



Nazareth Lutheran Church

June 2025

From the Pastor

Acts 16:9-10

9 During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

In the season of Easter this year I have preached on the texts from Acts and the sermon on May 25th, the 6th Sunday of Easter the text was Paul receiving a vision from God calling him to Macedonia. Like Paul, I dream a lot and remember those dreams, and I often wonder how many of the dreams are messages from the Spirit of God.

The night before I preached on this text I had a dream. I was working in the kitchen of a restaurant that I worked at when I was sixteen years old. I was standing at the sink and scrubbing when the owner came up to me asking what I was doing. I told her I was cleaning. She told me to stop because that was her job. I began to walk away when her husband came up to me and told me to continue cleaning because his wife needed a break. So, I went back to scrubbing and cleaning the kitchen.

When I woke up that morning, I thought about my dream and wondered what it meant. continued p2

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From the Pastor continued

At first, I thought perhaps I was just supposed to clean the house. Then I wondered if maybe I was just supposed to clean up parts of my life. I do enjoy thinking of my dreams and trying to interpret them. Which leads me to think of Joseph and Daniel and how they would find meaning in dreams. I do believe God can send us messages through visions and dreams.

When I was in seminary my father passed away and after his burial I went back to my classes. One of which was a homiletics, preaching, class and I was assigned to preach on Acts 2:17. "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams." As I prepared the sermon for that class all I could think of was my father, an "old man" who had many dreams but I wasn't ready to talk about him in a sermon. But every time since that sermon and reading that scripture I think of my father. I wonder what his dreams were for him. I have had many conversations with my father in dreams. They usually begin with him asking if I've checked the oil in the car. That was the beginning of every conversation we ever had throughout the years. Then I would ask him questions and seek advice in my dreams. The answer was always the same... talk to your mother. And soon I would have a dream where my mother and I would have a conversation over coffee. Even in dreams I still seek out the advice of my parents. I believe God helps me through many situations in my life in talking to my parents.

The most memorable vision in my life was when I answered God's call into ordained ministry. I had continued to say no to God's call since high school. When I was in my early 30's I was seeking something new in my life. As I was driving into Cedar Rapids the sun was peeking around some beautiful full white clouds. And into my head I heard a voice. Go to seminary and become a pastor. That moment on that day I finally answered God with a yes. And the journey continues.

I'm wondering if you all have dreams and visions and if God is speaking to you? God speaks to us in many and various ways. Through the people in our lives and through the visions and dreams. Allow God to speak to you and guide you and be willing to say yes to those calls.

Blessings, Pastor Marcia



Nazareth Council Minutes

April 27, 2025

Nazareth Lutheran Church council meeting was called to order at 11:47 by Council President Mark Lewis following worship. Present for the meeting were Arlyss Peterson, John Egeland, Nathan Hovland, Lisa Smith, Mark Lewis, Pastor Marcia, Joyce Allen, and Church Administrator Eileen Lewis. Minutes from the March 16 meeting were approved as read by Eileen.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Closing balance ended higher than opening balance this month which is always a blessing. \$5,818 was deposited in offering, \$60 in Lesfa sales, \$26 for Easter Lilys, and a Thrivent Grant for \$191.00. A special offering was deposited for Dale that came to \$197, to which Arlyss will contribute \$3.00 to make it an even \$200. Disbursements came to \$4,039.80. Besides the usual monthly bills, \$190.06 went to purchase an outdoor marquee, and \$186.75 paid for devotionals and our yearly streaming license. However, no health insurance payment has been made yet since Pastor Marcia's birthdate discrepancy hasn't yet been rectified. Medicare has her turning 65 this year when it was actually last year. So, opening balance as of March 1 was \$16,453.36. After adding \$6,292, and subtracting the disbursement balance, March closed with \$18,705.56. Savings has a closing balance of \$3,124.67, Capital Improvement closed with \$1,206.07, Mission Investment's balance \$20,029.45, and Missions closed with \$1,042.98. SCRIP opened with \$1,447.11, deposited \$900, paid out \$875, leaving a balance of \$1,472.11.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Much discussion was given to Mava's friend, Haylee Roney concerning confirmation class. She has moved from Ballard to live with her sister and won't be returning to Ballard. She still has a year of confirmation classes yet before being confirmed, so possibilities included confirming her now, or trying to find a time when she might be able to attend class. She is not yet registered in her new school, and depending on where it is, Wednesday afternoons may not be available, and transportation is in question as well. John suggested Zoom or Facebook, and Joyce volunteered to drive her since she lives midway between West Des Moines and Cambridge. In the end, a solution was tabled until the school situation is known, but that she should finish the confirmation class rather than being confirmed early. Next, we discussed sending a monetary gift to Joanne and her band, Onion Creek Band, for playing on Maundy Thursday. Three of the band members are local, but Joanne drives in from Minnesota.

