



NAZARETH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

March 2024

“Lent is like a long ‘retreat’ during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One. It is a period which we must experience alongside Jesus.” ~Pope Benedict XVI

During this season of Lent, you will notice that the baptismal font has been centered at the front of the aisle next to a lush green plant, making it an oasis amid the starkness of Lent – the “oil on our head”, so to speak, reflecting on our Gospel from Ash Wednesday (Matthew 6:16-18). The font has become the symbol that accompanies us throughout Lent, the center of the stories we hear and tell. As we move from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday, the oasis of the font will grow to include the things that have us shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Mark 11:9).

The Old Testament lessons during the Sundays of Lent tell us of five covenants God makes with God’s people, returning us to the foundations of baptismal life. The first covenant we encountered on Sunday, February 18 was the covenant God made with Noah. There were ribbons in colors of the rainbow, recalling the sign of the covenant, near the font.

On the second Sunday in Lent (February 25), we heard about God’s covenant with Abraham and Sarah, which was accompanied by new names. I used all of our names which were created as a piece of art and placed at the baptismal oasis. We will consider the ten commandments and Jesus turning over the tables in the temple on the third Sunday in Lent (March 3). I invite you on this Sunday to bring an item or a picture of an item to church that represents something that distracts you from worshiping God. We will create a toppled table scene near the oasis with these things. The last weeks of Lent move our gaze to the cross. Baptism is the tangible way we are connected to the cross. During this time there will be a cross moved closer to the font. On Palm Sunday, March 24, we will make a visual transition from the joy of the palm procession to the somber tone of the rest of the service by removing some of the joyful imagery from around the font during the first and second readings. This will set the space and help us transition from “Hosanna!” to “Crucify him!” It will also foreshadow what will come at the end of Maundy Thursday worship.

I invite you during this season of Lent to reflect, to act, to grow, and to learn as we make our way to Jerusalem alongside Jesus.

Blessings,
Vicar Kim Kacmarynski

If you have any questions, please contact me:
(kimkac1001@hotmail.com or 712-298-1077)

Welcome Pads

We have recently added "Welcome Pads" to each pew in the sanctuary. If you could kindly fill out your information on the slip when you worship with us, we would appreciate it. We look forward to worshipping with you soon!

4th of July Fundraiser

The Armstrong Betterment Club had begun plans for the 4th of July celebration or this year and have asked if we will be having a meal here at the church again. Dennis and Renae have said they will not be able to commit to being the chairpersons again for this year. If you or someone you know is willing to take this on, please let Kristin know soon.

Remember In Your Prayers

Assisted Living & Nursing Homes:

Dona Opsal- Spring Creek Assisted Living, Armstrong

Tom Barrett- Good Samaritan, Estherville

Joan Lindholm - Legacy of St. Anthony, Minneapolis

Linda Polzin - Lakeview, Fairmont

Grace Askeland-Temperance Lake Ridge, Sherburn

Betty Opsal - Woodlands Creek Senior Living, Clive

Lucille Guinn, Craig Lemke- Valley Vue Care Center, Armstrong

Ill or Recovering: Julius Irmiter, Alaina Aksenov, Dan Lindholm, Rhianna Smith, Butch Thackery, Billy Ross, Shelly Andre, Aileen Rienhardt, Tim Meyer, Lyric Schultz, Patti Paulsen, Darla Stewart, Jean Radunz, Laura Zenk, Haley Weisbrod, Evelyn Vos, Brenda Corderman, Richard England, Jim Kacmarynski, Greg Boom

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

Newsletter Articles and Bulletin Announcements

If you have something you would like to have included in the newsletter, please email it to Kristin at nlc@nazlutheran.com by the 18th of each month. If you have something you would like to have included in the bulletin, please email it to Kristin by the Wednesday prior.

