**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**

**March 2018**

**From the Pastor**

* As you read this in the newsletter there is still time to come to see “A Bad Year for Tomatoes” at the City Center on March 2, 3, and 4 in downtown Cambridge. The dinner and play is on Saturday, March 3rd. Dinner begins at 6pm and play begins at 7:30pm. We hope you will join us. All the funds raised will go to the Bell Tower. If you cannot make the dinner or any of the performances please feel free to make a donation in care of the %Bell Tower Fundraiser, Nazareth Lutheran Church, Box 227, Cambridge, Iowa 50046. Thank you so very much.
* As we continue through Lent please consider participating in our “Bits and Pieces” ministry. For years I have contributed to Feel Better Friends, who crochet dolls for children who have cancer and/or children who are gravely ill. They are always in need of yarn. We have a box at church that I hope we can fill with yarn, even bits and pieces of yarn, to send to this organization. Or if you wish to make a monetary donation I will be sending funds with the yarn. If you wish to look at more about this organization, Feel Better Friends, go to their web site fbfdolls.org. It is always a wonderful way to journey through Lent by helping others.
* Finally, please join us for the remaining Sunday’s during Lent - March 4, 11, and 18. Our theme is “We are Called… to worship, to pray, to sing, and to dance”. During our children’s message puppet Harold is learning more about Lent and helping teach the children a song “Clap Your Hands.” It is a joyous time to help our children and we learn more about Lent and more about worship, prayer, singing, and dancing together. We hope to see you Sunday. Blessings.

**In Our Prayers This Week:**

Rick McQuistor and family, 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.

**March Birthdays**

2 Lyn Hook 2 Easton Moody

7 Becky Lewis 7 Quenton Ullom

8 Caden Hasbrouck 10 Wendy Ringgenberg

18 Taylor Larkin

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.

**Weekly Income for January and February**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| January |  Offering  | Attendence |
| 1/7 |  $1,795.00  | 19 |
| 1/14 |  $ 287.00  | 13 |
| 1/21 |  $ 780.00  | 24 |
| 1/28 |  $1,235.00  | 20 |
| Total | $4,097.00 |  |
| February |  Offering  | Attendence |
| 2/4 |  $2,170.00  | 19 |
| 2/11 |  $ 205.00  | 16 |
| 2/14 Ash Wednesday |   | Illness |
| 2/18 |  $ 885.00  | 23 |
| 2/25 |   |   |
| Total | $3,260.00 |  |

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

**Learning our Faith**

Sunday School continues with the Children and Adult Sunday School is at 9:15 each Sunday. It is fun to see the children learn from the other adults. We also have found that the children have a lot to teach us about Jesus and Faith. One 5 year old said when her great uncle died, “Did Jesus come and pick him up from the hospital and take him home?” Ok maybe there is a little more to go there, but it is awe inspiring to see that 5 year old make the connection that we will be with Jesus after death.

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!

**Confirmation**

Confirmation is on Wednesday evening at 6:30 PM. We have a number of students that are preparing for confirmation, and a number of students that will be continuing on for their second year. It is fun to watch the students prepare to become adults in our congregation.

Confirmation is scheduled for Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018.

**Prayer of the Day**

We are thankful our promise is Jesus, our Savior is Jesus, and our future is Jesus.

For every mountain that is high, **He is higher**

For every burden that is great, **He is greater**

For every valley that is deep, **He is deeper still**

For every fear that closes in, **He is closer**

For every doubt that comes on strong, **He is stronger**

For every battle that we face, **He has conquered all**

**During this upcoming year, whatever you may be facing, we pray you will cling to the truth and hope that is Jesus.**

**Thrivent Choice Dollars**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Since 2010, over $370 million has been distributed to thousands of churches, schools, and other nonprofits just like yours through Thrivent Choice®. Through this program, eligible members can recommend where Thrivent donates millions of charitable outreach dollars each year.

**We are excited to share, based on member recommendations, Nazareth Lutheran Church received $181 in charitable outreach funding in 2017. We hope this gift helped to further support your incredible work.**

 All 2017 Choice Dollars® have been made available for members to direct. We encourage you to contact your Thrivent Representative to direct now. Go to  [Thrivent.com](http://links.members.thrivent.com/ctt?kn=1&ms=MTI4NTYwODkS1&r=MjE5OTQ0MjM1ODc5S0&b=0&j=MTM0MDA2NTYwMwS2&mt=1&rt=0" \t "_blank) to easily direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Nazareth Lutheran Church.

As a reminder, 2017 Choice Dollars expire on March 31, 2018.

**Holy Week Schedule**

Holy Week and Easter are Early this year. Palm Sunday and Holy Week is March 25 – March 31st.

