



NAZARETH LUTHERAN

newsletter

May 2026

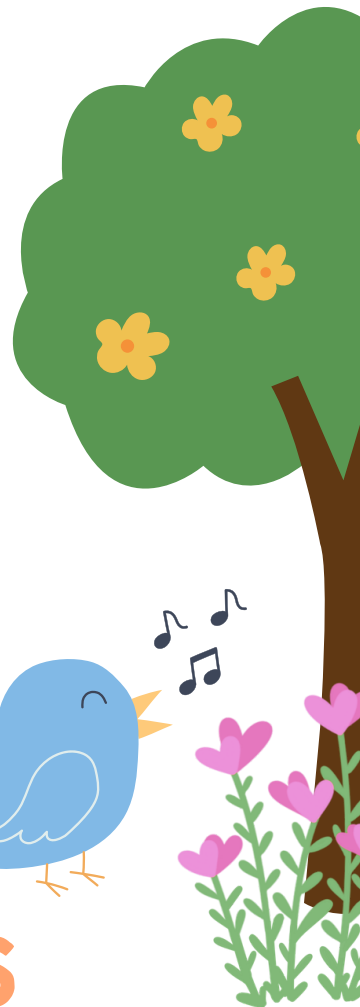
FROM THE PASTOR

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

This prayer is said each week after the offering is brought forward to the altar. We are to offer our gifts to God and ask for his blessing and we seek to be fed both spiritually and literally.

“Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way” are words for each of us to help feed the hungry with food, prayers, and care. Each week we pray we should open our hearts wide to live out these words and do as Jesus commands to feed the hungry.

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FROM THE PASTOR

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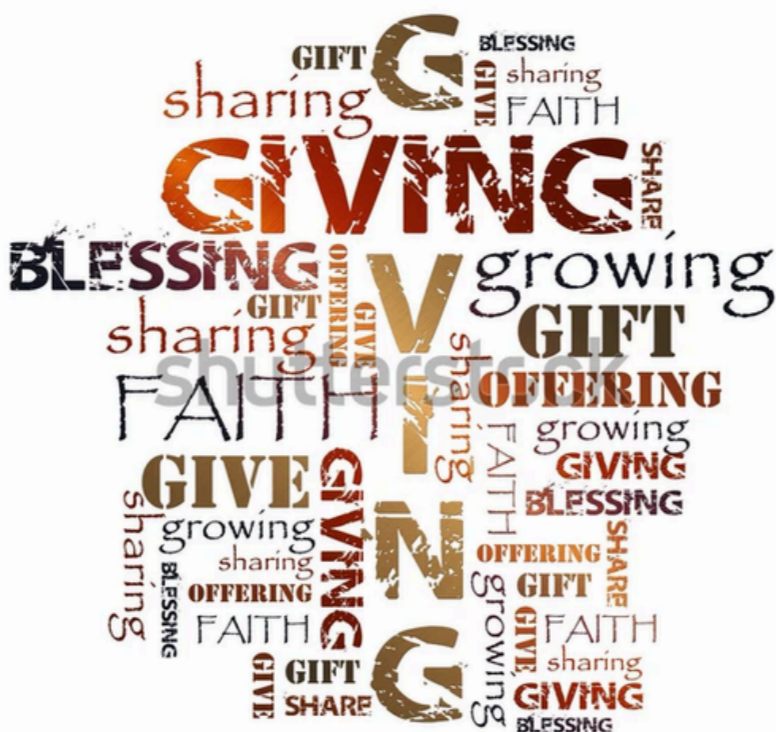
At Nazareth we have made a good start by the snack program, volunteering for the Cambridge and Huxley food pantries (thank you for those of you who volunteer at these pantries), and supporting the Ballard Summer meal program, as well as the many prayers for those in need. The reason I said we have made a good start is that much work is still needed in our community. The summer meal program will begin in June. Please help by giving towards the financial need by sharing in the two special offerings we will have on Sunday's May 10th and 17th. Also, prayerfully consider volunteering to help pack the meals and passing out meals. Contact Eileen Lewis if you wish to volunteer.

It is good for our hearts and ourselves that we "feed" our community but there are other ways we can feed our community spiritually. How should we do this and what ways can we help others? I ask each of you to pray about this and share any ideas you might have to feed the community.

