

NAZARETH LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 2025 Newsletter

From the Pastor

I was on vacation in July, following four days of VBS. Don't you think I deserved to have time away from growing my faith. At least that is what I thought. God had others plans for me. By the way the theme for VBS was Growing, Growing, Growing, Bloom! I think God decided I should continue that theme on vacation. God certainly has a wonderful sense of humor when guiding me.

I know what the word advocate means but during my vacation I was able to witness the word and learn more about having advocates surround me. An advocate is a person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy. In my case there were three such persons being my advocates while we gathered together. We met at the Museum of Art in Cedar Rapids. I would recommend it. I was suppose to meet my friends in the gift store. The handicap parking and elevator into the building is in the back and took some time to find it, even with directions. I was too proud to ask for assistance from the young man on the phone. Yet one of my friends arrived at the same time as I and helped me get into the wheelchair and into the building. Another friend texted telling me she arrived early and was willing to help. Advocates are willing to step up to help even when you don't ask for help. Lesson one learned.

The next lesson learned about me witnessing advocacy was when we went to check into the hotel that I had made a reservation over a month

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August in Iowa

When August rolls around in Iowa there are two things to look forward to. Depending on your age they may be good things, or they may be bad things.

Iowa State Fair and Back to School, I'll let you decide if those are good or bad.

We hope you have a good month and please stop by and worship with us.



From the Pastor

ago for the four of us. I had specifically reserved the handicap room I had stayed in prior to this vacation. When we checked in they changed my room. I went to move in and realized there wasn't enough room for me to get around, could not get into the very high bed, and the shower had a lip but no bars or seat in the shower. I went to the front desk and they had already given the room I reserved to someone else. I said maybe I could work around the problems with our room. My friend and the desk clerk told me no because what if I fell in the shower. Both my friend and the desk clerk became advocates even when I didn't want to be a bother. We went to another hotel and my friends let me stay in the car and they checked out each of the handicap rooms. None had what I needed. So, one of my advocates got on her phone and found a hotel, across the street from the first hotel, and they had two handicap rooms available. We moved in and finally went out for a lovely meal and great conversation. I was moved to tears several times watching my friends, my advocates, speak for me and help me. Lesson two learned.

The third lesson came in the form of a story from one of my friends after lunch on Monday of our vacation. We had been sharing about what and who were advocates in our world. My friend had visited Pilot Knob Indian Burial Ground Historic Site. She had gone on a guided tour and was so moved by the story that she continued to carry it deep in her heart. She shared it with me about how advocates made a difference at this historic site. At one point there were people who wished to develop this native sacred ground into housing. They were said to dig up bones and put them in a bones shed. The people who were wanting to develop this sacred ground saw nothing wrong with what they wished to do. It wasn't until three white women from the local suburbs who advocated for this sacred site. These advocates played a very important role and the Native Americans are very grateful that people fought for them. The end of the story tugged at my heart. The guide told the group to look for a cemetery not far away. He said what would happen if people wanted to dig up those bones for the development of houses? We need to continue to advocate for injustice.

Lying in bed that night during my prayers for what my friends had done for me I realized I was living through the meaning of advocates. Then I started to think of Jesus and the Bible, especially Jesus and the Holy Spirit. In 1 John 2:1, Jesus is called an advocate with God, meaning he pleads our case before God, particularly when we sin. In John 14:16, 15:26, and 16:7 Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as the Advocate (also translated as comforter and helper), who will teach and remind believers of Jesus' teachings.

I know Jesus uses the many people in our lives to be advocates. I am so blessed to live and witness advocates. Jesus has been such a guide for me lately and I am so thankful. Take time to witness the advocates in your life and share your thanks to God the Father, Jesus the Son, and our guide the Holy Spirit.

We can grow our faith even on vacation and be a witness to Jesus' advocacy for us in our many sins. I'm glad to be home and know God will help me grow here among the community.

