

Nazareth Lutheran Church

JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE PASTOR

1 *Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving*
 2 *one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.*
 2 *Ephesians 4:32*
 3 *For the past several months I have carried this*
 4 *scripture from Ephesians in my heart. My*
 5 *questions for each of you is when was the last time*
 6 *you were kind to someone? How and why were you*
 7 *kind? Were you kind to a family member, to a*
 8 *stranger, or to someone who was unkind to you?*
 9 *I was curious about what the Bible had to say to*
 10 *each of us about kindness and the meaning of*
kindness.

Kindness is the characteristic that led God to provide salvation for us. Kindness leads God to give us green pastures, quiet waters, and the restoration of our souls when we're weary. God expressed kindness when He provided for Elijah and the widow of Zarephath during a drought—and He showed more kindness later when He raised the widow's only son from the dead. When Sarah exiled Hagar and Ishmael, God gave the outcasts kindness in the form of water and hope. On multiple occasions, kindness induced Jesus to stop what He was doing and help others in need. And kindness leads the Good Shepherd to rescue us
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FROM THE PASTOR CONTINUED

we stray. In kindness He “gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young”.

When we exhibit the kindness of God, we are tender, benevolent, and useful to others. Every action, every word will have the flavor of grace in it. To maintain this attitude toward those we love is hard enough. To express kindness toward those who are against us requires the work of God. Just as we love because God commands us to love we are to be kind because God commands each of us to be kind. So, again I ask each of you... when was the last time you were kind? Please let us know your experience with God’s kindness and allow us to share with each other that kindness with our community and world.

In Kindness and Love,
Pastor Marcia

A PRAYER FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

Lord God Almighty, in whose name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us and lit the torch for nations then unborn. Grant, we beseech thee, that we and all the people of this land may have the grace to maintain these liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
(An Episcopal Church Prayer Book).



A VERY WONDERFUL AND SPECIAL COUNTRY

What a country this is! To my way of thinking, there is nothing like it anywhere in the world. I have visited many beautiful lands, but upon returning to the United States, there is always the feeling that Almighty God carved out here a very wonderful and special country.

We need to recount the stories of the great souls America has produced and who produced America. We need to tell and retell these stories beginning with the Pilgrim Fathers. Bibles under their arms, setting forth in little ships across a stormy sea, driven by not by the wind that rages the Atlantic and caught the sails of their little boats, but by the mighty conviction as children of God no one could make slaves of them. Something within drove them across trackless wastes to an inhospitable shore, where unharmed by the autocracy of men, they could worship God in all the dignity of free men.

We, too, need that spirit of freedom in our hearts. We need to re-emphasize morality, decency, and honesty. We need more of God and more of Jesus Christ. Deeply rooted in the American tradition are the sovereignty of God and the sacredness of humanity. Upon these two pillars rests American freedom.

BY DR. NORMAN PEAL

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 14-17 (MONDAY -THURSDAY)
AT DORCUS HALL AND CAMBRIDGE PARK
5:30PM LIGHT SUPPER
6:00PM – 7:30PM PROGRAMMING

THEME: GROWING, GROWING, GROWING...BLOOM

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 ¹ For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: ² a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted; ³ a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up; ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance; ⁵ a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶ a time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to throw away; ⁷ a time to tear and a time to sew; a time to keep silent and a time to speak; ⁸ a time to love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace.



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APRIL COUNCIL 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.

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.

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APRIL COUNCIL MINUTES CONTINUED

Nathan suggested she check the circuit situation since a few 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.



MAY COUNCIL MINUTES JUNE 22, 2025

Nazareth Lutheran Church's Council meeting was called to order by President Mark Lewis at 11:26 AM following fellowship. Present for the meeting were Mark Lewis, Vince Tomlinson, John Egeland, Dave Lewis, Arlyss Peterson, Pastor Marcia, Joyce Allen, and church administrator, Eileen Lewis. Minutes from the May 18 meeting were approved as read. Regarding the minutes, "New Business" included a letter from our property insurance carrier stating less reimbursement will be offered for roof replacement, and our deductible will be raised from 1% to 2%, making it \$18,000. As of July 1, our premiums are \$6,415.00 just for property, and \$439 for liability and workman's comp. After some discussion, John motioned we pay just the \$439 for workman's comp and liability and drop the property insurance, seconded by Dave, since there wouldn't be enough funds from insurance to pay for rebuilding, and none of the stained-glass windows are covered, anyway. However, Eileen was concerned that if we start that conversation, we may be dropped altogether as has been the case for neighboring churches. Vince suggested that we let it ride this year and pay the full premium and investigate possibilities of going to just workman's comp

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MAY COUNCIL MINUTES CONTINUED

for next year. John then amended his motion to investigate changing to just workman's comp in 2026, seconded by Dave. Motion carried.