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It was decided that \$50 would be sent to the band, motioned by John and seconded by Arlyss. A check for \$50 was given to Joyce who will get a VISA card from her bank since they don't charge a fee. Lastly, Pastor will be taking a vacation May 15-23. She found a hotel in Grinnell that is handicap-friendly and will be joined by some of her friends. Service will be covered by John, Arlyss, Mark, and/or Joyce.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PROPERTY: A new motor was put on the north furnace to heat the upstairs. The motor will set us back about \$250, and \$150 for labor. Also, the downspout shoot for the SW corner was replaced, and some carts were cleaned up in the basement. Eileen brought up the need to do something about the mud that collects by the north door every time it rains. Suggestions include edging, an awning over the door, or a wall on either side of the sidewalk.

CHRISTIAN ED: Bible stories for May will concentrate on the book of Acts, discussing how long the Apostles spent in prison, and how some were tortured. The more gruesome aspects will be omitted from the children's sermons.

STEWARDSHIP: Still in the green! Hopefully it will remain once the insurance issue is settled.

INREACH/OUTREACH: Eileen started the process of requesting donations for the Jubilee Days breakfast burritos.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP: Arlyss really enjoyed today's hymn choices

OLD BUSINESS: Pastor Marcia suggested moving Spring Cleanup days from early May till after Jubilee days. Among other tasks, Pastor Marcia needs help washing windows at the parsonage. Nathan volunteered his pressure washer, and Pastor will order window cleaning solution that attaches to a hose. The north side of the parsonage and church could benefit from a power washing as well.

NEW BUSINESS: Eileen is working on a summer meal program for pre-k to high school children in the Baxter area. They are one of the very few districts that don't have one in place. So far, 113 children have shown interest, so it was decided that 140 meals will be distributed per day, seven days a week. The average cost will come to \$4.04 just for the food. On Tuesdays, the equivalent of three lunches will be given, and four on Fridays, and will consist of cold lunch, sandwich-type of meals. Ballard middle school will let us use their cafeteria, and drop-off spots will be the library in Cambridge

April Council Minutes Continued

and the senior center in Slater. Those authorized to pick up the meals besides parents would include an older sibling or daycare provider. The program is presently in fund-raising stages. \$50,500 is the fund-raising goal which includes \$47,250 for the food, \$2,250 for meal and take-out supplies, \$250 for signage and marketing: mailing and printing, and another \$250 for delivery drivers' gas cards. Projected revenue includes \$20K in grants and \$27,500 in community gifts, and \$3k from individual donations. Kiwanis has pledged \$5,000 and other letters have been sent out, and Eileen is meeting with neighboring churches to ask if they would donate \$500. Volunteers would be appreciated to help with fundraising, preparing food, delivery, and coming up with menus. Pastor Marcia would very much like Nazareth to donate \$5,000 but will discuss the possibility and how to raise the funds at a congressional meeting, and a congregational letter will go out to that affect. Ballard has the least amount of students signed up for free and reduced lunches, but should be much higher based on income.

Next order of business was Silent Auction, which is not going well. Sport programs are declining to contribute due to added cost of souvenir items from China, and hotels/motels aren't willing to contribute, either. So the auction items will probably be homemade crafts and baked goods. The library is allowing us to use their power for breakfast. It was decided to make the same amount of burritos as last year, and Kringla will be sold in the park on Friday night.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 1:14 by President Mark Lewis and closed with The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Allen, Council Secretary.