Upcoming Events

July 27- August 10th School Supply Drive: List of supplies needed include:

BALLARD SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

Backpacks	Elmer's Glue Sticks	Trapper Keepers	Index Cards
Art pads	Crayons (24 count)	Spiral Notebooks	Markers (8 count)
1" or 2" binders (white/black)	Yellow Highlighters	2 pocket folders	Dry Erase Markers
Colored pencils	Pens (red & black)	Pink Erasers	
#2 Pencils (Ticonderoga)	Watercolor paint		



August 25 First Day of school for the Ballard Students. Watch for the kids out on their bikes and walking to school.

September 14 Children's Sunday School will begin. We hope that your children or grandchildren would join us for the fun and educational activities.

Also, we will have a potluck BBQ that day after church. Please invite your friends.

October 18th or 19th Drive thru Dinner

October 25 The Fall Craft Festival. We had great success with this event and are excited to host the event again this year.

Meet and Greet

Heart of Iowa Nature Trail has completed the paving all the way from Slater to Collins. there will be a Bike Ride and Ribbon Cutting on Saturday August 9th. The ride starts at 8 in Slater. Cambridge Park and Recs will be sponsoring a Meet and Greet event where rides will be able to get a "taste" of Cambridge. HUD food truck will be there, the library is giving away cookies, and churches and businesses will be there to greet the riders.

Do we want to greet them and perhaps pass on some information about our church and all of the outreach that we do, including selling lefsa and kringla, the drive thru dinner, our annual play, and other fun activities?

We need ideas, and people to man the table and talk to the riders. Would you be willing to help? What about giving away watermelon spears or even just cups of ice water? Contact the church council if you're interested in helping.

Fair Sweet Fair

AUGUST
7-17 2025

IowaStateFair **NOTHING COMPARES**

800.545.FAIR | IOWASTATEFAIR.ORG



August's Celebration Days

It seems like every day of the year is some sort of holiday. here is a sample of August's special day.

- 1 Fri National Girlfriend Day
- 1 Fri Colorado Day
- 1 Fri World Lung Cancer Day
- 2 Sat National Sunflower Day
- 2 Sat National Ex-Girlfriend Day
- 3 Sun National Watermelon Day
- 3 Sun Sisters' Day
- 3 Sun National Friendship Day
- 3 Sun American Family Day
- 4 Mon National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day
- 7 Thu Purple Heart Day
- 8 Fri International Cat Day
- 9 Sat National Garage Sale Day
- 10 Sun Lazy Day
- 11 Mon National Son and Daughter Day
- 12 Tue World Elephant Day
- 13 Wed Left-Handers Day
- 14 Thu Social Security Act
- 15 Fri National Relaxation Day
- 15 Fri National Back To School Prep Day
- 16 Sat Tell a Joke Day
- 17 Sun National Thrift Shop Day
- 17 Sun National Nonprofit Day
- 19 Tue World Humanitarian Day
- 20 Wed World Mosquito Day
- 21 Thu International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism
- 22 Fri National Tooth Fairy Day
- 22 Fri Be An Angel Day
- 23 Sat International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
- 24 Sun National Waffle Day
- 25 Mon National Park Service Founders Day
- 27 Wed National Just Because Day
- 30 Sat National Beach Day
- 31 Sun Eat Outside Day

