**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**

**February 2018**

**From the Pastor**

I was asked not to long ago about the meaning of Lent… here is an explanation: Lent is the span of time in the church calendar that starts with Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter Sunday. Ash Wednesday commemorates the beginning of [Jesus’ 40-day fasting and temptation in the desert](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%204:1-11), and Easter Sunday commemorates [Jesus’ resurrection from the grave](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%2016:1-8) after his crucifixion.

Lent is generally observed as a time for Christians to reflect, repent, and pray as a way of preparing their hearts for Easter. It is commonly observed by many Christian denominations—Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, and others—although not every Christian church or denomination does so. Because Lent is not officially instituted in Scripture, observing it isn’t in any way a “requirement” of Christianity. However, Christians from many different theological persuasions choose to observe it as a way of focusing their thoughts on Jesus Christ during the Easter season.

How does one observe Lent? It differs from person to person and church to church, but some of the things Christians opt to do to observe Lent include:

* On the first day of Lent (Ash Wednesday), some Christians **mark their foreheads with ash** as a symbol of sorrow and mourning over their sin. (See Job 42 for an example of ash used as a symbol of repentance.)
* **Special worship services** or additions to regular worship services that focus in various ways on man’s need for repentance. This often takes the form of extra Scripture readings and prayer.
* Some Christians choose to **give up a habit or behavior** during Lent as an exercise in prayerful self-denial. This might range from something as simple as not drinking soda during Lent to a full-blown program of [fasting](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fasting).
* Some Christians commit to a **special devotional activity** during Lent—for example, daily Scripture reading, regular prayer for a specific person or topic throughout Lent, or volunteer work in their community.

The choice to observe Lent is a personal one—the whole point is to focus your heart and mind on Jesus during the journey to Easter. There’s no requirement to observe it, nor should you be made to feel guilty for not participating. However, millions of Christians around the world do observe Lent each year; if you’ve never done so; why not give it a try? Whether you observe Lent in a small or major way, you’ll be amazed at what happens when you devote a part of each day to reflecting on Jesus Christ and God’s Word.

I personally look forward to the Lenten season. It is a time that I can spend more time in reflection of living as a Christian and how to serve God. I do not usually “give up” anything but I try to find some ways to love more and do more as a disciple of Christ. Blessings to you during these upcoming 40 days.

 Pastor Marcia



**Theme for Lent 2016: “So What If God**

**Was One of Us?”**

We are participating in the Lenten services with Palestine Lutheran Church and Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Slater. We are doing something very exciting and new this Lenten season. We are worshipping in our communities. We believe we are Jesus’ people and everywhere we go and everywhere we worship Jesus is with us!

Pastor Heidi, Pastor Eric and I met early in January to discuss what we wished to do for Lent. We spent time talking about our congregations and how we could all worship together. Then Pastor Eric remembered a song he had heard and how much it had spoken to him. The song was “What if God were One of Us.” We all became very excited about the conversations we could have with each other wondering where and who God was among us.

We then boldly decided to reach out in the communities in which we live and serve. We hope each of you will come and join us. The schedule in printed in the newsletter and we will print it also in Sunday’s bulletins.

The time is at 7pm and if you wish please have your meals at home and then join us. If you would like a ride to any of the places please let me know and we can car pool. Confirmation students will meet here at the church and I will get them home between 7:30pm – 8pm.

We invite all to take a faith journey this Lenten season and share our experiences. And what is our response to our experiences? Our response is “So What If God Was One of Us?” Remembering all the while during this journey that we are Jesus’ people, everywhere we go and everywhere we worship Jesus is with us.

Take special note we are meeting in our communities: Huxley, Slater, and Cambridge. All Are Welcome!

WEEK ONE: February 17, Theme: “What If God Were One of Us?

Preacher: Pastor Eric (Palestine) Where: Knord-Kelsum in Huxley Time: 7pm

WEEK TWO: February 24, Theme: “If God had a name what would it be?

Preacher: Pastor Marcia (Nazareth) Where: Ballard West in Slater Time: 7pm

WEEK THREE: March 2, Theme: “What would you ask if you had just one question? Preacher: Pastor Eric (Palestine) Where: Ballard Creek in Huxley Time: 7pm

WEEK FOUR: March 9, Theme: “If God had a face what would it look like?”

Preacher: Pastor Marcia (Nazareth) Where: Cambridge Community Center 7pm

WEEK FIVE: March 16, Theme: “What If God Were One of Us?

