**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 2020**

Nazareth Lutheran Church

517 Vine St

PO Box 227

Cambridge IA 50046

From the Pastor



The following is a sermon from February 2, 2020 and I wish to ask all of you to remember to pray for all those who have cancer.

*Sermon on the Mount/The Beatitudes*

***5****When Jesus[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5%3A1-12&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-23236a)*] saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.****2****Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:* ***3****“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* ***4****“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.* ***5****“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.* ***6****“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.* ***7****“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.* ***8****“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.* ***9****“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.* ***10****“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* ***11****“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely[*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5%3A1-12&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-23246b)*] on my account.****12****Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5: 1-12*

I remind you that the Sermon on the Mount makes more sense to the peasants in the 1st century, to the refugees fleeing violence, and to hungry children who know the raw ache of an empty stomach than to those of us who live with more privilege. Jesus speaks directly to those who suffer and makes the promises that he shared in the Sermon on the Mount. Over and over I’ve read this sermon and as much as I try I don’t feel I can relate to any of those Jesus is speaking too… But, there are some of those among us who do suffer, who do mourn, who are poor, who are meek, who are sick…the question remains whether we will promise Jesus not only with our words but also with our actions.

For several years I have felt overwhelmed by all those family and friends who have lived and died with Cancer. My brother lived with his cancer for 4 years but finally he shared with all of us that he was tired and checked himself into hospice. It tore up my older brother who was the caregiver. Each of us is touched by someone with cancer or we ourselves are fighting.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus promises us he will be with all who suffer, mourn, and are poor, meek and those who are sick. What action can we take? I suggest the action of prayer. I’m asking all of us spend some time helping those battling and living with cancer. The first step for each of us is to pray for all with cancer and then asking God to lead each of us to action by helping in other ways. One suggestion might be giving rides to those who have to go to doctor appointments. But most important to pray and then we wait for God to give us a sign to take more action.

I found a prayer book for us to use on Sunday’s titled “One minute Prayers for those with Cancer” by Nick Harrison. For us at church I will read scripture, short meditation, and a prayer for those with cancer. This week is the following.

# Scripture*: 8Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. 2 Corinthians 12: 8-9*

# Meditation: Will prayer heal our cancer? That’s the unspoken question we all have when the cancer journey hits a rough patch. Will we recover? Or is this God’s way of taking us home? If we can set these questions aside and simply pray with the faith we have, leaving the rest ot God, we will do well. Paul prayed for deliverance from his thorn in the flesh, and God’s response was to remind Paul that God’s grace was sufficient to help him bear the thorn.

Prayer: God, like Paul, I pray with a measure of faith for you to remove all cancer, whether through the treatments doctors have ordered or by any other means. Lord, I pray for healing for all with cancer. Amen.

And let us pray each day for those suffering and in pain that God grants them healing, peace, and love. Then remember verse 12 from the gospel of Matthew because of our actions we can “rejoice and be glad, for our reward is great in heaven…”

**In Our Prayers This Month**

Pastor Melisa Bracht-Wagner, Brandon Sorenson, Jean Olson, John Leoni, Tim Barker, Dale Dunlap, Amy Chapin, Lori Ness, Shari Kisner, Jessyca Hovland, Liam Griggs, Neal Hovland, Eva Mae Sampson, Mary Ann Apland, Max Dobson, Scott, John, Janet & Roger Thorsen, all the Veterans, and active military especially Taylor Bartleson, Alex Kuberry, Winter and Jackson Ringgenberg.

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

**Sunday School**

We are trying a new way to teach Sunday school. Think back and think what do you remember about Sunday school and the Bible? There are certain verses, but there are also the stories. The story of Joseph and his brothers, Daniel and the Lion, Noah, Adam and Eve, etc.

We are going to teach the children these stories. The children also love to perform in the Christmas pageant. To teach them and help them remember we are going to have little plays or skits to help the children learn.

Our first performance will be on February 9th during worship service. The story we are learning is about Zaccheus. The story is based on the song “Zaccheus Was a Wee Little Man”. We are presenting our second skit on April 5th Palm Sunday. That story is Jesus’ Journey to Jerusalem.

We hope that you will come to see our children learn about these Bible Stories. We will also be talking for new stories to teach.

**Kumla Dinner**

Today is January 31st. Tomorrow night is the 1st Kumla dinner. How will it go? Will it be a success, or will we have a lot of Kumla balls left over? We have about 30 reservations as of right now, at $8.00 each. That is more than we spent on the groceries needed, so that means it is a financial success. But how many other people will come? Will we have a lot of leftovers? I bought 100 pounds of potatoes. So that’s a lot of leftovers!

If you are reading this and it is Saturday before 7:00 PM, it is still time to come and have some Kumla. Tickets at the door are $10.00. If it is Sunday come and get some leftovers. Call us at church and we will pack up some leftovers for you.