This is only a few of the 105 Special Days that are celebrated during August,



Worship Liturgy and Music

Sun. Aug. 3 — Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Psalms 49:1-12

Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

Prayer of the Day

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Call to Worship: Sanctuary

Be Thou My Vision #793

Where Charity and Love Prevail #359

Let Us Break Bread Together #471

Take My Life, That I May Be #685

Sun. Aug. 10 — Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 15:1-6

Psalms 33:12-22

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Luke 12:32-40

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Call to Worship: Sanctuary

Lift Every Voice and Sing #841

Have No Fear, Little Flock #764

Let Us Break Bread Together #471

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me #623

Sun. Aug. 17 — Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Psalms 82

Hebrews 11:29—12:2

Luke 12:49-56

Prayer of the Day

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Call to Worship: Sanctuary

Beautiful Savior #838

Abide With Me #629

Let Us Break Bread Together #471

Go My Children, with my Blessing #543

Sun. Aug. 24 — Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 58:9b-14

Psalms 103:1-8

Hebrews 12:18-29

Call to Worship: Sanctuary

There is a Balm in Gilead #614

It Only Takes a Spark (Pass it On) Insert

Let Us Break Bread Together #471



Worship Liturgy and Music Continued

Sun. Aug. 24 — Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost continued

Luke 13:10-17

Take My Life, That I May Be #685

Prayer of the Day

O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Sun. Aug. 31 — Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 25:6-7

Psalms 112

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Prayer of the Day

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Call to Worship: Sanctuary

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty #413

Beautiful Savior #838

Let Us Break Bread Together #471

Come; Thou Fount of Every Blessing #807

July Church Council Minutes

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2025

Nazareth Lutheran Church Council meeting was called to order at 11:36 following fellowship. Present for the meeting were Mark Lewis, Dave Lewis, Vince Tomlinson, John Egeland, Arlys Peterson, Joyce Allen, Lisa Smith, and Church Administrator Eileen Lewis. Minutes from the June 22 meeting were approved as read.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Jubilee Days was very good to the General Fund. The Silent Auction brought in \$1,241, Kringla sales made \$100, and breakfast burritos yielded \$428.00. Offering totaled \$6,151, and we got a HuxCom dividend of \$197.29. Along with a donation / gift of \$515.80, the deposit grand total came to \$12,835.73. Disbursements totaled \$9,844.58, including Terminix for \$87.33, devotionals for \$24.75, stamps and printer ink for \$121.00, and \$6,202.02 for the summer meal program. The opening balance of \$23,334.40 added \$12,835.73, and paid out \$9,844.58, leaving a balance of \$26,325.55. Savings has a balance of \$3,127.01, \$1,206.98 in Capital Improvement, \$20,054.66 is Missions Investment's balance, and Missions has a balance of \$1,197.98. SCRIP opened with \$2,267.05, \$900 was deposited, \$875 was disbursed, leaving a balance of \$2,292.05.



July Church Council Minutes Continued

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor was on vacation and therefore no pastor's report. Speaking on her behalf, VBS was July 14-17, and was a lot of fun. There were about eight children on the first day, and each day brought a few more, ending with about 15. The theme was Growing, Growing, Growing, Bloom, learning about the parables of the sower and the seed, the mustard seed, the Good Samaritan, and the resurrection. Also of note, Pastor, along with Mark, Arlys, and Joyce, met with Bishop Current on July 14 before VBS at Bishop's request. Mark, Arlys, and Joyce have been attending SAMs meetings (Synod Appointed Ministry), if needed to fill in when Pastor took ill. Arlys and Joyce also attended a retreat on April 25 and 26 in Cedar Falls for further training. The SAMs program is mainly designed to fill vacancies in churches that are without pastors, which is not the case at Nazareth, so Bishop Current wanted to meet to discuss how SAM would work here. Discussion turned to the day when Pastor will eventually retire. Bishop pointed out a case with a church that lost their pastor for an undisclosed reason, and when the church gathered to decide how to go forward, it was found the church didn't have enough members to make a quorum to make any decisions. So we were advised to review our constitution to make sure that doesn't happen to Nazareth. A meeting for this purpose is scheduled for August 26th in Iowa City at the Synod, and all are invited to attend.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PROPERTY: No mud in front of the back door even after heavy rains

CHRISTIAN ED: Just finished VBS

STEWARDSHIP: Eileen asked if anyone has a Sam's Club membership. Often items on sale have a limit on how many may be purchased at one time, so if items are available for the Summer Meal program or snack program, more would be better. Lisa has one, but if anyone else does as well, please reach out to Eileen.