One suggestion came from two of our members who attended a healing service at the Southeastern Iowa Synod last year. We did have one healing service at Nazareth and we would like to continue in the future with a little different twist. We have a liturgy for a healing service in our hymnal page 276 in the front of the ELW which we would like to use again. The twist to having a healing service at Nazareth using our liturgy but inviting

the community to the service. We need much healing in our lives, in our community, and in our world. Be on the look out for more information including date, time, and invitation to all. For we all need healing in our lives and Christ invites all to be healed.

Thank you in advance for helping and continuing to help with these programs in our community. We continue to fill our hearts.



COUNCIL MINUTES



NAZARETH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026

The Nazareth Lutheran Church Council meeting was called to order following fellowship at 11:40 by Vice-President John Egeland in Mark Lewis's absence. Present for the meeting were John Egeland, Dave Lewis, Nathan Hovland, Arlyss Peterson, Joyce Allen, Pastor Marcia, Church Administrator Eileen Lewis, and eventually Vince Egeland. Minutes from the March 15 meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer's report: Thanks to generous tithes, and the water to the leaky downstairs toilet turned off, deposits outweighed disbursements. Offerings totaled \$6,685 including a Thrivent Grant of \$574.00. \$20 was made from lefsa/kringla sales, the puzzle party netted \$70, and a "gift" of \$37.95 brought the deposit total to \$7,386.95. Disbursements were \$5,875.23, including the usual expenses along with \$450 for Synod Assembly registration fee. Opening balance of \$29,263.86 closed with \$30,775.58. Remaining balances are as follows: Savings: \$1,631.48; Capital Improvement: \$1,209.72; Mission Investment: \$20,129.63; Missions: \$1,518.98; SCRIP opened with \$3,615.05, \$1,112.00 was deposited, \$2,045 was disbursed, leaving a closing balance of \$2,682.05.

Pastor's Report: Mava has completed all her requirements for confirmation on May 17. Joyce moved approve her confirmation, Arlyss seconded, motion passed. She will then officially become an adult member of Nazareth. Joyce will be attending the Sit and Stitch meeting this Friday (April 24) at the library, for another lesson in making homeless mats from plastic grocery bags.

Committee Reports

Property: Pastor Marcia attests that the smoke alarms work. Details not given here, but know that they work.

Christian Ed: Children have been at a shortage at worship so children's sermons have been at a shortage as well. VBS is scheduled for 7/13-7/18 and will be held at Dorcas again.

Stewardship: Very blessed to have a surplus in the general fund! Also, a notice was received from the Synod, thanking us for our contribution to them for \$1,125.00.



COUNCIL MINUTES

continued



Inreach/outreach: Pastor Marcia would like to hold a Healing Service, open to the community, similar to the healing services held at the church. Some of the hymns would include “All are Welcome”, “For the Healing of the Nations”, and “There is a Balm in Gilead”, and there would be a laying of the hands. Arlys and Joyce will help with the service having attended a healing service at a Synod meeting. No date set yet but leaning towards July, and hope to combine with the Methodist church.

Music and Worship: Hymns selected through August. We will be using Setting #10 through the summer, and hope to use some songs from the Catholic Hymnal donated by Laurie Hazel. Plan to sing patriotic songs on Sunday, July 5.

Old Business:

Fundraising ideas: Joyce attended an entertainment venue at the Ankeny Senior Center that might hopefully replace our dinner theatre. King Incognito is an Elvis impersonator who was amazing! He has a wonderful voice, had so much fun schmoozing with the audience, and provided an overall good time. Once a date / weekend is decided, Eileen will check on the availability of Trinity, and Joyce will check on “Elvis’s” availability and fees. Hope we have a dinner theatre this year after all!

Silent Auction: Plugging along. Letters sent out, more ideas coming in. Pastor hoping for help in lining up the parade participants.

New Business:

Ladies Tea: Will be Sunday, May 3rd at 2:00. Joyce brought in a few samples of possible offerings, and will bring in a few more next week. Thanks for being sample guinea pigs.

