pay for a Synod Conference. September’s General Fund is down to $186.59.

SCRIP for July began at $1,052.30, ended $375.30 including the $700 to General Fund. August’s deposits totaled $1.650, disbursements of $1,503, leaving a balance of $522.30. September’s deposits were an even $1000, minus disbursements of $241, with a nice balance of $1,280.80.

**Pastor’s Report:** Though the exact dates in May aren’t yet available, a Synod Assembly Meeting will be held in Iowa City to vote on a new Bishop. Pastor would like a Parishioner (or two) to prayerfully consider attending this meeting. It goes from a Friday – Sunday, and participants will be accommodated at the Radisson Hotel. Next order of business was Advent.

Three parishioners were voluntoled (very nicely!) to share their favorite Bible story for the children’s sermon. John Egeland is on the docket for December 1, Joyce Allen follows on December 8, and Mark Lewis is on for December 15. The Christmas Pageant will take care of the 4th Sunday in Advent. Pastor then let us know she will be gone on December 29, so the service will consist of Christmas Carols and stories. And, her last day to work at the Orchard will be November 1.

**Committee Reports**

**Property:** It was called to the church’s attention that 18,000 gallons of water passed the pipes at the Parsonage last month. Discussion given to call Dave White Plumbing to find the source. Pastor also asked for someone who might change out some faucets in her bathroom or kitchen?

**Christian Ed**: Pastor Marcia is conducting Sunday School with the younger children separately from the adults which seems to be working better.

**Stewardship**: Orders for Lefsa keep coming in! A woman from Webster City ordered four dozen. An ad will be in the TriCounty Times the first week of November. Aprons will be available again, and additional Lefsa orders can be done on Facebook. NLC T-shirts are on the back burner for now, but will no doubt resurface soon.

**Inreach / outreach**: Being the last Sunday of the month, Pastor and Mark will do visitations.

**Music and Worship**: Prayers abound as we learn Joann Olsen’s mother in Texas is not doing well, so she may not be available for her beautiful music on Christmas Eve. We prayerfully consider alternatives if the need arrives, and keep her and family in our hearts and prayers.

**Old Business**: Play Selection Committee met and decided on the next two shows. Pastor will attend the November 1 Council Meeting in Cambridge to attain use of the facility, with performance dates moved to the end of April in hopes of avoiding inclement weather during rehearsals. After confirmation of dates and location, the name of the show, dates, and times will be announced after attaining rights to the play.

Next, Pastor led a Memorial Service at a barn on 210. A sister of the property had passed away, and the family asked Pastor if she had any ideas as to how this barn could be utilized for the benefit of the community. Of course she had several suggestions, including another venue for plays, and perhaps a live nativity scene this Advent season. Lastly, Steve Lewis has a part in a play, *Matilda*, being presented at Maxwell-Colo High School. Performance dates are Friday, November 8, and Saturday, November 9. A group of NLCs will be going on Friday, so anyone interested in attending can contact Joyce at joywriter50021@yahoo.com. As soon as tickets become available, Steve will let her know and you will be gladly added to the list! (Sorry, no idea what ticket prices are.)

**New Business**: A Ginger Buzby from Lutheran Social Services from Moline, IL, contacted NLC, requesting use of the church every Tuesday from 4:00 – 7:00 beginning October 29 for what sounds like supervised visits for a mother in Cambridge with two children. Of course, Pastor Marcia said, “Of course.”

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 12:37 by President Mark Lewis, and closed with the Lord’s Prayer. Respectfully submitted by Joyce Allen, Council Secretary.

**Nazareth Lutheran Church Council Meeting**

**Sunday, November 17, 2019**

Meeting was called to order at 11:24 in Jesus’s name by President Mark Lewis following Fellowship. Present for the meeting were Mark Lewis, Steve Lewis, Dave Lewis, Nathan Hovland, John Egeland, Dale Dunlap, Lisa Smith, Vince Tomlinson, Pastor Marcia, Joyce Allen, and Church Secretary Eileen Lewis. Minutes from the October 20, 2019 meeting were approved as read.

