

NAZARETH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Share the Light of Christ

by Pastor Marcia Kisner

And so it begins...another year and another season of Lent. Mark these dates on your calendar for your important dates for you and your family for the upcoming season of Lent 2023. This year's theme for Lent is "share the light of Christ" that each of us needs to go out and tell the story of Jesus and how our faith story relates to our Savior's story. Here are some suggestions: invite friends and family to worship; prepare a treat for fellowship and share with people at church; share a faith story at church; share a faith story at adult Sunday school or Children's story; write a note telling someone from church you're praying for them (take a name from prayer list); and just greet and talk to someone at church that you do not know very well. Mark those calendars and see you in church...

Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday February 22, 2023. Worship at 7pm at Nazareth.

1st Sunday of Lent Worship 10:15 am 2/26

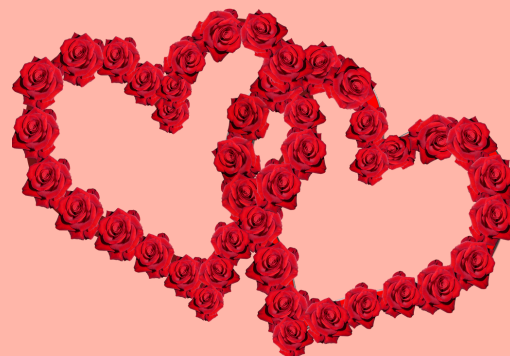
2nd Sunday of Lent Worship 10:15 am 3/5

3rd Sunday of Lent Worship 10:15 am 3/12

continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

SHARE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST	P1
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE	P2
VALENTINE DAY HISTORY	P2
SUNDAY SCHOOL	P2
WHAT WE HOLD	P3
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES	P5
VOLUNTEER CALENDAR	P6
OFFERING HISTORY	P6
CHURCH CALENDAR	P7
FUN STUFF	P7



Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Its roots lie in the ancient Jewish festival of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. Atonement means “at-one-ment.”

If we are to be one with God, with each other, we must face who we are, make our confession and open ourselves to the supportive power of God and our faith community in the Lenten struggle for new life.

On Ash Wednesday we gather in faith to make a new beginning. Though often we turn our backs on God and on each other, but God remains faithful, calling us again and again to live in fullness of grace.

In this Lenten season we walk the road to the cross with Jesus so that we might be raised with him at Easter time.

Join us for Ash Wednesday worship on February 22 at 7:00pm.



Share the Light of Light continued from page 1

4th Sunday of Lent Worship 10:15 am 3/19

5th Sunday of Lent Worship 10:15 am 3/26

Palm Sunday Worship 10:15 am 4/2

Maunday Thursday Worship 7 pm 4/6

Good Friday Worship 7 pm 4/7

Easter Sunday, April 9. Breakfast 9am; Easter Egg Hunt 9:30am; Worship 10:15 am. Baptism of Aubrey and Avery Grauerholz at morning worship.

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12

Valentine's Day History

No one knows for sure how Valentine’s Day began, but there is one story that says there was a Christian priest names Valentine who lived in Rome. This story says he helped young soldiers get married, since married men could not fight for the emperor. This angered the emperor, who had Valentine put in jail, and he was later martyred on February 14th.

The children of Rome were saddened and wrote notes saying that they love and missed him, then they pushed their notes through the prison bars. These notes were perhaps the first valentines.

Later, Pope Gelasius declared February 14 the feast day of St. Valentine. It became the day for the expression of love.

The greatest commandment says, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,” and the second is this, “love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37-39).

Sunday School

Weekly Sunday School continues each Sunday during the 11: after worship service. All children are welcome to attend. Please invite your children, grandchildren or neighborhood children to join in our Sunday School activities.

What We Hold

Special Note: This was the sermon I gave on Christmas Day, since we did not have Christmas Eve service I thought you might enjoy reading this particular sermon.

Luke 2:1-14

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

[a]

The Shepherds and the Angels

8 Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,[b] the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,[c] praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"[d]

Several weeks ago I went to a meeting with colleagues and the host Pastor shared this sermon. It was originally preached at St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Tifton, Georgia. It touched my heart and I knew I had to share it with all of you on this Christmas Day.