May Council Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2025

Nazareth Lutheran Church council meeting was called to order at 11:24 by President Mark Lewis following fellowship. Present for the meeting were Mark Lewis, Vince Tomlinson, Arlyss Peterson, John Egeland, Nathan Hovland, Joyce Allen, and Church Administrator Eileen Lewis. Minutes from the April 27 meeting were approved with the corrections that the summer meal program was for children in Ballard, not Baxter, and there would be a congregational meeting, not congressional. Also of note that Pastor Marcia wants Nazareth to pledge \$5,000 to the meal program which wasn't included in the minutes.

May Council Minutes Continued

FINANCIAL REPORT: The General Fund closed with a very happy balance. Opening with \$18,705.56, generous hearts donated \$6,515 in offering, and the play brought in \$1,525.75. Gifts and donations amounted to \$455, Thrivent granted \$500, and Easter Lillies added another \$26. Disbursements included \$410 for furnace repair and snow removal in March. \$50 went to the musicians who played for us on Maundy Thursday, \$208.82 for food served during the play, \$230 went to a special offering payout, \$36 towards the snack program, and \$100.88 for Easter Lillies. After adding \$9,024.75, paying out \$4,401.11, closing balance is \$23,329.20. Of note, Pastor Marcia's insurance has not yet been paid. Savings closed at \$3,125.44, Capital Improvement has \$1,206.37, \$20,037.94 in Mission Investment, and there's \$1,142.98 in Missions. SCRIP opened with \$1,472.11. To it was added \$1,644.94, including \$900 in deposits, \$639.15 in cans, and credit card payments for the play came to \$105.79, disbursements totaled \$875, leaving a closing balance of \$2,242.05.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Nothing to report as Pastor is on vacation

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PROPERTY: Flowers are beginning to bloom in front of the church. John and Vince planted some flowers at the parsonage that Jane and pastor bought. A downspout extension is missing at the parsonage and will need to be replaced.

CHRISTIAN ED: Next week will be the last confirmation class until fall, at which time class will be held on Saturdays to accommodate Hailey. VBS will be the 2nd week of July.

STEWARDSHIP: Nothing to report

INREACH / OUTREACH: The silent auction is looking rather bleak, tariffs used as excuses to not donate. Eileen is still working on donations for breakfast burritos. Sysco has bagged eggs that would be \$70 for the equivalent of 22 dozen eggs, and Walmart's cost for 22 dozen comes to \$75.00. Hopefully the price may continue to come down as fewer cases of Avian flu are being reported. If anyone has chickens and could donate a few, that would be wonderful!

MUSIC AND WORSHIP: Hymns selected through July.

OLD BUSINESS: First order of business concerned spring cleanup. No date set yet, but the list includes hauling cans, paint on the ramp and spraying weeds underneath it, and the mud continues to settle at the back door. As mentioned earlier, Eileen is working on donations for the breakfast burritos, and Laurie offered use of electricity from the library. Nathan suggested she check the circuit situation since a few

May Council Minutes Continued

breakers were thrown when electric cords were run from his house. He will also donate his awning. Eileen wants to use a 55-gallon drum as a big donation jar for the Ballard meal program. It would need to have wheels, a padlock, and someone must attend it at all times. Ideas were kicked around how the best way would be to accomplish these. Last, Kringla sales were discussed for Friday. It was decided that 15-20 dozen should be on hand.

NEW BUSINESS: A letter was received from our property insurance carrier. "The roof valuation basis for the (parsonage) garage will be changed from Replacement Cost to Actual Cash Value" and the wind/hail deductible has gone from 1% to 2%, making our deductible approximately \$18,000. These changes will go into effect on July 1. Pastor Marcia received a letter regarding her health insurance stating she is enrolled in ELCA Medicare-Primary benefits effective March 1. No premium amounts were listed, but should be \$800-1,000 a month less. Much grumbling was shared among council members since the insurance was overpaid for about ten months, which will not be returned.

Lastly, Eileen was advised to reach out to BCPAA about possibly performing some Carol Burnett sketches during Prairie Fest, last weekend of August. Discussion was given as to where exactly this would take place, and how it would be set up. No final decision made at this time as more information is needed.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 12:28 by President Mark Lewis, and closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Allen, Council Secretary.

Ballard Summer Meal Program

Each week in the bulletin has been an announcement regarding the Ballard Summer Meal Program. Here is an update for the program. As of May 31, there are 134 children register for meals 54 qualified for Free or reduced lunch. So, we are reaching the children who need the program!