**Treasurer’s Report**: Sadly, yet another month of disbursements totaled more than deposits. Offerings for October were $3,366. $75 was repaid to a Crop Walk payment, as well as $111 for office supplies, but a $1,250.00 transfer from Capital Improvement was still necessitated, for a deposit total of $4,802.00 Disbursements, however, were $4,932.96. So, the opening balance of $186.59 dwindled to a mere $55.63. $300 was for Pastor’s new phone, which will be done after this month, and the pianist was overpaid this month which will be balanced out in November, which should help a little, at least. Capital Improvement is down to $11,208.82 from last month’s balance of $12,457.25. Mission Investment’s balance is $9,601.09, Savings is $420.67, SCRIP is up to $1,698 from last month’s balance of $1,150.

**Pastor’s Report**: Pastor was happy to announce that Joanne Olson will be able to play on Christmas Eve, and Lisa and Ken will lift up their voices as well. The Christmas program is completed, and Joyce will make the angels’ harps, Jessica Leiber will make their halos. Palestine Church will once again join us on Christmas Day, Pastor’s turn to deliver the message this year. Pot luck to follow.

The congregation will be special music on December 1 and sing some Old Time Religion songs. On a sadder note, Don Rohde passed away.

Discussion given to use the Memorial Fund to purchase a new stove, and where to purchase it. Habitat Store? Craig’s List? Facebook? Eileen volunteered to “shop.”

**Committee Reports**:

**Property**: John and Vince volunteered to replace the faucets at the Parsonage, and Pastor noted no water was found anywhere in her house or yard. So maybe the high water output reading was due to a bad meter? Will see what happens next meter reading date.

**Christian Ed**: Nothing to report

**Stewardship**: Saturday, November 23, the Cambridge Shopping Extravaganza will be held at the Cambridge City Center. Lefsa will be sold, and discussion given to hand out some of the broken ones for people to sample. The winner of the Disney on Ice raffle tickets will be drawn as well.

**In Reach/Outreach**: The rights have been acquired for the next Dinner Theatre play, which we are excited to announce – a comedy entitled “Drinking Habits.” Joyce Allen will direct (unless someone else volunteers?) and will be held Friday, April 24, Saturday 25 with dinner, and a matinee on Sunday the 26th. More info as we get closer to the date.

**Music and Worship**: Nothing to report

**Old Business**: Another letter was received from our neighbors with the water leak telling us that we need to dig up “our pipe” as it is still causing them problems. They wanted it out by the end of November, along with replacing the dirt, sodding, etc. Since we capped off our line, it is not from Nazareth, and this matter will be turned over to the insurance company, and our attorney if necessary.

**New Business**: Nothing to report.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 and closed with the Lord’s Prayer. Respectfully submitted by Joyce Allen, Council Secretary.

**December Birthdays**

1 Jordan Aust

2 Doug Larkin

2 John Egeland

4 Richard Ness

6 Bill Hook

8 Lilli Hasbrouck

9 Ellen Olson

26 Jason Hasbrouck

28 Becca Hasbrouck

31 Joan Weatherman

1 Jordan Aust

2 Doug Larkin

2 John Egeland

4 Richard Ness

6 Bill Hook

8 Lilli Hasbrouck

9 Ellen Olson

26 Jason Hasbrouck

28 Becca Hasbrouck

31 Joan Weatherman

5 Don Rohde 6 Teenie Tomlinson 18 Aubrey Grauerholz

Please call Eileen at the church office, 515-383-4328 to let her know if you know of a birthday that is missing or incorrect.

# The Gift of Presence

 This holiday season “Be Present”. Life is full of distractions, especially in this busy season of giving.

When we take the time to set intentions and be truly present, we gain clarity and direction to keep us focused on the people and passions that matter most to us.

