**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**

**December 2017 January 2018**

From the Pastor

‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; **35**for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, **36**I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ **37**Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? **38**And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? **39**And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ **40**And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25&version=NRSV" \l "fen-NRSV-24046g" \o "See footnote g)] you did it to me.’  Matthew 25: 34-40

I heard a story the other day that broke my heart and made me angry at the same time. Two high school students were at lunch and their food was taken away from them because their bill had not been paid. It is not their fault. For whatever reason the bill was delinquent but no one’s food should be taken away. I understand there are rules and bills do need to be paid but no one should go hungry. We need not be judgemental but compassionate. God judges not us. Yes, we have the law but we also have the gospel. We are Christians and we need to be compassionate to all God’s children, no strings attached.

There is a person is our community who has a passion for feeding our children and God has blessed her. If you wish to financially support feeding our children please contact me and I will give you her name and ministry. Please pray for feeding our children and allow God to help us help others.

Christmas is a time to share in our gifts. Perhaps instead of buying one more present you can share that money with feeding our children.

**In Our Prayers This Week:**

Alan and Deb Laurens, Robin Coughennower, Pete Genovese, Ashley Reese, Kate Jorgensen, Jessyca Espinoza, Don Hunter, Arnie Pearson, Matt Carver, Alan Duhn, Liam Griggs, Camden Kelsey, Patti Barnett, Chad Grandon, Don Rhode, 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.

**November Birthdays**

**December**

11 DeAnn Moody

11 Kris Bartleson

12 Steve Lewis

16 Kevin Lewis

23 Winter Ringgenberg

29 Tim Smith

1 Pat Bartleson

5 Dorothy Denton

8 Jane Rohde

11 Joyce Allen

18 Lerin Dubberke Hermson

22 Elaine Barker

27 Jamie Lewis

30 Haylee Hoveland

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 November**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| November | Offering | Attendance |
| 5 | $ 1,396.00 | 19 |
| 12 | $ 699.00 | 26 |
| 19 | $ 634.00 | 27 |
| 26 | $ 1,460.00 | 25 |
| Lefsa and Kringla | $188.00 |  |
| Total | $4,387.00 |  |

Your church needs $4,897.92 monthly to meet budget and does so through your generous giving.

**Learning our Faith**

Children and Adult Sunday School is at 9:15 each Sunday

Confirmation is at 6:00 PM on Wednesday evening

Adult Bible Study is 7:00 PM on Thursday

Hope you, your children, or grandchildren will join us then.

**Sunday School**

I wanted to update you on Sunday school. We began the fall with intergenerational Sunday school – adults and children. We have had a few bumps – it is hard to teach adults and 5 and 6 year olds. I’m working on it. It really has been a joy to have everyone together. 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!

**Upcoming Worship Volunteers**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| December | Greeters/Ushers | Lector | Alter Guild |
| 3 | Doug Larkin Family | Robin S | Wendy R |
| 10 | Mark Lewis and Mava Lewis | Steve L |  |
| 17 | Steve Lewis and Mike Lewis | Vince T |  |
| 24 | Ray Ringgenberg Family | Wendy R | Dale D |
| 25 | Vince Tomlinson Family | Eileen L | John E |
| 31 | John Egeland and Dave Lewis | Ellen O |  |
| January 2018 | Greeters/Ushers | Lector | Alter Guild |
| 1/7 | John Egeland and Dave Lewis | Ellen O | Dale D |
| 1/14 | Nathan Hovland & Kevin Lewis | Eileen L |  |
| 1/21 | Doug Larkin Family | John E |  |
| 1/28 | Mark Lewis and Mava Lewis | Joyce A |  |
| February | Greeters/Ushers | Lector | Alter Guild |
| 2/4 | Steve Lewis and Mike Lewis | Kevin L | John E |
| 2/11 | Ray Ringgenberg Family | Maria T |  |
| 2/14 Ash Wednesday | Vince Tomlinson Family | Mark L | Joyce A |
| 2/18 | John Egeland and Dave Lewis | Mike L |  |
| 2/25 | Nathan Hovland & Kevin Lewis | Nathan H |  |

**Nazareth Lutheran Church presents:**

**“A Bad Year for Tomatoes”**

Nazareth Lutheran Church, with the help of some of the cast members of the Ankeny Community Theater, will be producing the play A Bad Year For Tomatoes” on March 2nd 3rd and 4th. Ray Ringgenberg and SmokeHouse 72 has agreed to help with the BBQ dinner. We have much talent in our congregation but we could always use more help. So, please volunteer your talents.

We will be having a meeting December 12th at 6:30 PM at Nazareth to organize the incidentals of the Dinner and a Show production. Please come to the meeting or contact Eileen if you want to be involved with all the background decision making.

**Nazareth Lutheran Church Council Meeting**

**Sunday, November 19, 2017**

Meeting was called to order by President Mark Lewis at 11:40 AM following fellowship. Present for the meeting were Mark Lewis, John Egeland, Dave Lewis, Vince Tomlinson, Nathan Hovland, Lisa Smith, Pastor Marcia, Joyce Allen, church secretary Eileen Lewis, and sitting in was Janice Hovland. Minutes from the October 15 meeting were approved as read.

**Treasurer’s Report:** The General Fund’s opening balance was $2,419.58. Deposits amounted to $5,062.11, disbursements totaled $4,331.41, leaving a closing balance of $3,150.28. No funds needed to be transferred from the Capital Improvement Fund, its balance at $6,695.07. Amazon Smiles donated $5.71, so thanks to all who ordered through Amazon. SCRIP had an opening balance of $593.24. After a deposit of an even $1K, disbursements of $971, the total for October was $622.24.

