**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 2020**

Nazareth Lutheran Church

517 Vine St

PO Box 227

Cambridge IA 50046

From the Pastor

*And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ…*

[*Ephesians 4:11-13*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A11-13&version=ESV)

At the beginning of our Church Council Retreat this past February, like last year, we began with the question “Who Are We?” As we spoke of our ministry throughout the year we came up with an answer to that question…it all has to do with Jesus.

We will continue with ministries such as Worship, Education, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. Also we will continue In-Reach/Out-Reach, Silent Auction, the play and dinner, and new this year, the Kumla Dinner.

And two of our newest ministries are “Feel Better Friends:” Feel Better Friends are handmade dolls stuffed with love and well wishes, crafted by volunteers and donated to children battling cancer and other illnesses. Please donate yarn.

And the “Cross Your Heart Mission:” we collect our extra change to have leather shoes made for students in Africa. During Lent we will collect for these two ministries.

We added a new ministry of making fleece tie quilts for our High School Seniors and for our Veterans in the area. If you are willing please donate 2 yards of fleece. I noticed fleece is on sale at Wal-Mart and JoAnn Fabrics. We will gather on March 14 at 9am. We hope our children will come so they can make a quilt. You can donate fleece at any time and we will store it at the church for future making quilts.

Who Are We? We belong to God and I look forward to serving our God, our congregation and loving all of God’s children.

**In Our Prayers This Month**

All people with cancer, 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.

**Sunday School**

Something new and different and very fun and educational. At Christmas we discovered our children are very good actors. They did a tremendous job telling Jesus’ birth story as angels. I was driving to my brother’s for Christmas day and I thought we should have the children act out the many Bible stories. I called Eileen and she immediately said “let’s do Zaccheus.”

So our Sunday school program began for this winter and spring and the future. We practice two Sunday’s before, learn a song, hear the story, and then act out the story. I ask adult members to participate. If you wish to be in any of our Bible plays let me know. The kids can show you their acting skills. We will also be doing a Bible story on May 10 so please mark those calendars.

On Sunday, April 5 (Palm Sunday) we will present Jesus entering Jerusalem. It will be so fun so mark your calendars. Kevin has agreed to play the donkey (yes we do have a donkey costume). Still looking for Jesus so let me know if your interested.

I know our adults are feeling left out. Currently we have coffee and conversation before church. Looking for a “good book” to read. Any suggestions. John has agreed to lead the conversation, at least I think he has agreed. He and Mark are usually here early every Sunday so would love to have you join us.

**Kumla Dinner**

The dinner was a hit!! We enjoyed some wonderful visits with friends and neighbors, learned how to make, and in some cases eat, Kumla. And we made some money. So all in all it was quite a success. Watch for the announcement of the dinner next year.

FYI - Lefsa and Kringla is still available. Call church if you would like some.

**Weekly Income for January and February**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 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 |  |
| February |  |  |
| 2/2 | $ 1,208.00 | 21 |
| 2/9 | $ 866.00 | 27 |
| 2/16 | $ 1,030.00 | 28 |
| 2/23 | $ 855.00 | 25 |
| 2/26 Ash Wednesday | $ 335.25 | 21 |
| Total | $ 4,294.25 |  |

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

**Special Prayers**

For the last few weeks we have started saying special prayers for people with cancer. Coincidentally one of our members announced last week that she and her husband are suffering through a cancer diagnosis.

Alan Duhn was diagnosed with Oral Squamous cell carcinoma. It is a mass under his tongue and attached to the jaw bone and both thyroid glands.

Alan will have surgery to remove the cancer. They will remove everything under his tongue, his thyroids and part of the jaw. Then his mouth will be reconstructed with bone and muscles from his leg and or his shoulder, depending on which is the most viable. This is an intense 12 hour surgery that will be scheduled in the next few weeks. It is very survivable.

Statuses will not be posted on Facebook, but they will welcome Facebook private messages at Sheila Duhn or Alan Duhn. Texts and mail is also welcome. Alan’s phone is 515-460-0906 and Sheila is 515-460-7988, and their address is 705 Pearl St, Cambridge IA 50046.

They have made it through the initial shock, but Alan is very sad that he won’t be going back to work. Sheila is struggling with all the details, the surgery and the after care needs of taking care of Alan.