INREACH / OUT REACH: Lunch program is going well. Eileen asked the Board about a possible "wear red day" or Hawaiian shirt day. No motion made, and no vote made, either.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP: Plenty of music

OLD BUSINESS: Ray Riggerberg is having knee surgery on October 16, which is right before the drive-through dinner date. Discussion given as to other possible dates, or have someone else to the food? More planning will happen as the date gets closer.

NEW BUSINESS: Eileen asked if the men were interested in having a BBQ or something in August or September. It was decided to have a cookout for Sunday School kick-off day.

CALENDAR:

July 27 - August 10 - Back to school drive

August 17: Council Meeting



July Church Council Minutes Continued

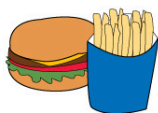
August 26: Synod meeting in Iowa City
September 14: Sunday School Kick Off BBQ and pot luck
Sept 21: Council Meeting
October 18: possible drive-through dinner
October 19: Council meeting
October 31: Trunk or Treat
TBD: Nazareth Bakers begin making Lefsa / Kringa
November 16: Council Meeting
November 22: Vendor Fair
November 23: Community Thanksgiving
December 14: Christmas Program
December 21: Council Meeting / Planning Retreat
December 24: Christmas Eve Service 7:00 PM

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 12:17 by President Mark Lewis, and closed with The Lord's Prayer. Respectfully submitted by Joyce Allen, Council Secretary.

Jokes

Since August 16th is Tell A Joke Day, here are a few jokes for you to tell.

1. Why was the math book unhappy? Because it had too many problems. And every time it tried to solve them, it just got more frustrated!
2. What do you call a fake noodle? An impasta. It's always trying to blend in with the real deal but never quite makes it.
3. I'm reading a book about anti - gravity. It's impossible to put down. I mean, it just keeps floating away from my hands!
4. Why can't a nose be 12 inches long? Because then it would be a foot. And that would be a really big nose to sneeze with!
5. Did you hear about the kidnapping at school? It's okay, he woke up. Talk about a sleepy start to the day!
6. Why did the scarecrow win an award? Because he was outstanding in his field. He really stood out among the other hay - filled guys.
7. Why don't oysters share their pearls? Because they're shellfish. They just like to keep their treasures all to themselves.
8. Why is the doctor so angry? Because he has no patience (patients). He's always waiting for someone to show up.