Being present allows us to make healthier choices for our financial, emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being. In this state of mind, we can notice, listen, and attend to life within and outside ourselves with integrity.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| SING A SEASONAL SONG E.g. Joy to the World, Jingle Bells, Frosty the Snowman | MEDITATE Sit in a relaxed position and notice your breathing — clear your mind of other thoughts. | DECLUTTER ONE ROOM An organized living space can reduce your overall stress level. |
| NAME ONE THING YOU’RE GRATEFUL FOR E.g. friends, laughter, good coffee, pets | INCREASE YOUR STEPS Take an extra walk today, whether it’s through your home or around the block. | SAVOR A SNACK Whether a piece of fruit or a baked treat, take a moment to truly enjoy the experience of eating. |
| IDENTIFY A MOVEMENT OF CHOICE TO INCORPORATE INTO YOUR DAY E.g. walk, stretch, plank | NOTICE SHAPES IN THE CLOUDS Reconnect with your surroundings using your imagination. | LISTEN TO THOSE AROUND YOU Pay attention to their words, their actions, and practice compassion for their feelings. |
| MAKE A MEAL TOGETHER E.g. pancakes for breakfast, chicken with roasted veggies for dinner | TAKE A MOMENT TO NOTICE NATURE It’s amazing what can go unnoticed when you’re going about your day. | SPEAK OR SEND A WORD OF HOPE Be a light in the darkness for those around you. |
| BAKE A FAVORITE SEASONAL RECIPE E.g. Christmas cookies, gingerbread, rice pudding | LISTEN TO YOUR BODY Don’t push through your feelings! Eat when you are hungry, rest when you are tired. | APOLOGIZE If something is weighing on your heart, seek reconciliation to find peace. |
| TAKE A BREAK FROM ELECTRONICS Instead, start a conversation or play a card game with a loved one. | REFLECT ON A MOMENTO Sit with a treasured item for five minutes and explore its significance in your life.  | MAKE TIME FOR YOUR PASSION Release your creativity and reconnect with yourself! |
| DECIDE WHAT YOU WILL COMMIT TO E.g. yes to coffee with a friend, no to hosting your extended family | SHARE YOUR HEART Voice your gratitude, love, frustration, or pain with someone you care about. | PRACTICE PATIENCE Focus on your breathing to reduce stress and give yourself time to respond rather than react. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| DO AN ART PROJECT E.g. color, paint, stamp, scrapbook, sculpt | SMILE Give yourself the freedom to feel and share your joy. | DONATE TO A FOOD SHELF Consider how fortunate you are. Take this opportunity to share with others this season. |
| GET A GOOD NIGHT’S SLEEP Go to bed early after at least an hour without screen time. | LAUGH Whether at a joke or a stressful situation: find the humor and enjoy the moment. | SHARE YOUR FEARS Openness helps to relieve stress and move forward when you feel stuck. |
| READ A BOOK Immerse yourself in the story and be present with the characters. | SHARE A RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS E.g. give a compliment, pick up a stranger’s tab, give to a charity | SHARE YOUR DREAMS Voicing your dreams can create accountability and open your mind to new possibilities. |
| VISIT A LONELY PERSON This season can be difficult for many. Share the gift of your time with someone who needs it. | MAKE YOUR BED Instead of adding another task to today’s to-do list, make your bed when you wake up. Done! | TELL SOMEONE YOU LOVE THEM Sharing love is the most powerful way to connect with those around you. |

**Upcoming Worship Volunteers**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| December | Greeters/Ushers | Lector | Alter Guild |
| 12/1 | Nathan Hovland & Kevin Lewis | Mike L | John E |
| 12/8 | Doug Larkin Family | Nathan H | Kevin L |
| 12/15 | Mark Lewis and Mava Lewis | Ray R | Lisa S |
| 12/22 | Steve Lewis and Mike Lewis | Robin S | Mark L |
| 12/24/2019 | Vince Tomlinson Family | Steve L | Nathan |
| 12/25/2019 | John Egeland and Dave Lewis | Ellen O | Steve L |
| 12/29 | Nathan Hovland & Kevin Lewis | John E | Mark L |
| January | Greeters/Ushers | Lector | Alter Guild |
| 1/5 | Doug Larkin Family | Nathan H | Mike L |

**Activities for the Month of December**

**Sunday** 9:30 AM Sunday School

**Dec 1:** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

**Dec 3:** 5:00 PM Food Pantry

**Sunday** 9:30 AM Sunday School

**Dec 8:** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

**Dec 10:** 5:00 PM Food Pantry

**Sunday** Christmas Program

**Dec 15:** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

**Dec 17:** 5:00 PM Food Pantry

**Sunday**

**Dec 22:** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

**Dec 24:** 9:00 Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday 9:00 AM Christmas Day

Dec 25: Potluck Brunch

**Sunday**

**Dec 29:** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

**Dec 31:** 5:00 PM Food Pantry

**Christmas Greetings from Pastor Marcia Kisner and Eileen Lewis**![C:\Users\Marcia\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\0WYCLSVO\angels[1].jpg]()

**8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+2&version=NRSV" \l "fen-NRSV-24977a" \o "See footnote a)] the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,[**[**b**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+2&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-24979b)**] praising God and saying, 14“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”[**[**c**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+2&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-24980c)**]**