Breakfast burritos: Eileen had to leave early due to Mark having health issues, so we’re not sure of details. Discussion given as to whether to make more or fewer burritos, but hopefully attendance will be higher due to better advertising than last year, so decision made to keep it at 75-ish burritos and the same amount of fruit as last year. Further discussion tabled until next meeting when Eileen can be present.

Confirmation May 17: Cake will be ordered

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 12:24 by VP John Egeland, and closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Allen, Council Secretary.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Summer is knocking on the proverbial on your summer calendar.

Sunday, May 3 Baptism of Booker Blue Heinz, Birthday March 6, Parents; Chris and Winter.

Sunday, May 3 Spring Tea 2pm at church

Thursday, May 7 video presentation at Cambridge Library of interviews starring our very own Janet Thorson and Vince Tomlinson.

May 10 Mother's Day

Sunday, May 10th Special offerings for Ballard Summer Meal Program

Friday and Saturday, May 15 & 16 Synod Assembly in Cedar Rapids. Voting for Synod Bishop.

door. Here is a snapshot of things to put

Sunday, May 17 Confirmation of Mava Lewis

Sunday, May 17 Special offerings for Ballard Summer Meal Program

May 25 Memorial Day

Sunday, May 31 Baptism and 1st Communion of Logan Juliet Grauerholz, Birthday January 6, Parents: Wade and Jayna

June 12-14 Cambridge Jubilee Days

June 21 Father's Day

July 3-4 Slater's July 4th Celebration

August 28-30 Prairie Fest

MUSIC AND WORSHIP

Sunday May 3 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Call to Worship: Sanctuary

How Firm a Foundation #654

How Great Thou Art #856

As the Grains of Wheat #465

We are Called #720



MUSIC AND WORSHIP continued



Sunday May 10 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31	Call to Worship: Sanctuary
Psalms 66:8-20	For the Beauty of the Earth #879
1 Peter 3:13-22	Love Divine, All Loves Excelling #631
John 14:15-21	Amazing Grace #779
<u>Prayer of the Day</u>	Battle Hymn of the Republic #890

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Sunday May 17 - Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14	Baptized In Water #456
Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35	Here I Am Lord #57
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	What Wondrous Love Is This #666
John 17:1-11 29	Freely, Freely You Have Received (insert)
<u>Prayer of the Day</u>	Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ #674

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Sunday May 24 - Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-11	Call to Worship: Sanctuary
Psalms 33:12-22	Morning Has Broken #556
Romans 8:14-17, 22-27	Spirit of Gentleness #396
John 7:37-39	Freely, Freely You Have Received (insert)
<u>Prayer of the Day</u>	Shine Jesus Shine #671

O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



MUSIC AND WORSHIP continued



Sunday May 31 - The Holy Trinity First Sunday After Pentecost

Genesis 1:1-2:4a	Call to Worship: Sanctuary
Psalms 8	Holy, Holy, Holy #413
2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Lord, You Give the Great Commission #579
Matthew 28:16-20	Freely, Freely You Have Received (insert)
<u>Prayer of the Day</u>	All Are Welcome #641

Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

BALLARD SUMMER MEAL

The Ballard Summer Meal Program is gearing up for the 2026 Summer season. We are in the fund-raising stage and have started contacting our sponsors from last year and looking for new sponsors to help grow the program.

We are also looking for assistance in the inventory management and menu prepping area. If you or someone you know would be interested in helping with those functions it would be greatly appreciated.

The meals will be made and distributed on Tuesday and Fridays from 11-12. The distribution sites will be Ballard Middle School, Cambridge Memorial Library and the Slater Senior Center. There is no cost for the meals. The program is open to all school age children in the Ballard School District.

Do you know of any children in Ballard that would benefit from this program, or if you are looking for an opportunity to volunteer or your high schoolers need service hours let us know and we would be happy to put you to work. Contact Kathy Parmenter, Eileen Lewis or email ballardsummermealprogram@gmail.com.



IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO LEFT US TOO SOON.



We remember you in the quiet light of morning, when the world is just waking and for a split second everything feels the way it used to.

We remember you in the middle of busy afternoons, when something small– a laugh, a phrase, a familiar habit– suddenly brings you rushing back.