Our budget was \$50,000.00 we have collected Almost \$39,000.00. We are very close to making our budget. We are grateful to our Summer Champion Sponsors who have donated \$5,000.00; Fjeldberg Lutheran Church, Nazareth Lutheran Church, Mary Greeley Medical Center and the Ballard area Kiwanis. Thanks to many individuals and businesses who are also stepping forward to help the children.

Meals will start on Tuesday June 3rd and continue until August 22nd. If you would like to help, please contact Kathy Parmenter, Traci Kirtley or Eileen Lewis.

Worship Music and Lectionary

Sunday, June 1

Call to Worship: Lord I Lift Your Name on High #857

Opening: Great Is Thy Faithfulness #733

Hymn of the Day: Amazing Grace

Distribution Hymn: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today #365

Closing Hymn: God Be With You Till We Meet Again #536

Prayer of the Day

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Acts 16:16-34

Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12-21

John 17:20-26

Sunday, June 8 Pentecost

Call to Worship: Sanctuary

Opening: This Little Light of Mine #677

Hymn of the Day: Spirit of Gentleness #396

Distribution Hymn: Shine Jesus Shine #671

Closing Hymn: Spirit of the Living God insert

Prayer of the Day

God our creator, the resurrection of your Son offers life to all the peoples of earth. By your Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love, empowering our lives for service and our tongues for praise, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:14-17

John 14:8-27

Sunday, June 15 Worship In the Park

The readings and Music have not been announced

Sunday, June 22

Call to Worship: Sanctuary

Opening: There Is A Balm in Gilead #614

Hymn of the Day: Here I Am Lord #574

Distribution Hymn: Shine Jesus Shine #671

Closing Hymn: Abide With Me #629

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Isaiah 65:1-9

Psalm 22:19-28

Galatians 3:23-29

Luke 8:26-39

Sunday, June 29

Call to Worship: Sanctuary

Opening: Lift Every Voice and Sing #841

Hymn of the Day: We Are Marching in the Light #866

Distribution Hymn: Shine Jesus Shine #671

Closing Hymn: We All Are One in Mission #576

Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

Psalm 16

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Luke 9:51-62

Mission

Jesus calls each of us to do a mission. For us this summer we are called to help with the Ballard Summer Meal Program. Please help by volunteering and working on Tuesdays and Fridays by putting together meals (no cooking) and driving to pick up areas and speaking to others about giving monetary gifts.

There is a jar at church or send a check to Nazareth Lutheran Church with Ballard Summer Meal program in memo line. And as always remember this mission event in your prayers. Email Eileen Lewis at ballardsummermealprograme@gmail.com if you feel called to help with this mission. or you can go to the Signup Genius,

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4FAEAB2EA3F4C52-56904694-ballard>,

to claim some time to volunteer. God bless each of us as we continue to do God's mission.

Jubilee Days Schedule

- Jubilee Day schedule: Friday night on June 13th, we are selling Kringla in the park. Saturday is Breakfast Burritos, and the Silent Auction, Sunday Worship in the Park on June 15th at 10:30 followed by the potluck meal at the Dorcas Hall.
- FYI - Ray Ringgenberg will have his food truck at Jubilee Days. So you can have a breakfast burrito, pulled pork and a side. Pork Tenderloins from the Fire Station. It's another no cooking weekend!!

Word Scramble

1. NCBCAIGKKPA

2. ALAELSBB

3. ABIOGNT

4. NBIIK

5. MNAGPC

6. LOREFSW

7. EICRAMEC

8. CANEO

9. IICCPN

10. LRXAE

11. USN

12. ETAH

13. OTH

14. AADLSLN

15. MISW

16. ELVART

17. CIONTAAV



Word list:

BEACH	LEMONADE	SAND	SUNDRESS
BIKINI	LIFEGUARD	SANDALS	SUNGLASSES
CAMP	PARK	SANDCASTLE	SUNSCREEN
FISHING	PICNIC	SEASHELLS	SUNSHINE
HAMMOCK	POOL	SHADE	SWIMSUIT
HEAT	POPSICLE	SUN	VACATION
ICECREAM	RELAX	SUNSET	WATERMELON