



NAZARETH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

December 2025

What can I give Him poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would give Him a lamb, If I were a wise man, I would do my part, -- But what I can I give Him: Give my heart. ~Christina Rossetti

Like it or not, much of this time of year centers around gifts. Children write their lists to tell Santa what they want. Malls are full of shoppers trying to find just the right present. Post Office lines seem to stretch for hours to make sure everything gets there in time.

But in this season of giving, it is also important to remember what we have received – the gift of Christ Jesus. The greatest gift that was ever given to us was given on a tree – not a beautiful evergreen, but a twisted cross. *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given"* (Isaiah 9:6) - and the world has never been the same.

We try to find the perfect gift for our loved ones, even as we know that it probably doesn't exist. And as Christina Rossetti reminds us in her famous poem (*"In the Bleak Midwinter"*), there is nothing we can ever give to God that will ever begin to repay the wondrous gift given to us. And so, we give the only thing we can. We give our hearts and our love. Our hearts are imperfect, and our love is sometimes misguided. But, as we teach our children when opening their presents, it is the thought that counts, and God knows every one of our thoughts, even when we are less than able to show them.

Enjoy opening your presents, and as you say your thank yous, don't forget to give thanks to the only one who has ever given us exactly what we needed.

Blessings, Vicar Kim Kacmarynski



Welcome to Nazareth's Newly Baptized

We rejoice, give thanks, and welcome the following who were all recently baptized, as our newest members of Nazareth Lutheran.

- Breece Steven Paul, son of Matt & Dayna Paul
- Calan James Paulson, son of Chase & Samantha Paulson
- Bo Douglas Nutt, son of Dallas & Briana Nutt

May God bless and guide them all in their spiritual journey.

"Old Man's" Coffee

There will be coffee in the fellowship hall every Thursday at 2:30 PM.
Everyone welcome. Please enter using the kitchen door.



Youth Ministry Updates

- Confirmation Class is held every Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 PM
- BLAST is on North Union early Wednesday's from 2:30-4 PM
- Sunday School will be held from 10:15-11 AM on Communion Sunday's this year.
- The youth and adult Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 14th during our regular 9 AM worship service.

Helpers Needed!

We need volunteers to help with BLAST sessions. Your help would be needed from 2:15-4:15 PM roughly every other week. We greatly appreciate all help you can provide for us! Please reach out to Kristin with any questions. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex with dates to sign up for.

Remember In Your Prayers

Assisted Living & Nursing Homes:

Wanye Lubenow- Valley View, Armstrong

Joan Lindholm – Legacy of St. Anthony, Minneapolis

Marilyn Hanson, Tom Barrett– Good Samaritan, Estherville

Linda Polzin – Lakeview, Fairmont Mary Peterson- Goldfinch, Fairmont

Dona Opsal, Vi Reichardt–Spring Creek Assisted Living, Armstrong

Ill or Recovering: Alaina Aksenov, Rhianna Smith, Butch Thackery, Billy Ross, Shelly Andre, Aileen Rienhardt, Lyric Schultz, Patti Paulsen, Jean Radunz, Haley Weisbrod, Brenda Corderman, Pam Iverson, Kay Naig, Mike Rasmussen, Francis Arcand,

Jason Frey, Gary Barrett, Jenna Hertrampf, Sandra Moore, Nikki Haukoos, Barb Rikansrud,

Renae Haaland, Stacy Hanning, Sherry Bradley, Sandy Olson

Our military people: All military personnel, especially those who are deployed.

Church Offering Update

(as of 11/22/25)

Our monthly budgeted income for 2025 is projected to be \$10,502.08. The numbers below show our actual offering totals for November.

Regular Offering - \$5205

Loose Offering - \$99

Online Offering - \$352.52

Total Offering Received in November - \$5,656.58

This currently puts us \$23,497.16 behind our yearly budget amount.

Thank you for your continued financial support to Nazareth.



December Noisy Offering

Noisy offering for December will go to the Area Ministerial Association fund.

"Peace Will Come"

The 'Many Voices' choir presents their "Peace Will Come" concert series. You are invited to join them at the following events

Sun. Nov. 30th at 3:30 PM at St. John's Catholic Church in Bancroft, IA

- Fri. Dec. 5th at 7:30 PM at United Methodist Church in Spirit Lake, IA
- Sat. Dec. 6th at 1:30 PM at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Estherville, IA

Admission is free. Free will offering appreciated.