This may sound odd, but one of the most important things anyone ever said to me when I was still training to be a pastor was this:

"Honey, whatever that is you're doin', you gotta put it down and come hold this baby." "What?" "Put it down, and come hold this baby."

I was all of 24 years old, just two years out of college. I had just arrived and been told that the floor I would be covering was the neonatal intensive care unit. I knew nothing.

So there I was on my first day. My shiny new plastic badge. A clipboard in my hands and a

Continue on page 4

What we Hold... continued from page 3

clueless expression on my face. I had no idea what I was doing as I stood watching those nurses tending those babies who were fighting for their very lives.

So, I did what any of us would do: I tried my best to look very busy and very important. By the way, if you ever want to look very busy and very important just carry a clipboard and flip the pages up and down while you glance up and side to side. As a wise man once said, “60% of the time it works every time.” But not on this nurse.

“Honey,” she said, “whatever that is you’re doin’, you gotta put it down and come hold this baby.” “What?” “Put it down, and come hold this baby.” Before I knew it, she had physically yanked the clipboard from my hands, spun me around by my shoulders, plopped me down into a rocking chair, and placed somebody else’s baby right into my arms. “There,” she said. “If you’re gonna be that baby’s chaplain, that’s what he needs you to do.” “Uh okay,” I said, “But what else am I supposed to do?” “Nothing!” she said. “There’s nothing else you can do. You just hold him. And love him, And pray.”

Turns out, she was right. A huge part of how I learned to be a pastor was by holding babies in a hospital wing for an entire summer. The thing is, when you’re holding a baby, there really isn’t much else you can do. Aw sure, we’ve come up with all kinds of ingenious ways to try to get around that: baby wraps and baby slings... When you’re holding a baby, there’s not much else you can do . . . except just hold it, and love it, and pray.

And honestly, the baby can’t do all that much either. The two of you just sort of . . . melt into one another. You just sort of . . . exist . . . together. So, maybe—just maybe— that’s why you’re here today.

I don’t know your business. I don’t know why you think you’re here. I don’t know what you think drew you out, got you dressed, brought you to this place in the bright sunshine. I don’t know what you think it was that brought you out today, but here’s what I can tell you: I don’t think it was a Facebook ad; I don’t think it was a personal invitation; I don’t think it was tradition. Whether you know it or not, you have come here today for one thing and one thing only. You have come here to hold the Baby. Whether you know it or not, he is the One who has brought you here today, and really, there is nothing else you can do. You just hold him. And love him, and pray.

But be forewarned, my friends, for a day like this comes at great cost. To hold this Baby— this Jesus whom we proclaim — means you are going to have to put some things down. When you hold this Baby, nothing else matters. Everything else falls away. When you hold this Baby, The emperors must put down their censuses. The shepherds must put down their staffs. The judges must put down their gavels. The bankers their pencils. The farmers their plows. The surgeons their scalpels. The journalists their pens. The scholars their books. The janitors their brooms. The interns their clipboards. The leaders their egos.

When you and I hold this Baby— when we hold this Jesus—everything else must fall away: our cell phones, our distractions, our ambitions, our rights, our wrongs, our hurts, our grievances . . . our power. “Whatever that is you’re doin’, you gotta put it down and come hold this baby.”

He could have come any way he wanted. As a mighty warrior. As a fearsome beast. As a petty king with swagger, and prestige, and power. But instead, this Baby— this Jesus— came like this.

continued on P 5...

What we Hold... continued from page 4

Whatever it was he was doing, he put it down all those years ago so he could come and rest right there next to your beating heart.

So, my friends, what is it? What is it that you get to lay aside, even if just for this one day? The Creator of your soul has put down everything he had, because all he ever really wanted . . . was just to be with you. So whatever that is you're doing, put it down. Come on. Hold the Baby. There's nothing else you can do. You just hold him. And love him. And pray. Amen.