Finance report: Deposits and disbursements were almost equal this month. Offering totaled \$5,177, plus \$40 in Kringla sales. A donation of \$1999.38 was added for the summer meal program, but that will be transferred out next month, as well as \$150 to finish off May's after-school snack program. Grants for the snack program have been submitted to the Synod, and Prairie Meadows, which are usually decided in early July. Disbursements came to \$7,361.18, including \$3,906.75 for Pastor's insurance. This was for three or four months' worth, and will probably change as Social Security is still being worked out. So, opening balance of \$23,329.20 added \$7,366.38, subtracted \$7,361.18, leaving an end total of \$7,361.18. Saving's sits at \$3,126.24, Capital Improvement's balance is \$1,206.68, \$20,046.15 in Mission Investment, \$1,057.98 in Missions. SCRIP opened with a balance of \$2,242.05, \$900 was deposited, \$875 was paid out, leaving an end amount of \$2,267.05.

Pastor's Report: Haylee has actually moved back to Ballard and will therefore be available to continue confirmation classes as previously planned. Whether the class will meet on Saturdays or not wasn't disclosed. VBS will be July 14-17, and the Methodist church will be the host this year, although it will be held at Dorcas as last year. The theme will be "Growing, Growing, Growing... Bloom" and will touch on the parables of the sower, mustard seed, the Good Samaritan, and the Resurrection. Supper will be at 5:30, and the program will be 6:00 – 7:30. Planning meeting times TBA. Lastly, the silent auction turned out better than expected, noting gift cards seemed to be the go-to bid item. Pastor donated the \$250-worth of gift cards to the auction. In all, Kringla sales brought in \$100, breakfast burritos made \$428, the auction garnered \$1,171, and offering from Worship in the Park was \$75, making a grand total for the weekend \$1,774.00.

Committee Reports:

Property: Edging along back door is great! John and Vince laid a row of bricks, with Nathan hauling them in his truck. It was suggested that the mud already there be cleared away to see just how well it works, but it appears no extra mud leaked onto the sidewalk after a couple heavy rains.

Christian Ed: Going well

Stewardship: Going well, also

Inreach / Outreach: Aubrey went along with Pastor Marcia to greet and welcome the new families on Vine by giving them some of the donated bread loaves, and inviting them to worship. One family has young children who were also invited to VBS.

Music and worship: Pastor has selected music through November. Two "healing services" have been scheduled after Arlyss and Joyce shared their experience from the SAM's retreat. The services are scheduled August 24 and October 12.

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MAY COUNCIL MINUTES CONTINUED

One of the hymns Arlyss suggested is “When the Pain of the World Surrounds Us” which would be new to us. It’s #704 in the hymnal if anyone wants to brush up on it beforehand.

Old Business: The breakfast burrito stand went well, but we learned the hard way that eggs need a little more time to cook than was allowed. But we made it work. Thanks to donations of the meat, tortillas, cheese, sour cream, cheese, potatoes, and jalapenos, \$428 was made as stated above. This year instead of charging \$5.00 per burrito, a free-will offering was requested instead. Thanks to Wendy and Ray who donated \$661.72 to the Summer Meal program from their Smokehouse 72 food truck.

New Business: Pastor is still working on her insurance status. Medicare states she owes them money which was supposed to be deducted automatically but wasn’t, telling her that her MC isn’t current so she was dropped. She will continue to contact both Medicare and Social Security until it is rectified. Eileen offered to look into Obamacare, but she wants to wait until the MC issue is straightened out. Eileen then gave an update on the Summer Meal Program. To date, 157 children are registered. Those signed up in Cambridge and Slater have nearly 100% participation, while those in Huxley are maybe 50%. So, fewer meals will be bagged up for the Huxley children. The food that is not distributed is either donated to other families, returned to the school and placed in the cooler or freezer for the next distribution date, or given to food pantries. The participants receive an email or text from Eileen on the Mondays and Thursdays beforehand as a reminder, and those who have not participated after signing up received a letter asking if they wish to continue. A survey was sent out as well inquiring how well meals are received. Lastly, the church calendar from July to Christmas was reviewed. The August Back to School Drive has been changed from August 3-17 to July 14-31 since backpacks are assembled in mid-August. And our drive-through dinner will be October 19 instead of the 12th since Ray and Wendy won’t be available on the 12th.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 12:41 by President Mark Lewis and closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Allen, Council Secretary