**Weekly Income for December and January**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| December | Offering | | Attendance |
| 12/1 | | $ 1,819.00 | 25 |
| 12/8 | | $ 1,055.00 | 32 |
| 12/15 | | $ 2,036.00 | 25 |
| 12/22 | | $ 1,566.25 | 64 |
| 12/24 Christmas Eve | | $ 1,537.00 | 50 |
| 12/25 Christmas Day | | $ 219.00 | 20 |
| 12/29 | | $ 730.00 | 29 |
| Total | | $ 3,366.00 |  |

In December your church needed $5,495.83 monthly to meet budget and does so through your generous giving.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| January | Offering | Attendance |
| 1/5 | $ 3,225.00 | 24 |
| 1/12 | $ 935.00 | 22 |
| 1/19 | $ 407.00 | 17 |
| 1/26 | $ 627.00 | 23 |
| Total | $ 5,194.00 |  |

Now in January the church needs $5,587.50 monthly to meet budget and does so through your generous giving.

**Nazareth Lutheran Church Council**

**Sunday, December 15, 2019**

Meeting of NLC Council was called to order in Jesus’s name at 11:29 by President Mark following fellowship. Present for the meeting were Mark Lewis, Dave Lewis, Lisa Smith, Nathan Hovland, John Egeland, Vince Tomlinson, Pastor Marcia, Joyce Allen and Church Secretary Eileen Lewis. Minutes from the November 17, 2019 meeting were approved as read.

**Treasurer’s Report**: Very happy, and relieved, to report we had a much better month. Deposits ($5,605.33) were greater than disbursements ($4,561.44), thanks in part to the hard work of the “church ladies” who were very busy mixing, rolling, and baking mass quantities of Kringla, Lefsa, and even a couple dozen Krum Kakas. In all, 19 dozen Kringlas were purchased, along with six dozen Lefsa, and two dozen Krum Kakas, which totaled $683.00 extra in the bank. $233.00 was also deposited from Don Rohde’s Memorial. $80.00 was collected and donated to Hope Ministries, and $8.33 came from Amazon Smile. So, our meager little opening balance of $55.63 now stands at $1,099.52 without any help from the Capital Improvement Fund, with its balance of $11,210.20. SCRIP’s opening balance of $732.80 received a deposit of $700, but disbursements of $727.50 leaving a balance of $705.30, and our Savings is $420.70 after earning .03 in interest.

**Pastor’s Report**: Pastor Marcia visited Arnie Pearson three times, mainly sitting with him and reading scripture, and took him to the lobby one evening to listen to carolers. He didn’t say much but seemed content. She’s also been busy with the Christmas play that will be presented during service on December 22, and is looking forward to soon baptizing a few little girls.

A group of six got together on Wednesday, December 11 to meet for dinner at Perkins in Ankeny, then drove to Altoona to enjoy the Jolly Holiday lights, followed by a tour of Ankeny looking for Gingerbread Lane’s neighborhood light display. Along with Pastor Marcia, Vince, Lisa, Jean, and Joyce appreciated Nathan’s chauffeuring.

Pastor will be gone on January 5th, so Steve will continue December’s storytelling tradition and depict his version of the feeding of the 5,000, and no communion will be served. Lastly, cake will be served on Sunday, December 29, in a “no fuss” celebration of Jean Rohde’s and Pat Bartleson’s 80th birthdays which will be in January.

**Committee Reports**:

**Property**: Pastor reported leaky bathroom faucets at the Parsonage, so John and Vince will meet her there at 1:00 on Wednesday to swipe the leaky faucets out for new, leak-free ones.

**Christian Ed**: Lots of little angels are showing up for Christmas play rehearsals.

**Stewardship**: Plans are in the works for a Kumla dinner on Saturday, February 1 from 5:00 – 7:00. Menu will consist of Kumla, of course, along with ham, green beans, a salad, and Kringla or maybe Krum Kaka for dessert. Drinks will consist of milk, water, lemonade, and maybe beer. Advanced tickets will be $8.00 for adults and $5.00 for kids, and $10.00 and $8.00 respectively at the door. Advertising will be done on social media, and various churches in and around Cambridge will be notified. However, where the event will take place wasn’t mentioned?...

**In reach / outreach**: Pastor Marcia will be a keynote speaker at a fellow pastor’s retirement, with “squirrel!” being a running gag (think Dog in the movie “Up”).

**Music and Worship**: Music is covered for Advent and Christmas, but not much else beyond.

**Old Business**: Eileen turned over the letter received last month from the neighbors with the water leak to NLC’s insurance company. They tried to contact the neighbor’s attorney five times with no response. She also found the schematics to the water pipes and tiling that prove the leak does not involve Nazareth.

**New Business**: The council will ask Ray and Wendy to do the yearly audit again before the Annual Meeting next month, and discussion given about special offerings. We will continue with the same donations as last year, but Pastor would like to donate to Heifer International during Lent. Eileen asked if any council members wished to step down next year. All stated they will remain, but Lisa stated Tim’s name probably should be removed since he is unable to attend most of the time. Pastor would rather his name remain on the Silent Auction letter since he approaches so many businesses for donations. It was decided no new Council members are needed at this time, but if anyone would like to join us, they certainly wouldn’t be turned away!