Sheila says, “Only God knows the outcome of this, but we pray for the best and accept what we are handed.”

**Nazareth Lutheran Church Council**

**Sunday, February 16, 2020**

NLC Council meeting was called to order by President Mark Lewis at 12:03 following Fellowship lunch. Parishioners dined on ham and ham gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, and desserts of funfetti or German chocolate cake, and donuts. Present for the meeting were Mark Lewis, Dave Lewis, Vince Tomlinson, Lisa Smith, Nathan Hovland, Joyce Allen, Pastor Marcia, and Church Secretary Eileen Lewis. Minutes from the December 15 meeting were approved as read, with the correction that Jane, not Jean, was part of the Jolly Holiday Lights tour.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Deposits happily exceeded disbursements without any help from the Capital Improvement fund, thanks largely to an anonymous and very generous donation of $1500. A deposit of $245 from the Don Rohde Memorial Fund will be transferred to the Memorial Fund account but has to be done internally rather than a straight deposit. So, January’s opening balance of $5,148.33 had an additional deposit amount of $5,489.00, and disbursements of $5,363.78, including a yearly FICA amount of $693.09, left a balance of $5,253.55. Capital Improvement’s balance is $11,213.06. SCRIP opened the month with a balance of $725.30, a deposit was made of $1,000, $1,155.85 was disbursed, closing with a balance of $569.45.

**Pastor’s Report**: The Sunday School children had fun performing the Christmas play, and also enjoyed acting out the story of Zaccheus on February 9th. Thanks to Tim Smith for playing Jesus and putting some nervous little minds at ease. The next one will be on Palm Sunday, depicting Jesus’s entry into Jerusalem, and another one is planned for Mother’s Day. Maybe even another one in the fall. She’s been visiting a lot of sick people, and starting to work on the Silent Auction. Also very happy to announce that our next play, “Drinking Habits” by Tom Smith is fully cast, and rehearsals will be starting soon.

**Committee Reports**:

**Property**: The bathroom sink in the parsonage is now functioning just fine, but the kitchen drain needs attention. Also, one of the rooms in the basement needs to be gutted due to water damage, complete with tossing things into a dumpster. Discussion given as to what should be done first and how best to do what needs to be done. Add to Spring Clean-up Day.

**Christian Ed**: Pastor Marcia and John are discussing what the adult class can study next.

**In Reach / Outreach**: Vince’s Kumla dinner was a quite the success, bringing in about $600 profit and plenty of leftovers. This for sure will become an annual event. And, orders still continue to come in for the “church ladies’” Lefsa and Kringla.

**Music**: All set through Easter. Eileen found some songs in a Catholic hymnal to consider using during service.

**Worship**: Discussion given as to the best time during service to do the children’s message. Eileen suggested doing it at the end if the children are given something that is noisy and distracting, otherwise near the beginning is fine. Also, “Lamb of God” will be sung before communion.

**New Business**: An exterminator is needed! Mouse droppings are everywhere downstairs. This problem is also plaguing the Methodist Church and Food Pantry. Poison was ruled out, because the mice will ingest it, then crawl off somewhere and die, leaving an ungodly odor. (Yes, that pun was intended.) After discussing options, it was decided to try some spring-loaded traps (which Eileen will purchase) baited with peanut butter, before going to the expense of an exterminator. They will be set in the kitchen and cold room. Also discussed was organizing the cold room, placing as many items as possible into plastic, sealable (mouse-proof) tubs and getting some shelves for them. Another item for Spring Clean-up Day.

Next on the agenda was the issue of water in the basement. BAM gave the following suggestions: Replace the chutes on the downspout -- something longer that will send the water further from the foundation; a sealant (Vulcan) by the back door; a 6-foot sheet of plastic with rock around the outside wall to help with drainage; re-tuck point corner blocks. Most of these can be done by the church, with the exception of re-tucking corner blocks. However, if none of these help, BAM suggested interior tile along the north and west walls to the sump pump, which carries a $2500 minimum cost. Eileen will get the new spouts and replace the concrete blocks, yet another item for Spring Clean-up Day.