BALLARD SUMMER MEAL PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

Ballard Summer Meal Program has been serving lunches for 3 weeks. and the response has been wonderful! We have 157 children registered to receive meals. Due to vacations and other activities, we are averaging about 125-130 meals produced for each day of the week. We are lucky to have so many people volunteering to assist us with this program.

The Ballard community has also been very generous with their financial support. Although we are expected to have a shortfall due to the higher-than-expected number of participants. So, watch for future fundraising opportunities. If you would like more information about this program, please email ballardsummermealprogram@gmail.com.

JULY LITURGY AND MUSIC

Sun. July 6 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – Lectionary 14

Call to Worship: Sanctuary

Isaiah 66:10-14

Opening: O Beautiful for Spacious Skies #888

in place of psalm Special Song: When Pain of the World Surrounds Us #704

Galatians 6: 1-16

We Are Called #720

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory #890

Closing Hymn: What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine #77

Prayer of the Day

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, you are the city that shelters us, the mother who comforts us. With your Spirit accompany us on our life's journey, that we may spread your peace in all the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Sun. July 13 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – Lectionary 15

Call to Worship: Sanctuary

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Holy, Holy, Holy #413

in place of psalm Special Song: When Pain of the World Surrounds Us #704

Colossians 1:1-14

All Are Welcome #641

Luke 10:25-37

Let Us Break Bread Together #471

Closing Hymn: I've Got the Joy, Joy Joy Down in my Heart

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Sun. July 20 — Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – Lectionary 16

Call to Worship: Sanctuary

Genesis 18:1-10a

Here I Am Lord #574

Psalms 15

How Great Thou Art #856

Colossians 1:15-28

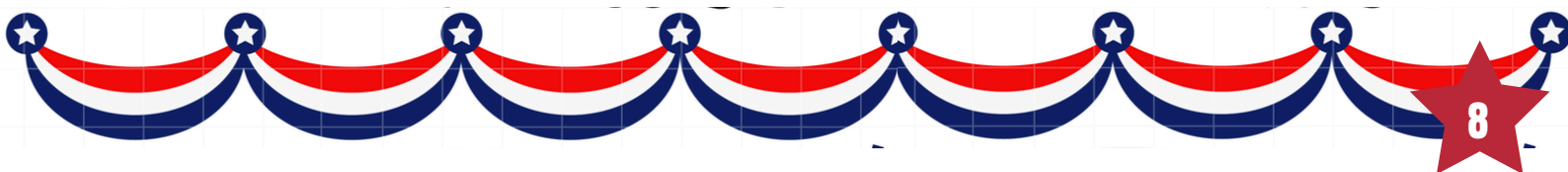
Let Us Break Bread Together #471

Luke 10:38-42

Closing: Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service #712

Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord



JULY LITURGY AND MUSIC CONTINUED

Sun. July 27 — Seventh Sunday after Pentecost - Lectionary 17

Genesis 18:20-32

Psalms 138

Colossians 2:6-19

Luke 11:1-13

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Call to Worship: Sanctuary

This Little Light of Mine #677

Seek Ye First The Kingdom of God

Let Us Break Bread Together #471

God Be with You Till We Meet Again #536



JUBILEE DAYS RECAP



Jubilee Days is one of our major fundraising weekends. as was noted in the June Council minutes here is a recap of the weekend.

On Friday evening, we sell Kringla during the Ballard Community Performing Arts Association Band and Choir performances. The Kringla sales brought in \$100.00. We sell a baker's dozen of Kringla for \$10.00. In the past we have only sold a few dozen so we decided to just bring 10 dozen to the park. This year we had a number of people indicate that they came to the park just for the kringla. Thank you to the Nazareth Bakers for their donation of Kringla.