Puzzles

Iowa State Fair Word Scramble

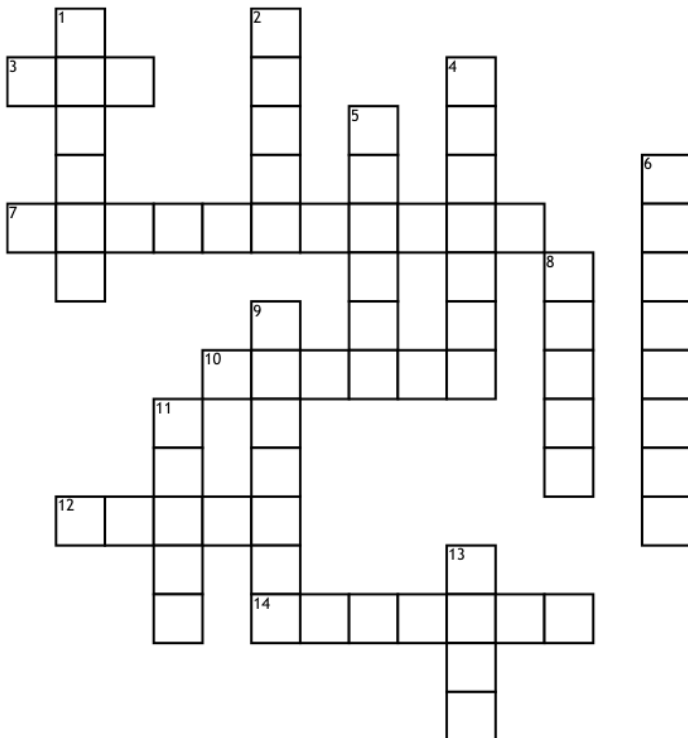
IOWA

Word Search



1. CIUETARGLR _____
2. IOSNAFDURRG _____
3. ILSAANM _____
4. CKEITT _____
5. LCANAVIR _____
6. REFID ODOF _____
7. OTLISKCVE _____
8. SFIRER EWLEH _____
9. ROCN OGD _____
10. NCOOTT CDNYA _____
11. EYKTUR GLE _____
12. DES EOISNM _____
13. ROHESS _____
14. WOCS _____
15. IGPS _____
16. EBER _____

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| AMANA COLONIES | DAVENPORT | HARPERS FERRY | PELLA |
| BARN QUILTS | DECORAH | HAWKEYE STATE | PLAINS |
| CEDAR RAPIDS | DES MOINES | IOWA CAUCUS | PRAIRIE ROSE |
| CORNFIELDS | DUBUQUE | JOHN WAYNE | SIOUX CITY |
| COUNCIL BLUFFS | FARMING | LOESS HILLS | WATERLOO |
| COVERED BRIDGES | FIELD OF DREAMS | MIDWEST | WHITE OAK |



Across

3. Usually playing in mudd, these potbelly animals are fat with squirly tails.

7. Fair treat that melts in your mouth and on your hands like air

10. Expensive show animals such as Tennessee Walkers, Thoroughbreds

12. Another name for chocolate sold at the fair and also made for competition

6. I am sure they sell a lot of chocolate, strawberry and vanilla!

8. Spending money to win all kinds of stuff to take home

9. Music being played by a group in front of a large crowd

11. Merry go round, ferris wheel, roller coaster

13. Food and drinks from different restaurants are set up under here

14. You need these to get in, to get on rides and sometimes to get food

Down

1. Given out in competitions, the best is blue

2. Funny man with a painted face.

4. Sometimes we call them footlongs

5. You can enter creative items in contests for prizes

BACK TO SCHOOL



Word Scramble

- 1 OCOSLH
- 2 KAABPCCK
- 3 EULG
- 4 EPRPA
- 5 CSSSOSRI
- 6 HCRI LNDE
- 7 MCUTERPO
- 8 HLUBCOXN
- 9 ISEDL
- 10 SSIGNW
- 11 AEHERCT
- 12 STTE
- 13 OKOB
- 14 ELRUR
- 15 OGELB

3 letter word

bus

exam
quiz
tape
test

5 letter words

books
class
paint
pupil
study
words

6 letter words

binder
passed
school
sports
agenda

7 letter words

History
project
teacher
friends
Science
subject
writing

8 letter words

homework
academic

Geography
education

9 letter words

Geography
education

10 letter words

arithmetic
assignment
calculator
elementary

11 letter word

mathematics

Analogies are a useful tool to enhance
mental skills and critical thinking abilities.

1. Car is to Road as Boat is to _____
2. Painter is to Canvas as Writer is to _____
3. Clock is to Time as Thermometer is to _____
4. Bird is to Nest as Bee is to _____
5. Teacher is to School as Doctor is to _____
6. Knife is to Cut as Pen is to _____
7. Fish is to Water as Bird is to _____
8. Pen is to Paper as Paintbrush is to _____
9. Key is to Lock as Password is to _____
10. Sun is to Day as Moon is to _____
11. Fork is to Eat as Shovel is to _____
12. Eye is to See as Ear is to _____
13. Foot is to Shoe as Hand is to _____
14. Cat is to Meow as Cow is to _____
15. Fire is to Heat as Ice is to _____