**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**

**June 2020**

Nazareth Lutheran Church

517 Vine St

PO Box 227

Cambridge IA 50046

From the Pastor

Colossians 3:12-14 *Therefore as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together.*

How are you doing? It has been over two months since we have gathered at the building we lovingly know as Nazareth Lutheran Church. But I know we have gathered in our hearts, minds, Facebook, zoom, texts, and on the phone. Yet, I still miss you.

Today, I am sharing with you stories from the pandemic. When we decided not to have worship in the building my heart sank. What were we to do? What was I to do as pastor? I called you and the church council. I called my pastor friends. We decided to film the sermon. I did it by myself. Soon after I received a text from a pastor friends. She thanked me for sharing the gospel but perhaps I could lift up the camera because my nostrils were the item she kept staring at during my message. Thank you Sheila Duhn for playing hymns to distract from my nostrils. So the next week I asked Nathan Hovland to help film. He put the phone on a board and attached it to a tripod. He is so creative. For the past 8 weeks we have gotten better. I did order a camcorder to record worship so we are going continue to post worship even after the pandemic.

The ministry of visiting during the pandemic is hard. I used the telephone and texting at first but I missed seeing people. After Easter I delivered Easter baskets to children and some of our “older” children. Elaine Barker met me at her front door and had put a mask on the handle. My first mask. Since then I have received eight others - thank you Jane Rohde, Wendy Ringgenberg, Ellen Olson, Heather Roberts and Robin Coughennower. I wear them and remember each of you thinking of my safety and those I meet along the way. One of my favorite visits has been 15 minutes, 6 feet apart on the driveway.

Thank you Mark Lewis for making so much Kringla. I bought several dozen and stopped by neighbors to share this delicacy with them. The neighborhood has two new neighbors and a family that walks by the church that I have met. I call it the ministry of sharing a treat.

Tears seem to flow more freely these days. Thinking of all those who have lost their lives - young and old to corona-virus. I can't imagine not being able to breath without help from a machine. Also, many tears flow for those beloved friends who are so vulnerable. If they get the virus they do not have the ability to fight it. And there are those who don’t understand and are careless and cavalier around them. Through my tears are fear for these dear friends.

Preaching during the pandemic has been such a learning experience. I would look around the empty church and preach to the three people with me, it made them very uncomfortable. Finally, I just decided to preach to the camera and think of all of you. So when I see your names on Facebook watching the service I think of you and preach to you. Thank you for watching and praying with me, and helping me get through preaching to the camera.

Even prayer is different during the pandemic. I wake in the morning with all those who are struggling with health, life, death, unemployment, family issues, and fear on my mind and in my prayers. I continually ask Jesus for help with my own fear. But it is hard.

When do we come back? The church council decided to have an outdoor service on June 7 in front of the church. If you do not feel ready please stay home. We will attempt to film and put it on Facebook. We walk slowly towards our new normal ...masks and social distancing. We are hoping that we will have sunny skies to welcome us back together.

I had a most unusual conversation with a Cambridge community member. He called to ask a question about Memorial Day service in the cemetery. The question he asked was most puzzling. He said, “Are you working?” The question stung but I tried to answer without being hurt. I told him yes we are still doing ministry but it doesn’t look the same. We worship on line, I pray, and I am in contact with the disciples of God’s church. It reminded me of Bishop Elizabeth Easton on interview on CNN saying, *“the church is not closed. We still worship, pray, feed the hungry, cloth the naked, and visit the sick. The Ministry looks differently.”* Please know that I am praying for each of you. I am your pastor and the Holy Spirit is guiding you and me towards our walk with Jesus.

So please remember Colossians and live this new ministry as we should and can with Jesus at our sides. *“Therefore as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together.”* Colossians 3:12-14

**In Our Prayers This Month**

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

All people with cancer, Allan Duhn, 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 Veterans, & active military especially Taylor Bartleson, Alex Kuberry, Jackson and Winter Ringgenberg.

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

**Income for Last Quarter**

Total for the months

March $ 7,329.02

April $ 5,569.94

May $ 4,942.00

Forgivable Loan $10,237.50

The church needs $5,587.50 monthly to meet budget and does so through your generous giving.

**Nazareth Lutheran Church Council**

There was not a meeting in May, however here is a bit of information about the forgivable loan mentioned above.

 The Small Business Administration (SBA) offered a Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) forgivable loan. This money was to cover salaries, benefits, utilities and other expenses that are to be paid out over the course of a 10 week period. Lisa Smith applied for the loan at the end of April and we received the funds the first of May.

These funds will help compensate for the loss of offerings and the funds we will miss from the silent auction. The loan has certain requirements to be forgivable, but please know that the church council will make sure that all of the requirements are met.

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A little girl finally got to attend a wedding for the first time. While in the church, the girl asked her mother: “Why is the bride dressed in white?” The mother replied to the girl: “because white is the color of happiness and it’s the happiest day of her life today.”

After a little bit, the girl looks up at her mother and says: “But, then why is the groom wearing black?”

**Cambridge Food Assistance**

 Little Free Pantry is across the street to the south of the Methodist church. And it has been getting quite a bit of use! We have had many mornings when we find it empty.

 If you can help fill it with any items, that would be appreciated! Suggestions: canned goods, microwave macaroni and cheese, Hamburger helper or Tuna helper, cereal (individual sized boxes or full sized), breakfast bars/granola bars.