Minutes of the 2023 Nazareth Lutheran Church

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 15, 2023

The annual meeting of Nazareth Lutheran Church was called to order at 11:13 by President Mark Lewis following worship. Sixteen (16) voting members were present for the meeting, which Pastor Marcia opened with prayer after each member received a copy of the agenda, minutes, and reports. Lisa Smith motioned to accept the agenda, seconded by Vince Tomlinson. Motion carried. Ellen Olson motioned the 2022 minutes be approved as presented since all members had a copy, rather than take the time for them to be read, which was seconded by Lisa Smith. Motion carried.

Attention was then turned to Pastor's and Committee Reports. Mark Lewis thanked those who showed up to help paint the inside of the parsonage, as well as those who added a deck and ramp to the back door. John Egeland motioned accept the Pastor's / Committee Reports as presented, seconded by Joyce Allen, motion carried.

Lisa Smith presented the Treasurer's Report, explaining \$15,000 will be transferred to the Mission Investment Fund which did not yet appear in this report. The transfer is due to that account draws a higher interest rate, and checks can still be written from this account if needed.

No old business was presented, but Mark Lewis showed a sample of possible new flooring for the parsonage. It was a brown wood grain, pet and water resistant, and is to be laid everywhere but in the bathroom, which already has new linoleum after its remodel. Carpet One in Ames has it on sale for \$3.99 a square foot, same cost for installation. The area to be floored totals about 850 square feet which comes to a total of about \$6,000. Eileen Lewis is still looking for other quotes which will be presented when available. Carpet One was also asked if any further discounts are possible since it was for a church, but it didn't sound encouraging. Total cost is tax exempt, though. Lisa pointed out that the funds are available in both Capital Improvement and General Funds, so this is affordable. This proposal will need to be presented to the congregation two more times before going up for a vote. Next on the agenda for New Business was the subject of designated offerings Synod Mission. Lisa motioned the Synod Mission offering remain the same at \$1,000, but more can be added if able, as was done in 2022. Motion seconded by John Egeland, and motion carried. John Egeland moved that designated offerings remain the same as those in 2022, which is Ash Wednesday, and Maundy Thursday go to MICA, while Christmas Program, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to the General Fund. Lisa Smith seconded the motion, which carried. The 2023 budget was next on the agenda. Insurance premiums went up more than anticipated, and water / sewer / garbage are now added which was waived by the city in the past. Lisa pointed out that some of the items in the budget are donated and don't end up being an expense, such as office supplies or VBS materials, but still need to be allowed for in the budget.

continued on page 6.

Annual Meeting Minutes Continued from page 5

So the total for 2023 is \$75,270, or \$6,272.59 a month, which is an increase of \$8,720 per year. New budget total was accepted by John Egeland, seconded by Vince Tomlinson, which carried.

Finally, the officers for 2023 have remained the same again. President: Mark Lewis; Vice President: John Egeland; Secretary: Joyce Allen; Treasurer: Lisa Smith; Audit Committee: Nathan Hovland; Memorial Treasurer: Jane Rohde. Ellen Olson thanked everyone for volunteering / voluntolding their time.

Eileen Lewis reminded the congregation that Pastor Marcia is celebrating her 25th anniversary with Nazareth Lutheran Church with a party in July, which will be a roast. So gather your funny Pastor Marcia stories and let Eileen know if you'd like to serve on the "Roast Committee." More details will be released closer to July.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:31 by President Mark Lewis, followed by the closing blessing given by Pastor Marcia, and the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Allen, Council Secretary.