Discussion then turned to Dave Lewis’s salary for cleaning the church. It’s been a flat fee of $150 a month for cleaning every Sunday, but sometimes there are five Sundays in a month. Motion made by Pastor Marcia to compensate Dave for an extra day on those months, and seconded by Lisa. Motion carried.

Lastly, it was discussed last month that a new stove was needed in the basement, and Don Rohde’s Memorial Fund would be used to that end. However, Don’s son purchased a new stove and donated his old one to us, so for now the money will be set aside until we know where it can best be utilized.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 12:18 by President Mark Lewis and closed with The Lord’s Prayer. Respectfully submitted by Joyce Allen, Council Secretary.

**Minutes of the 2019 Nazareth Lutheran Church**

**Congregational Annual Meeting**

**Sunday, January 19, 2020**

President Mark Lewis called the meeting to order at 11:12, and Mark Lewis opened with a reading called “Your Parents” about remembering and honoring your parents from the book “Remember the Promise” by Alvin N Rogness. 11 voting members of the congregation were present for the meeting.

John Egeland motioned to accept the agenda and Dave Lewis seconded the motion. The Agenda was approved. Eileen Lewis, administrative assistant, read the minutes of the 2018 meeting and there were no correction to the minutes. The minutes were approved as read.

Eileen Lewis advised that the Memorial Fund report showed a miscellaneous deposit in the amount of $1,481.69. This deposit was from the WELCA group that had disbanded. She also indicated that Wendy and Randy Dubberke were stepping down as the Memorial Fund treasurers. Dave Lewis moved to accept the Committee Reports, Lisa Smith seconded the motion. The reports were approved as presented by the congregation with all ayes.

**Old Business:** Nothing to report.

**New Business:**

In the 2018 annual meeting the Synod Mission support was proposed $1,000. Although the 2019 Mission Support was not met it was not proposed that the general fund make up the difference as had been done in the past. John Egeland 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. Pastor Marcia proposed special offerings be taken up for the Cross Your Hearts Mission and Feel Better Friends Mission. Discussion ensued that this would be allowed, but not need to be designated. The special donations could occur and would be announced to the congregation at those times. John Egeland proposed and Dave Lewis moved to accept the designation of offerings, and the motion was carried.

The 2019 budget was approved by a motion from John Egeland, seconded by Lisa Smith, and approved.

Pastor Marcia motioned for the approval of the 2018 Ballot. Lisa Smith seconded the motion; it was approved with all ayes by the congregation.

The meeting was ended at 11:29. Respectfully submitted by

Eileen Lewis,Administrative Assistant



**January 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

1 Pat Bartleson 8 Jane Rohde

11 Joyce Allen 18 Lerin Dubberke Hermson

22 Elaine Barker 27 Jamie Lewis

30 Haylee Hoveland

**February Birthdays**

1 Vince Tomlinson 10 Pastor Marcia

11 Mark Lewis 17 Dale Dunlap

27 Lisa Smith

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.

**Upcoming Worship Volunteers**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| February | Greeters/Ushers | Lector | Alter Guild |
| 2/2 | Mark | Mark | Kevin |
| 2/9 | Mike | Mike | Lisa |
| 2/16 | Nathan | Eileen | Mark |
| 2/23 | Ray | Ray | Mike |
| 2/26 Ash Wed | Steve | Steve | Nathan |
| March | Greeters/Ushers | Lector | Alter Guild |
| 3/1 | Vince | Vince | Steve |
| 3/8 | Dave | Wendy | Vince |
| 3/15 | Doug | Eileen | Wendy |
| 3/22 | John | Ellen | Dale |
| 3/19 | Kevin | John | Jessica |
| April | Greeters/Ushers | Lector | Alter Guild |
| 4/5 | Mark | Joyce | John |
| 4/9 Holy Thurs | Mike | Mark | Joyce |
| 4/10 Good Friday | Nathan |  |  |
| 4/12 Easter | Ray | Mike | Kevin |
| 4/19 | Steve | Nathan | Lisa |
| 4/26 | Vince | Ray | Mark |

**Activities for the Month of February**

**Saturday**

**Feb 1:** 5 -7 Kumla Dinner

**Sunday** 9:30 AM Sunday School

**Feb 2:** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

**Feb 4:** 5:00 PM Food Pantry

**Sunday** 9:30 AM Sunday School

**Feb 9:** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

**Feb 11:** 5:00 PM Food Pantry

**Sunday** Christmas Program

**Feb 16:** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

**Feb 18:** 5:00 PM Food Pantry

**Sunday**

**Feb 23:** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

**Feb 25:** 5:00 PM Food Pantry

**Wednesday** Ash Wednesday

Feb 26: 6:30 PM Worship

**Sunday**

**March 1:** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

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

**Lenten Special Contributions**

During Lent we will be taking special collections and donating it Heifer International. Heifer International purchases farm animals and donates them to people in areas of the world that need to learn and to get a head start in caring for themselves.