December Food Bank

On Thurs. Dec. 4th from 4-6 PM the Food bank will be held at Good News Church in Estherville. At the November Food Bank, 738 individuals (261 families) received 10,690 pounds of food. The Food Bank of Iowa partners with 700 agencies in 55 counties to distribute 2.5 million pounds of food each month, so that no one goes hungry in Iowa.

Still Missing 😞

The embroidered youth activity bags are still missing. If you happen to know where they went, we would love to have them back and replenished. We want the little ones to keep coming back to services and these help with that outreach. We have put others out there in the meantime but would be ever so grateful to have the old ones back as well.

"Come To the Manger"

The NLCW Christmas Tea will be held on Sunday, December 7th at 2 PM in the fellowship hall. Join us as we center our hearts on the true meaning of Christmas and step back in time to Bethlehem to witness the miracle that took place there. All are welcome—please feel free to invite friends to share in this special time together.

Spectacula Virtuoso Christmas Concert

Come listen to an amazing debut performance of Christmas melodies on Sunday, December 7th at 2 PM at Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School. Glenn Henriksen and Jayson Matasovsky, a Martin Luther senior, will be competing against each other in a dueling piano spectacular. More information can be found on the flyer in the Narthex.

Thread Resting, Hearts Still Warm

The NLCW quilters are taking a break from all their hard work. They will resume quilting on January 7th.

Help Needed

The council is looking for volunteers for people to serve on the Landscaping & Worship Garden (outdoor service area) team. This team would work together with the property team as improvements are needed. If interested, please reach out to Kristin or Dennis.

Winter Crafting Retreat

Ingham Okoboji will be hosting their annual winter crafting retreat on January 23-25. More information is available in the pamphlets in the fellowship hall or at the following link www.okoboji.org/crafting-retreat

Sunday Fellowship Change

Effective January 4, 2026, "goodies" such as cookies, rolls, and other treats for Sunday morning fellowship will **no longer be the responsibility of the service groups**. A sign-up sheet will be available for anyone who wishes to provide goodies.

Anyone may contribute at any time—**you do not need to be part of the service group assigned for that month**. If no one signs up for a particular week, there will simply be no goodies provided. In that case, only coffee, juice, and water will be available.

Leah Circle

Leah circle will be meeting Dec. 3rd at 9:30 AM in the fellowship hall



"Stocking the Streets"

Aspyn Dahl is doing a 4H citizenship project called "Stocking the Streets". This project is in collaboration with ELCA World Hunger. Aspyn will be collecting items and putting together bags to care for our neighbors in need. A "Stocking the Street" bag will include the items most frequently requested by individuals facing homelessness or

temporary insecurities. She will be donating the bags to local churches, food pantries and social service organizations for their distribution as needed.

Below is the list of gently used items she is collecting:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Travel First Aid Kits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hygiene Wipes • New Socks • Restaurant Gift Cards • Hand & Feet Warmers • Lightweight Blankets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lip Balm • Reusable Water Bottles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notepads • Travel Sized Toiletries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pull-top Can Goods • Feminine Hygiene Products | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flashlights with Batteries • Travel-sized Ponchos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Underwear • Gloves • Hats • 2 Gallon Zip Lock Bags • Quart Zip Lock Bags <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pens & Notepads • No Perishable Snacks • Small Hairbrush & Hair Ties • Easy-To Eat Foods (Nuts, Crackers Protein or Granola Bars) |
|---|--|

Donations for "Stocking the Streets" can be put outside Kristin's office or dropped off at the following locations: North Union High School office, Swea City School Office, Fenton School Office, Armstrong Journal, Armstrong Bank Midwest, Ledyard County Store and St. Paul Lutheran in Lakota. Monetary donations to purchase additional items is also acceptable.

NLCW Service Group for November & December

November & December 2025 Co-Chairpersons

Paula Griese 712-209-2395

Matt & Dayna Paul 515-890-9961

Deb Zoellner..... 641-420-6104

November & December 2025 Service Group

Troy & Jen Leininger 712-209-1385

Shelby Leininger 712-852-6037

John Morosco 970-308-5600

Austin & Jalissa DeJong..... 712-260-5228

Rick and Cathy Dale..... 868-3916

Dean Looft 712-868-3136

Janet Hardecopf..... 712-260-9617

Jerry & Donna Ulrich..... 864-3041

Brian and Tammy Fuller..... 712-260-4609

Amy Hoyer..... 605-261-6415

Greg & Coleen Buum 712-260-0542

Kristin Buum & Tony Christ..... 712-260-6654

Bryon & Brooke Nelsen..... 515-708-2387