Lent Schedule

Wed. Feb. 28th at Nazareth at 6:30 PM – Supper 5:30-6:15

Wed. Mar. 6th at United at 6:30 PM

Wed. Mar. 13th at Nazareth at 6:30 PM-Youth Group Fundraiser Meal 5:30-6:15

Wed. Mar. 20th at United at 6:30 PM

Sun. Mar. 24th (Palm Sunday)- Nazareth at 9 AM, United at 10:30 AM

Thurs. Mar. 28th (Maundy Thursday) at United at 6:30 PM –Agape Meal

Fri. Mar. 29th (Good Friday) at Nazareth at 6:30 PM

Sun. Mar. 31st (Easter)- United at 7 AM, Nazareth at 9 AM- Bible Camp Fundraiser Breakfast 7-8:30 AM

Sunday School

The council has decided to start Sunday School back up. This will begin the first Sunday of March. Sunday school will take place following worship each week until 11 AM.

Baby Bottle Project

NLCW is sponsoring the Baby Bottle Campaign for Cherish House and Center in Okoboji/Milford again this year from March 3rd -31st. Cherish House is a safe, compassionate, faith-based home environment for expectant mothers and their children. These moms stay at Cherish House and are able to get the help they need for their family's future including counseling, education. Life-skills training and finding a job. All services at Cherish House(including housing) are no cost. They are able to provide this service by donations. If you would like to help these expectant mothers, please take a baby bottle from the tote in the narthex and fill it up with your donation. This can be coins, cash, or check(Payable to Cherish House). Please return these bottles to the tote in the narthex by April 1st. Thank you for your support.

March Circle

9:30 AM at Charlotte Thiesse home. Marilyn Johannesen, serving.

Quilting

Don't forget that quilting is every Tuesday at 9 AM in the fellowship hall

Online Donations

If you would like to give to NLC but would like an automated option, try Give Plus+! This online option has been available for our church for approximately one year and has been a great new tool for our congregation members! Simply do the following:

1. From your smart phone, go to the Apps Store and download GivePlus+
2. Once downloaded, open GivePlus+ and search for our church, simply put in the zip code of 50514 and Nazareth Lutheran Church will show
3. Click on the church and setup your donation – can be done one-time, weekly, monthly, etc.
4. You have the OPTION to let a % of your donation to go to the web page for maintenance or give 100% to your church – this is your decision!

Just like that you have your donations setup, and you don't need to remember your donation on Sunday or if you can't make it, your donation will and that helps your church!

Early Bird Bible Camp Registration Deadline

If your child would like to attend Bible camp at Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible camp, the deadline is March 1st. Funds are available for your child participate and join in on the fun. More information and registration forms are available the church in the fellowship hall. Dates are filling up-Turn in forms ASAP to the church office. Please contact Kristin or Janine & Loren Kinnander with any questions you may have.

Question. Persuade. Refer. (QPR)

Say, "Yes" to saving the life of a famer or agriculture professional in your life. Just as people train in CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver to help save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help.

This Free Lunch and Training will be held at Emmet County Public Health in Estherville on Tues. March 19th from 12-2 PM. Register at <https://go.iastate.edu/F2NRU4>

NLCW Service Group for March & April

March & April 2024 Co-Chairpersons

Butch & Karen Ann Thackery..... 864-3143

Or 712-260-2783

Richard & Amy Mullen712-260-9316

March & April 2024 Service Group

Mike & Gail Anderson..... 864-3804

Leroy & Carla Strong712-209-3901

Melinda Witzke.....712-209-4816

Randy & Connie Linn..... 868-3329

Mitchell & Jolene Laue.....712-260-1308

Amber & Jason Linn.....712-209-4240

Lucas & Katie Oleson 866-3011

Chuck and Brenda Colegrove 864-3170

Dean Nicoson/Julia Rein712-209-3397

Martin & Alycia Dahl515-320-3072

Dan & Lori Sorenson515-209-0913

Carolyn Jones 864-3184

Or 712-260-1135

Dawson & Cheyenne Sorenson712-209-1233

Kathy Strong.....515-578-0373

Corey & Kathy Pierce.....712-230-4161

Marvin & Val Vivens712-209-7181

Natalie Henriksen712-260-5720

Jess Henriksen507-215-0249

Phil & Lisa Henriksen.....712-260-2587

Loren & Janine Kinnander712-363-1546

Steve & Carol Corderman.....712-260-0389

John & Kris Irmiter712-260-1465