Preacher: Pastor Heidi (Bethlehem) Where: Fire House in Huxley Time: 7pm

**In Our Prayers This Week:**

Robin Coughennower, Pete Genovese, Ashley Reese, Kate Jorgensen, Jessyca Espinoza, Arnie Pearson, Alan Duhn, Liam Griggs, Camden Kelsey, Chad Grandon, Don Rhode, Neal Hovland, Ken Larkin, Eva Mae Sampson, Doc Bartleson, Diane Pickar, Mary Ann Apland, Dorothy Denton, Max Dobson, Janet & Roger Thorsen, and all the 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.

**February Birthdays**

1 Vince Tomlinson 10 Pastor Marcia

11 Mark Lewis 17 Dale Dunlap

27 Lisa Smith

If you wish to have your name added to the birthday list,

 or if it is incorrect, please call Eileen at the office

515-383-4328.

†

Luke 2:52 - “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.”

**Weekly Income for December and January**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| December | Attendance | Offering |
| 3 | 31 |  $ 2,466.00  |
| 10 | 36 |  $ 3,096.00  |
| 17 | 52 |  $ 442.01  |
| 24 | 21 |  $ 1,935.00  |
| Christmas Eve | 45 |  $ 1,151.00  |
| 25 | 25 |  $ 500.00  |
| 31 | 8 |  $ -  |
| Total |   |  $ 9,590.01  |
| January 2018 | Attendance | Offering |
| 1/7 | 19 |  $ 1,795.00  |
| 1/14 | 13 |  $ 287.00  |
| 1/21 | 24 |  $ 780.00  |
| 1/28 |   |   |
| Total |   |  $ 2,862.00  |

Your church needs $5,425.00 monthly to meet budget and does so through your generous giving.

**Learning our Faith**

Children and Adult Sunday School is at 9:15 each Sunday

Confirmation is at 6:00 PM on Wednesday evening

Hope you, your children, or grandchildren will join us then.

**Sunday School**

I wanted to update you on Sunday school. We began the fall with intergenerational Sunday school – adults and children. We have had a few bumps – it is hard to teach adults and 5 and 6 year olds. I’m working on it. It really has been a joy to have everyone together. Please join us. We are learning the books of the Bible and reading stories from the Bible and sharing them with each other. Begins at 9:15am!

**Reading Luke**

At the beginning of this New Year I ask that you start reading the Bible and begin with Luke. How’s it going in your reading? Here are some facts I found that I thought might be interesting…

AUTHOR: Luke TIME WRITTEN: Prior to 70 A.D. POSITION IN THE BIBLE: • 42nd Book in the Bible • 3rd Book in the New Testament • 3rd of 4 books of Biography (Matthew - John) • 24 Books to follow it. CHAPTERS: 24 VERSES: 1,151 WORDS: 24,944 OBSERVATIONS ABOUT LUKE: ■ Luke was a physician. ■ Luke was not one of the 12 apostles. ■ The Greek name “Luke” appears only three times in the New Testament. • Colossians 4:14 • 2 Timothy 4:1 • Philemon 24 ■ Luke was either a Hellenistic Jew or a Gentile. • It is more likely that he was a gentile. • In Colossians 4:10-14, Paul lists three fellow workers who are “of the circumcision” (Jews) (vs. 10-11) and then includes Luke’s name with two Gentiles (vs, 12-14). ■ According to tradition: • Luke remained unmarried. • Luke died at the age of 84. ■ Luke gives the most complete account of Christ’s: • Ancestry • Birth • Development ■ The Book of Luke is the longest of the four books of Biography. ■ Luke’s emphasis on chronological and historical accuracy makes it more comprehensive than Matthew, Mark, or John, ■ Luke traces Jesus’ ancestry all the way back to Adam. ■ The first thirty years of Jesus’ life is summed up in one verse, Luke 2:52 - “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” ■ Key words in the Book of Luke: • “Son of Man” - 23 times • “Son of God” - 7 times • “Kingdom of God” - 32 times.

Let me know if you have any questions or anything you would like to talk about…Pastor Marcia

Bowling



We were setting up a bowling date for youth and thought some of you (older youth) would like to join us. We are going to Waukee Bowling Alley on Sunday March 25, 2:30 – 4:30. We will bowl for an hour and have a pizza party. Sound fun? Please sign up at church. Unsure of cost yet but the closer we get to the date we’ll let you know more information. Join us, please!