 The Food Pantry has also been busy. We have gotten two grants recently from United Way of Story County, so we have been able to purchase some extra items such as Band-Aids, peroxide, coffee, coffee filters, and condiments.

 Some additional food donations would be helpful. Don’t forget any fruit or produce from your garden is gladly accepted.

 We are thankful for your donations as well!

**Coronavirus News**

 We are planning to start having Sunday worship on June 7, 2020. We are going to have worship outside (weather permitting). Please bring a lounge chair or we will have folding chairs too. If we will be having worship inside, we will have assigned seating. We are also going to have masks available.

           The Synod has advised that the ELCA churches not have communion until July or later in the summer. So we are not planning on having communion during June, we are still working on the best and safest way to share in communion.

           We will continue to have fellowship time after worship on Sundays, although we will not be having food. We still want to have the conversation and the ability to interact with each other.

           Please know that we would love to see you, but if you do not feel comfortable coming, we understand. If you feel like driving by and waving to us, please do!

           We can’t wait to see you again!

**Upcoming Worship Volunteers**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| June | Greeters/Ushers | Lector | Alter Guild |
| 6/7 | Mike | John | Jessica |
| 6/14 | Nathan | Joyce | Jane |
| 6/21 | Ray | Mark | John |
| 6/28 | Steve | Mike | Joyce |
| July | Greeters/Ushers | Lector | Alter Guild |
| 7/5 | Vince | Nathan | Kevin |
| 7/12 | Dave | Dave | Lisa |
| 7/19 | Doug | Doug | Mark |
| 7/26 | John | Vince | Mike |
| August | Greeters/Ushers | Lector | Alter Guild |
| 8/2 | Kevin | Wendy | Nathan |
| 8/9 | Mark | Eileen | Steve |
| 8/16 | Mike | Ellen | Vince |
| 8/23 | Nathan | John | Wendy |
| 8/30 | Ray | Joyce | Dale |

**Pew Cushions**

The order for the pew cushions have been put on hold until further notice.

With the cost for the cushions for the long pews ranges from $255.00 to $265.00 and for the shorter pews $175.00 to $185.00. We will be taking up collections for the cushions.

Donations can be sent to Nazareth P O Box 227, Cambridge IA 50046. Please add the note Pew Cushion in the memo section.

**![C:\Users\Marcia\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\0WYCLSVO\happy_birthday_balloons[1].jpg]()June 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

6 Sara Olson 10 Emily Larkin Luke

10 Olaf Espinosa 13 Wade Grauerholz

13 Nathan Hovland 15 Eileen Lewis

20 Sheila Duhn 22 Holly Larkin

26 Mava Lewis 26 Xavier Hovland-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.

**Activities for the Month of June**

**Tuesday**

**June2:** 5:00 PM Food Pantry

**Sunday**

**June7:** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

**June 9:** 5:00 PM Food Pantry

**Sunday**

**June14:** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

**June16:** 5:00 PM Food Pantry

**Sunday**

**June 21:** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

**June23:** 5:00 PM Food Pantry

**Sunday**

**June 28:** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

**June 30:** 5:00 PM Food Pantry

**Some funnies to brighten your week**

1. Shortly after tying the knot, a young married couple started arguing over who should make the coffee. Being a good Christian woman, the wife went to the scriptures for her answer. She said that the Bible specifically stated that men should be the ones to make the coffee.

Puzzled, the husband asked her where in the Bible it said that. Very confidently, the wife opened up her Bible and said: “It’s right here—HEBREWS.”

2. Where was Solomon’s temple located? – On the side of his head. Duh!

3. After having children, Adam and Eve started getting a lot of questions from their kids about why they no longer lived in Eden. Adam has a simple answer for this: “Your mother ate us out of house and home.”

4. What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth? Answer: He was Ruthless.

5. A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom as the children drew pictures. The teacher would occasionally walk around and see each child’s artwork. As she approached one little girl who was working especially hard, she asked what the drawing was.

The little girl told her: “I’m drawing God!”

“But sweetie,” the teacher replied, “no one actually knows what God looks like.”

Without even looking up the little girl continued drawing and said: “well, they certainly will in a minute!”

6. The Pastor came to visit the other day. He said that at my advanced age I should be thinking of the hereafter.

I told him, "Oh, I do it all the time."

"No matter where I am - in the living room, upstairs, in the kitchen, or down in the basement, I am always asking myself: 'Now, what am I here after?'"

7. Ten Reasons Eve Was Created

10. God was worried that Adam would frequently become lost in the garden because he would not ask for directions.

9. God knew that one day Adam would require someone to locate and hand him the remote.

8. God knew Adam would never go out and buy himself a new fig leaf when his wore out and would therefore need Eve to buy one for him.

7. God knew Adam would never be able to make a doctor's, dentist, or haircut appointment for himself.

6. God knew Adam would never remember which night to put the garbage on the curb.

5. God knew if the world was to be populated, men would never be able to handle the pain and discomfort of childbearing.

4. As the Keeper of the Garden, Adam would never remember where he left his tools.

3. Apparently, Adam needed someone to blame his troubles on when God caught him hiding in the garden.

2. As the Bible says, It is not good for man to be alone!

1. When God finished the creation of Adam, He stepped back, scratched his head, and said, "I can do better than that."