Volunteer Calendar

February	Greeters/Ushers	Lector	Alter Guild
2/5	Vince	Lisa	Lisa
2/12	John	Nathan	Nathan
2/19	Eileen	Sarah	Kevin
2/22 Ash Wed	Vince	John	John
2/26	Dave	Vince	Vince
March	Greeters/Ushers	Lector	Alter Guild
3/5	Kevin	Wendy	Wendy
3/12	Mark	Ellen	Dale
3/19	Nathan	Eileen	Jessica
3/26	John	Joyce	Joyce
April	Greeters/Ushers	Lector	Alter Guild
4/2 Palm Sun	Eileen	Mark	Mark
4/6 Maundy T	dave	Lisa	Lisa
4/7 Good Frid	Kevin	Multiple Readings	
4/9 Easter Sur	Mark	Nathan	Nathan
4/16	Nathan	Sarah	Kevin
4/23	Vince	Vince	Vince
4/30	John	Wendy	Wendy

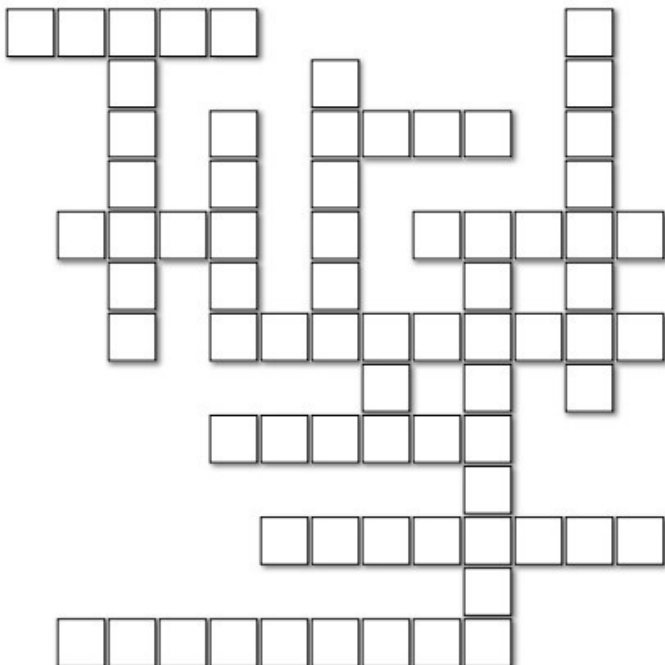
OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE

December	Offering	Attendance	January	Offering	Attendance
12/4	\$ 1,779.00	23	1/1	\$ 1,713.05	14
12/11	\$ 727.00	23	1/8	\$ 830.00	24
12/18	\$ 1,300.00	42	1/15	\$ 1,030.00	16
12/24 Christmas Eve	cancelled		1/22	\$ 366.00	14
12/25 Christmas Day	\$ 1,295.00	18	1/29	\$ 430.00	14
Total	\$ 5,101.00		Total	\$ 4,369.05	

February 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	01 02:00 pm Confirmation	02	03	04
05 09:15 am Adult Sunday 10:15 am Sunday Wors 11:15 am Children Sun	06	07 05:00 pm Food Pantry 07:15 pm Women's Bibl	08 02:00 pm Confirmation	09	10	11
12 09:15 am Adult Sunday 10:15 am Sunday Wors 11:15 am Children Sun	13	14 05:00 pm Food Pantry	15 02:00 pm Confirmation	16	17	18 04:00 pm Ham Dinner
19 09:15 am Adult Sunday 10:15 am Sunday Wors 11:15 am Children Sun	20	21 05:00 pm Food Pantry	22 02:00 pm Confirmation	23	24	25
26 09:15 am Adult Sunday 10:15 am Sunday Wors 11:15 am Children Sun	27	28 05:00 pm Food Pantry	01 02:00 pm Confirmation	02	03	04

Fun Stuff

Fit the words into the grid!



Use these words to fill in the grid

- Cup, Hymn, Wine,
- Bread, Jesus, Judas,
- Supper Thanks Singing
- Betrayer, Passover,
- Disciples, Jerusalem,
- Upper Room

NOAH & THE ARK WORD SEARCH



BiblePuzzles.org.uk

ALTAR	FLOOD	OLIVE LEAF
ANIMALS	FORTY DAYS	RAIN
ARARAT	FORTY NIGHTS	RAINBOW
ARK	FOWLS	RAVEN
CATTLE	GOPHER WOOD	SHEM
CORRUPTION	HAM	WATER
COVENANT	JAPHETH	WICKEDNESS
DESTROY	MOUNTAINS	
DOVE	NOAH	