**Upcoming Worship Volunteers**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| February | Greeters/Ushers | Lector | Alter Guild |
| 2/4 | Steve Lewis and Mike Lewis | Kevin L | John E |
| 2/11 | Ray Ringgenberg Family | Maria T |   |
| 2/14 Ash Wednesday | Vince Tomlinson Family | Mark L | Joyce A |
| 2/18 | John Egeland and Dave Lewis | Mike L |   |
| 2/25 | Nathan Hovland and Kevin Lewis | Nathan H |   |
| March | Greeters/Ushers | Lector | Alter Guild |
| 3/4 | Doug Larkin Family | Ray R | Mark L |
| 3/11 | Mark Lewis and Mava Lewis | Robin S |   |
| 3/18 | Steve Lewis and Mike Lewis | Steve L |   |
| 3/25 | Ray Ringgenberg Family | Vince T |   |
| 3/29 Maundy Thursday | Vince Tomlinson Family | Wendy R | Steve L |
| 3/30 Good Friday | John Egeland and Dave Lewis |   |   |
| April | Greeters/Ushers | Lector | Alter Guild |
| 4/1 Easter Sunday | Nathan Hovland and Kevin Lewis | Ellen O | Wendy R |
| 4/8 | Doug Larkin Family | Eileen L |   |
| 4/15 | Mark Lewis and Mava Lewis | John E |   |
| 4/22 | Steve Lewis and Mike Lewis | Joyce A |   |
| 4/29 | Ray Ringgenberg Family | Kevin L |   |

**Nazareth Lutheran Church presents:**

**“A Bad Year for Tomatoes”**

We are getting closer to the date of the play and we have some more info

to pass along to you. It will be a really funny show and we are excited to present it to you. The play rehearsals are really going great! The play will be at the new Cambridge Community Center at 204 Water St.

 Smokehouse 72 will be providing the food – Smoked pork loin chops, cheesy potatoes, buttered corn, rolls and dessert with coffee, tea and water to drink.

 Are you hungry yet?

 The dinner will be Saturday March 3 at 6:00 PM and the play will be at 7:30 PM with an intermission. The cost for dinner and the show will be $20.00. You need to call and make a reservation for the dinner. Please call 515-383-4328 if Eileen is at church she will be able to take your payment over the phone, or she will call you back and take the payment then.

 If you would like to see the play but are not really interested in a meal, we will be having a Matinee showing on Sunday March 4 at 2:00 PM. The cost for the Matinee is $10.00. Reservations are not needed for Sunday.

 You could also see the dress rehearsal on Friday evening at 7:30 PM. There will be a free will offering that night.

**Nazareth Lutheran Church Council Meeting**

**Sunday, December 17, 2017**

Meeting was called to order by President Mark Lewis at 11:24 AM following fellowship. Present for the meeting were Mark Lewis, Steve Lewis, Lisa Smith, John Egeland, Nathan Hovland, Joyce Allen, Pastor Marcia and Church Secretary Eileen Lewis. Minutes from the November 19th meeting were approved as read, but with a correction to the disbursements. The total should have been $4,332.41, rather than $4,331.41, which made the closing balance $3,149.28, not $3,150.28.

**Treasurer’s Report**: As stated above, the opening balance on 11/1 was $3,149.28. Along with offering, deposits also included $350.00 from the Jeep event sales, and $288 in Lefsa. Extra incidentals also included $14 from Poinsettias, $25 bell tower donation, $4 for scrubbies, and $5.71 from Amazon Smiles. Disbursements came to $5,121.08, which included the $612.45 for light bulbs and switches, and $108 for the biannual payment to Constant Contact, leaving the operating fund with $2,969.43. But nothing was transferred from the Capital Improvement Fund, which has a balance of $6,695.62 after adding $.55 interest. SCRIP’s opening balance was $622.24, and after disbursements of $755.30, it’s left with $646.94.

**Pastor’s Report**: Confirmation continues to go well. Discussion given whether or not to continue classes through the summer, and which of the confirmands would benefit by going an extra year to help build a stronger foundation. She continues to work at Miss Wendy’s, and enjoys it, despite four colds and a case of pink eye so far.

**Committee Reports**:

**Property**: A piece of fascia blew off the front of the parsonage during the wind storm, and the back door needs a new hydraulic. Hopefully those two are already repaired as we read.

**Christian Ed**: Adult Bible study will continue on Wednesday evenings after the first of the year.

**Stewardship**: Staying above water!

**In reach / outreach**: Parishioners are asked to remember Tim Smith on his 55th birthday, December 29.

**Music and Worship**: Nothing new to report

**Old Business**: The bell tower fund raiser will be held at the new Community Center in Cambridge. Pastor Marcia will attend their council meeting on Jan 2, and hopefully the fees for its rental will be waived. She will also ask for a few extra days before the show opens to allow time for set up.

**New Business**: Regarding the budget, Pastor Marcia wanted to decline the raise included for 2018. Last year’s salary was at $29,475.00, and the proposed salary for 2018 is $29,900.00. She stated she was asked to give puppet classes this summer, but John proposed we accept the budget as proposed, with a second from Steve. Motion passed.

Discussion also given for designated offerings for 2018. Motion given by Steve to keep the offerings the same as last year, seconded by John. Motion carried.

The Madrid Home audits were done in the past by Nancy and Pat, so Pastor will ask Wendy and Ray Ringenberg if they would take that over.