We remember you at night, when the house is still and our thoughts grow louder. When we look at the stars and wonder which one shines a little brighter because of you.

A song can carry you to us. A place can hold your footsteps. A scent can open a door to a moment we would give anything to step into again. You are woven into our days in ways we never expected.

In the recipes we still cook. In the stories we still tell. In the traditions we refuse to let fade. Time has moved forward, but love has not moved on. It has simply changed its shape.

It lives in the tears that still fall without warning. It lives in the smiles that come when we speak your name. It lives in the strength we didn't know we had until we had to carry you inside our hearts instead of beside us.

You may have left this world, but you did not leave us. You are in our mornings. In our nights. In every song, every memory, every quiet prayer.

Always remembered. Always loved. Always with us.





cherry blossom
 morning glory
 forget me not
 baby's breath
 snapdragon
 buttercup
 hollyhock
 amaryllis
 carnation
 sunflower
 sweet pea
 magnolia
 daffodil
 hibiscus
 lavender
 petunia
 freesia
 zinnia
 dahlia
 crocus
 azalea
 orchid
 violet
 peony
 pansy
 daisy
 lilac
 poppy
 tulip
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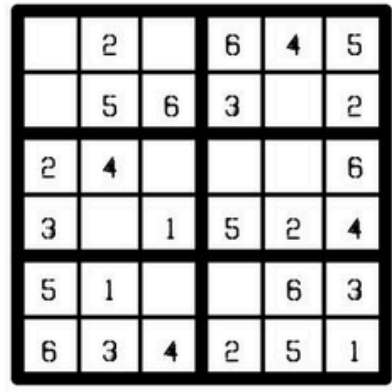
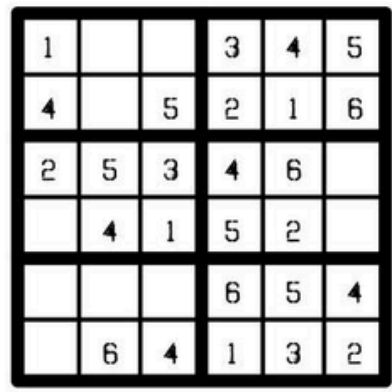
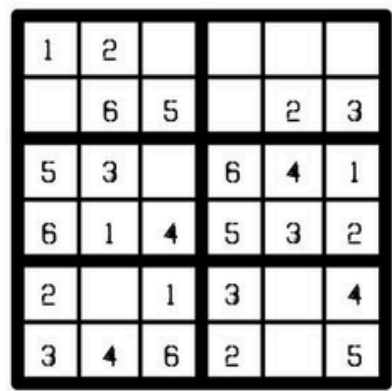
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MEMORIAL DAY WORD SCRAMBLE

- AEAIMCR
- THANEM
- HRAWET
- ETENRASV
- ARW
- UEATLS
- LLENFA
- RTTIOCAIP
- IRCESFACI

- SCVIEER
- ECEYEMRT
- OECYEMNR
- IIRTODNAT
- IMRMCAOETE
- OHONR
- IOREMMAL
- ISDLESOR
- RMEDOFE
- GFASL
- YRTMALII



Memorial Day Crossword

- Across**
3. Where soldiers are buried
 6. Country celebrated on Memorial Day
 9. Found on the American flag
 10. State of harmony without war
 12. Branch of the military
 13. The right to live without control
 14. Found on the American flag
 18. Explosions of light in the sky
 21. Color often seen on Memorial Day
 22. Ceremony to honor those who served
 23. Color often seen on Memorial Day
 25. Act of honoring and remembering those who served
 27. Show respect for someone
- Down**
1. Color often seen on Memorial Day
 2. Celebration with floats and marching
 3. Tool used for cooking at a barbecue
 4. Giving something up for a greater cause
 5. Flower worn on Memorial Day
 7. Symbol of the United States
 8. Someone who has served in the military
 11. Structure built to honor someone
 14. Person who serves in the army
 15. Meal eaten outdoors
 16. Branch of the military that flies planes
 17. Type of outdoor cooking on Memorial Day
 19. Branch of the military that works at sea
 20. Large statue or structure built in memory
 24. Someone who loves their country
 25. Showing admiration for others' sacrifices
 26. Place to bury the dead