Last item of business, Ellen has volunteered to make cushions for the pews, possibly using Don Rohde’s memorial money. A company sent a flyer, and Eileen will get an estimate from them first. Otherwise, 2-inch foam and some heavy material could be used. Whether they will be sewn as one long cushion or several smaller ones will be left to Ellen. Suggestions made to start with the front pews first to get people out of the back rows, said with love.

**Yearly Planning**:

Pastor Marcia wants to continue with the theme: Remembering Who We Are. With that in mind:

February 16: Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30. Beads will be given out for necklaces or bracelets. During Lent, yarn will be collected for Feel Better Friends Ministry.

March 14: A few of us will meet at the church Saturday morning to carry on the tradition of quilt-making, but with tied fleece rather than the traditional patchwork method. These will be given to graduating seniors, the fire department, helping-hands, or anyone who needs one.

April 5: Palm Sunday play performed by the Sunday School children.

April 12: Easter Sunday. Breakfast at 8:30, egg hunt at 9:30, Service at 10:15. Breakfast will consist of biscuits and gravy, egg casseroles, cinnamon rolls, waffles, fruit salad, juice, coffee, and milk.

May 3: Ladies’ Tea and Luncheon at 2:00

May 16: Clean-Up Day with plenty of items already on the list.

June 12-14: Firemen’s Days in Cambridge. Pastor Marcia is still working on a theme if anyone has any suggestions? Also taking suggestions for the Grand Marshall.

June 12: Singing the Park

June 13: Silent Auction

July 13 – 17: VBS at the Methodist Church. Theme TBD

August 13-23: State Fair. Possible NLC day?

Aug 9, 16, 23: School Supply drive

September 13: Rally Day with potluck, horse shoes and corn hole.

October 3, 10, 17, 24: Lefsa and Kringla baking at 10:00

November 21: Cambridge Shopping Extravaganza; Lefsa / Kringla sales

November 22: Harvest of Blessing service. Offering will be donated to the Food Pantry

December 20:  Children’s Pageant during service. Play TBD. During Advent donations will be taken for Heifer International.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 12:03 by President Mark Lewis and closed with The Lord’s Prayer. Respectfully submitted by Joyce Allen, Council Secretary.

**Pew Cushions**

When Don Rhode passed away we received some memorial contributions. In discussion with Jane Rhode we all talked about a lot of different things to do with the funds. We discussed a new stove, and we were getting ready to shop, but then Jane’s son bought a new stove and donated his old one to the church.

The next idea was cushions for the pews. We really like this idea.

We have found a company that can provide the cushions to us for a very reasonable cost. Depending on the type of material the cost for the long pews ranges from $255.00 to $265.00 and for the shorter pews $175.00 to $185.00.

Unfortunately the amount of the funds that we received for Don’s memorial is not enough to allow us to get cushions for all of the pews. However, we will be taking up collections for the cushions. We are going to put a memorial label on the cushions for anyone who donates $50.00 or more if they are requested.

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



**March 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

7 Becky Lewis 7 Quenton Ullom

8 Caden Hasbrouck 10 Wendy Ringgenberg

18 Taylor Larkin 24 Janna 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.

**Upcoming Worship Volunteers**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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 March**

**Sunday** 9:30 AM Sunday School

**Mar 1:** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

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

**Sunday** 9:30 AM Sunday School

**Mar 8:** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

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

**Saturday**

**Mar 14:** 9:00 AM Tie Quilting

**Sunday** 9:30 AM Sunday School

**Mar 15:** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

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

**Sunday** 9:30 AM Sunday School

**Mar 22:** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

**Mar 24:** 5:00 PM Food Pantry

**Sunday** 9:30 AM Sunday School

**Mar 29:** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

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

**Lenten Special Contributions**

During Lent we will be taking special collections and donating it to Feel Better Friends. We will collect left over skeins of yarn and funds to help with the costs of stuffing and shipping for the dolls. Take a look at their web page. <http://fbfdolls.org/>



**Cross your Heart Mission**

The children in Africa are required to wear a uniform for school; part of that uniform is black leather shoes. These shoes are very expensive for their families in Africa. If the children don’t have the shoes they can’t go to school. To help the children get their education, this mission helps provide the required shoes.

There is a box in church for donations.