**Pastor’s Report**: No more Michael’s. Pastor has officially resigned, and is just at the church and Miss Wendy’s, learning what gifts the teachers there have to offer the children. Also, the boys have now joined the Confirmation class, and the young ladies are helping them feel welcome.

**Committee Reports**:

**Property:** The mold in the parsonage basement is gone. Furniture still needs to be removed.

**Christian Ed:** Pastor penned the Christmas play, which will be presented December 17 during worship. Rehearsals will begin November 26 during Sunday School. Adult Bible Study and confirmation classes will be on sabbatical from Dec 13 until January 10, at which time the adults be switching back to Wednesday nights instead of Thursdays.

**Stewardship**: Fellowship funds have been utilized on creamer, plates, coffee, snacks, etc. So more donations will be gladly accepted.

**In reach / outreach**: Nothing new to report.

**Music and worship**: Nothing to report.

**Old Business**: Orders for Lefsa continue to come in with 19 dozen sold so far, along with five dozen Kringla. Workers continue to meet on Saturdays, slaving away to fill the orders. Flippers, aka, “Flipping for Jesus” included Nathan, and Mike, Kevin and Dave Lewis. “Holy Rollers” were Mark, John, Vince and Maria, “Mixing it Up for Jesus” was Pastor Marcia’s duty. Discussion given as to whether or not the ad should be done again next year and just advertise by word of mouth, as $65 does cut into the profits a quite a bit. Discussion also given as to how to distribute the Lefsa and Kringla. Rather than deliver here and there, it was suggested to let people know it could be picked up at the Shopping Extravaganza at the Methodist Church. They were kind enough to donate a table to us, where the extra Kringla and Lefsa can be sold, as well as leftover scrubbers, crafts, gift card holders, and any donated baked goods.

Attention then went to new light bulbs in the nave. John climbed the ladder to switch out all the regular bulbs to LEDs, which are supposed to be more energy efficient, and a rebate was part of the package deal as well. Mark had to change out the switch as dimmers can no longer be used.

Lastly, a show has been selected. “A Bad Year for Tomatoes” will be presented on March 3 and 4, with a dress rehearsal on March 2. Discussion given about ticket costs. It was decided that the Saturday performance would include dinner, donated by the Ringenbergs, so tickets for that night were set at $20, and Sunday would just be the show for $10. Also thrown into the mix is a freewill donation for the dress rehearsal on Friday making it more cost friendly. We’re still a little unsure of the venue as Pastor still hasn’t heard back from the City of Cambridge about the new conference center, so a “plan B” is in the works as well. So, site still TBD.

**New Business**: Christmas Eve service will be new this year. Joann and Steve will play again, but each person from the Nativity will be represented by a candle, thus the name “Service of Light”.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Mark Lewis at 12:30 PM and closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Allen, Council Secretary.

**Activities for the Month of December and January**

**Sunday** 9:15 Sunday School

**Dec 3** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

**Dec 5** 5:00 PM Food Pantry

**Wednesday**

**Dec 6** 6:00 PM Confirmation

**Thursday**

**Dec 7 7**:00 PM Bible Study

**Sunday** 9:15 Sunday School

**Dec 10** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

**Dec 12** 5:00 PM Food Pantry

**Wednesday**

**Dec 13** 6:00 PM Confirmation

**Thursday**

**Dec 14 7**:00 PM Bible Study

**Sunday** 9:15 Sunday School

**Dec 17** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

**Dec 19** 5:00 PM Food Pantry

**Sunday** 10:15 AM Worship

**Dec 24** 9:00PM Worship

**Monday**

**Dec 25** 9:00 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

**Dec 26** 5:00 PM Food Pantry

**Sunday**

**Dec 31** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

**Jan 2** 5:00 PM Food Pantry

**Sunday** 9:15 Sunday School

**Jan 7** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

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

**Wednesday** 6:00 PM Confirmation

**Jan 10 7**:00 PM Bible Study

**Sunday** 9:15 Sunday School

**Jan 14** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

**Jan 16** 5:00 PM Food Pantry

**Wednesday** 6:00 PM Confirmation

**Jan 17 7**:00 PM Bible Study

**Sunday** 9:15 Sunday School

**Jan 21** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

**Jan 23** 5:00 PM Food Pantry

**Wednesday** 6:00 PM Confirmation

**Jan 24 7**:00 PM Bible Study

**Sunday** 9:15 Sunday School

**Jan 28** 10:15 AM Worship

**Tuesday**

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

**Wednesday** 6:00 PM Confirmation

**Jan 31 7**:00 PM Bible Study

**Sunday** 9:15 Sunday School

**Feb 4** 10:15 AM Worship

**January Newsletter**

As you can see we will not have a January newsletter watch for your next news letter at

the end of January. Although it is early for New Year’s Resolutions mine is to make sure you have the Newsletter by the first Sunday of each month.

**Upcoming Events**

December 17: 10:15 AM Christmas Pageant during 10:15 Worship

December 24: 10:15 AM Sunday Worship this will be a Hymn Sing

December 24: 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Service

December 25: 9:00 AM Worship Service

**History of a Christmas Carol**

The Christmas carol: "Silent Night! Holy Night!" had its world premiere on Christmas Eve, 1818, in the St. Nicholas church of Oberndorf near Salzburg, Austria; performed by Franz Xaver Gruber and Joseph Mohr. According to Gruber, the song was met with "general approval by all" in attendance at the time. There are many different theories of how the song was written…the most popular being: The church organ where they were to perform was no longer working, so Mohr and Gruber therefore created a song for accompaniment by guitar. No matter…read the words…try to keep the melody out of your mind…

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
  
Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born  
  
Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth



Merry Christmas

And

Happy New Year