Saturday morning dawned bright and early as we prepared for the breakfast burrito sales. Unfortunately, we had a malfunction with cooking our scrambled eggs and there was a delay in starting our sale. We did however still raise \$428.00. All expenses were donated this year. Thank you to Dale Dunlap for the eggs, Burke Foods for the taco meat, Joyce Allen for the jalapenos and potatoes, Ellen Olson for the cheese, Daisy Sour Cream for the, you guessed correctly if you said sour cream, and Eileen Lewis for the tortillas and the salsa. Thank you all!!

The Silent auction had less items to bid on than usual but still garnered \$1,171.00. A number of our usual donors have cut down on donations citing the uncertainty of the economy. But still the auction turned out better than expected, noting gift cards seemed to be the go-to bid item. Pastor donated \$250-worth of gift cards to the auction.

Sunday morning, we celebrated Worship in the Park with the Cambridge Methodist congregation. John Griffith preached a wonderful sermon, and we enjoyed a beautiful hymn sing. Nazareth received \$75.00 of checks in the offering, the Methodist also received a number of checks, and all loose cash went to the Ballard Summer Meal Program.

Grand total of fund raised during the Jubilee Weekend was \$1,774.00.

PUZZLES

July 4th word search



J O X U Z T Y Q V G X F Z J B V L J E J
 K G Q X H D A J Q L T Q X S A W L P C U
 D U I G N I D N U O F R W R Q G X S J W
 Y F N M E J E Y I A P K K I P R X L T A
 T L I I U A C A T A T F E M V N Y J G S
 Y P C R T M N H C T K J I U A N J D Z G
 J B M O D E E R F I U L J T O B J M U U
 I N A K Y R D Q I Y T G I S I Q Z L Y W
 U F R R S I N S F X C O B N H Y E K A S
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 P A B S T N E F L X T K F E T L K N L H
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 O C T Q H Q W V X H Q K Z I I R E A Q D
 J S M E H F H S I C Q U Z T Y F W P V Q
 V Q M G U Z D C U C S F N S P G Y J J N
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 B M E X H R J K Z D N P S F I C R G Z Q



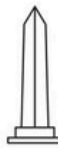
words to find



AMERICAN
 FATHERS
 FOUNDING
 HONOR
 NATIONAL ANTHEM
 STARS
 UNITED STATES

CENTENNIAL
 FESTIVE
 FREEDOM
 INDEPENDENCE DAY
 PATRIOTIC
 STRIPES
 VETERANS

CIVIC
 FIREWORKS
 HOLIDAY
 LIBERTY
 PICNIC
 STAR SPANGLED



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4th of July Word Scramble

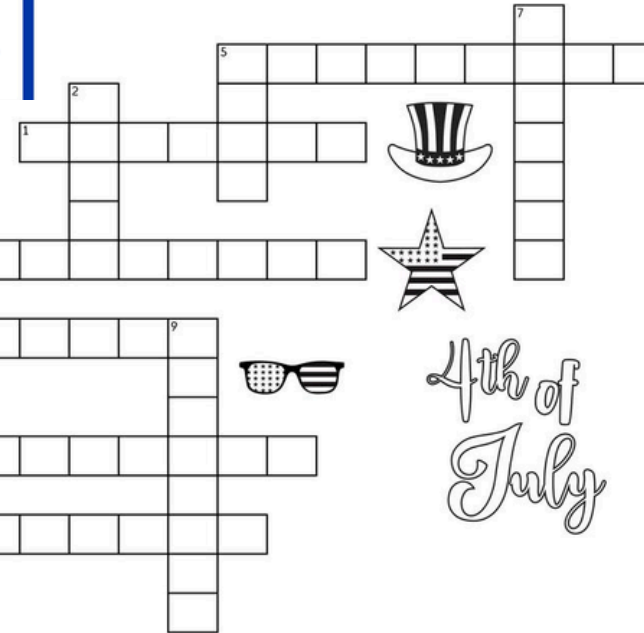
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- JLYU
- MRFEODE
- UBLE
- SARST
- WTEIH
- SOWREFIRK
- RPSSITE
- EDR
- AMARCEI
- EDDCENEPINNE
- DAPEAR

DOWN

2. A bird with a hooked beak and sharp talons
4. A piece of fabric with a design, often flown on a pole
5. Task that must be done
7. A person who loves and strongly supports their country
9. Armed forces of a country

ACROSS

1. The main building of a government
3. A person who has served in the army
4. Explosive devices that produce a colorful display of sparks and loud noises
5. A form of government with elected officials
6. Treating people equally and without bias
8. A song that expresses strong feelings of loyalty



4th of July