 It is hard to believe that we are sneaking up on the middle of Lent and we are already planning the Easter Services. Here is the schedule for the week:

 March 25 Palm Sunday Worship at 10:15 AM

 March 29 Maundy Thursday Worship at 6:30 PM

 March 30 Good Friday Worship at 6:30 PM

 April 1 Easter Easter Breakfast at 8:30 AM

 Followed by the Easter Egg Hunt @ 9:15 AM

 Easter Worship Service at 10:15 AM

**Upcoming Worship Volunteers**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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 |   |
| May | Greeters/Ushers | Lector | Alter Guild |
| 5/6 | Vince Tomlinson Family | Maria T | Dale D |
| 5/13 | John Egeland and Dave Lewis | Mark L |   |
| 5/20 | Nathan Hovland and Kevin Lewis | Mike L |   |
| 5/27 | Doug Larkin Family | Nathan H | John E |

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3

**Nazareth Lutheran Church presents:**

**“A Bad Year for Tomatoes”**



 The play is about what happens in a small New England town called Beaver Haven after the famous actress Myra Marlowe comes to town. This is a comedy that has sister rivalry, jealousy, love and murder all rolled up into one hilarious evening of entertainment! This will be an evening’s entertainment well worth seeing.

 On Saturday March 3 at 6:00 PM we will be serving dinner before the play and the play will be at 7:30 PM with an intermission. The cost for dinner and the show will be $20.00. You can call and make a reservation for the dinner, please call 515-383-or you can pay at the door.

 We will also be having a Matinee showing on Sunday March 4 at 2:00 PM. The cost for the Matinee is $10.00.

 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, February 18, 2018**

Meeting was called to order by President Mark Lewis at 11:24 AM following fellowship. Present for the meeting were Mark Lewis, Steve Lewis, Dave Lewis, Nathan Hovland, John Egeland, Pastor Marcia, Joyce Allen and Church Secretary Eileen Lewis. Minutes from the December 17, 2017 meeting were approved as read.

**Treasurer’s Report:** General Fund balance as of 1/1/18 was $7,657.95. Sadly, the disbursements exceeded the deposits by $2,615.58 ($6,793.27 and $4,177.69 respectively) but happily, the ending balance is $5,042.37, with no transfer from the Capital Investment Fund. Its balance is $6,696.76 after gaining .57 in interest. Savings is $419.92, including its .04 gained in interest. SCRIP began the month at $577.59 and ended in $1,727.59, but no disbursements were done, which will change soon.

**Pastor’s Report:** Pastor had a very trying week after being plagued with the flu, strep throat and pink eye, but prayers helped, which she appreciated. She will be doing a wedding at Nazareth on August 24th, and has enjoyed working on the play. Bible study will resume on Wednesday, March 7th, after the play closes. She also has been busy with a “Bits and Pieces” ministry, where contributions are taken for “bits and pieces of yarn” for a woman who uses them to crochet dolls for children in the hospital. She will present the same ministry to the children at Miss Wendy’s when they get to the letter Y. Easter Sunday will be Confirmation Sunday. ( And yes, also April Fool’s Day.)

**Committee Reports:**

**Property:** Yes, the fascia that blew off of the front of the parsonage has been replaced, but the broken hydraulic on the back door still remains. Maybe when the weather gets better? A couple estimates were given to repair the three church furnaces and two air conditioners. Service Legends wants $24,000 to replace them, but Lekwa will come out and give us an estimate for repair. It is still under its last year of warranty, so the cost should only be for labor.

**Christian Ed:** As stated in Pastor’s report, Bible study will resume March 7.

**Stewardship:** Still in the green

**In reach / outreach:** Fireman’s Days was rumored to be a pass this year, but the powers that be did decide to hold it again this year, the 2nd weekend in June as usual. No planning meetings have been held yet. The silent auction may be moved from Fireman’s Days to the Jeep Event, since last year over 2,000 people were in attendance. In addition, we now have the means to accept credit cards, making it easier for customers to be more generous.

**Music and worship:** The choir is working on a new song to be shared on Easter Sunday.

**Old Business:** Practice is coming along nicely for the play, “A Bad Year for Tomatoes” which will be presented the first weekend in March at the new Cambridge Conference Center. Planning is also coming along for the accompanying Saturday night dinner. Menu includes pork loin chops from the Ringgenbergs, cheesy potatoes, corn, rolls and dessert. (A salad will also be part of the dinner). Coffee, tea, lemonade and water will also be served. An ad for the show will be in seven different newspapers in the area at a cost of $113. Pray for a full house!

**New Business:** Nothing new to report.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 12:06 by President Mark Lewis and closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Allen, Council Secretary.

**Upcoming Events**

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 11th Council Retreat

March 25th Bowling and Pizza Party

March 25 – 31 Holy Week – See Calendar below

**Activities for the Month of March**

**Friday**

**March 2** Dress Rehersal

**Saturday**

**March 3** 6:00 PM Dinner & a Show

**Sunday** 9:15 Sunday School

**March 4** 10:15 AM Worship

 2:00 PM Matinee

**Tuesday**

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

**Wednesday**

**March 7** 6:00 PM Confirmation

**Sunday** 9:15 Sunday School

**March 11** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

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

**Wednesday**

**March 14** 6:00 PM Confirmation

**Sunday** 9:15 Sunday School

**March 18** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

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

**Wednesday**

**March 21** 6:00 PM Confirmation

**Sunday** 9:15 Sunday School

**March 25** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

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

**Wednesday**

**March 28**  6:00 PM Confirmation

**Thursday Maundy Thursday**

**March 29** 6:30 PM Worship Service

**Friday Good Friday**

**March 30** 6:30 PM service

**Sunday** 8:30 Easter Breakfast

**April 1** 9:15 Easter Egg Hunt

10:15 AM Easter Worship