Lastly, discussion given as to whether or not Mission Support should be kept the same as last year. Joyce motioned yes, John seconded, motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:21 P.M. by President Mark Lewis, and closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by

Joyce Allen, Council Secretary.

**Minutes of the 2017 Nazareth Lutheran Church Congregational Annual Meeting**

**Sunday, January 21, 2018**

 President Mark Lewis called the meeting to order at 10:58, and Mark Lewis opened with a reading called “Say Yes to the Future” about preparing for the future from the book “Remember the Promise” by Alvin N Rogness. 19 voting members of the congregation were present for the meeting.

 The secretary read the minutes of the 2016 meeting and there were no correction to the minutes. The minutes were approved as read.

 The Memorial treasurer notified the congregation that the Memorial books were not turned over after Nancy Weatherman, the previous Memorial Treasurer, passed away. So the report was completed to the best of her ability based on the bank statements for the year. At this time the report in the Annual report matches the bank statement.

Wendy Ringgenberg moved to accept the Committee Reports, John Egeland seconded the motion. The reports were approved as presented by the congregation with all ayes.

**Old Business:** Nothing to report.

**New Business:**

 In 2017 the Synod Mission support was proposed and accepted to be $1,000 and the congregation was able to send $1,125.00 to the Synod, so the Council again proposed $1,000.00 with the provision that we again send what we collect to the Synod Mission even if it is in excess of the $1,000.00. Randy Dubberke moved to accept the Synod Mission support, Dave Lewis seconded and the motion carried.

 Designation of offerings Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday should go to MICA; Christmas Program, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to the General Fund. Dave Lewis moved to accept as is, seconded by Wendy Ringgenberg. The motion was carried.

 The 2018 budget was approved by a motion from Randy Dubberke, seconded by Dave Lewis.

 Mark Lewis brought to the attention of the congregation that the church needed to have the furnaces repaired 3 times in two weeks. It was discussed that the furnaces were over 2 years old and we may need to have all the furnaces replaced. One of the furnaces has a cracked heat exchanger and will need to be replaced. There was also discussion that the pipes could freeze if the situation was not looked into.

Ellen Olson moved that we get quotes from some companies for new furnaces, John Egeland seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

 Wendy Ringgenberg noted that Service Legends had a promotion at this time that if you buy an air conditioner you get a furnace free. It was proposed that we have Service Legends provide a bid.

 John Lekwa of Lekwa Heating and Cooling has been servicing the furnaces for the past many years. We will ask them provide a bid for the new furnaces and review the air conditioners too.

 Pastor Marcia motioned for the approval of the 2018 Ballot. Wendy Dubberke amended the ballot to include the Memorial Treasurer be Wendy and Randy Dubberke. Pastor Marcia then motioned for the approval of the amended ballot and seconded by Dave Lewis, with approval of all ayes by the congregation.

It was proposed that the meeting be left open until the bids for the furnace were available and could be presented to the congregation. All agreed to this proposal. At 11:26 AM President Mark Lewis declared that the meeting would be left open until a time that the meeting will reconvene to discuss the furnaces and the cost of the replacements.

 Respectfully submitted by

Eileen Lewis, Church Secretary

**Activities for the Month of February**

**Sunday** 9:15 Sunday School

**Feb 4** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

**Feb 6** 5:00 PM Food Pantry

**Wednesday**

**Feb 7** 6:00 PM Confirmation

**Sunday** 9:15 Sunday School

**Feb 11** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

**Feb 13** 5:00 PM Food Pantry

**Wednesday Ash Wednesday**

**Feb 14**  6:30 Worship Service

**Saturday Lenten Service**

**Feb 17** 7PM Nord-Kalsum Huxley

**Sunday** 9:15 Sunday School

**Feb 18** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

**Feb 20** 5:00 PM Food Pantry

**Wednesday**

**Feb 21**  6:00 PM Confirmation

**Saturday Lenten Service**

**Feb 24** 7PM Ballard West in Slater

**Sunday** 9:15 Sunday School

**Feb 25** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

**Feb 27** 5:00 PM Food Pantry

**Wednesday**

**Feb 28**  6:00 PM Confirmation

**Saturday Lenten Service**

**Mar 3** 7PM Ballard Creek Huxley

**Sunday** 9:15 Sunday School

**March 4** 10:15 AM Worship

**Upcoming Events**

February 4th Dedication of the Church Council during Worship

February 14th 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service

February 18th Council Retreat following Worship

March 2nd Dress Rehearsal performance of A Bad Year for Tomatoes

March 3rd Dinner and performance of A Bad Year for Tomatoes at Community Center

March 4th Matinee performance of A Bad Year for Tomatoes

March 25th Bowling and Pizza Party

