



NAZARETH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

May 2021

Ah spring! Someone asked me what I like best about spring. I have two answers to that question. The short one is NO SNOW! The longer answer is I like spring because it stirs hope in me. As things get warmer, things get greener, and it's easy to see all around us the new life that the Gospels promise. Just last week as

I was driving out to Lost Island Lutheran Church, I saw several types of waterfowl and a lot of pheasants. Fields are being tilled and readied for planting, the conversation seems to be more hopeful and forward looking like folks talk about what the months ahead will bring. For me this makes it easier to hope. My prayer is that you find it so as well. Christ is the embodiment of the hope that we

have as communities of faith, and he calls us to embody that hope in our daily living. There are countless ways that we can do that, but one of my favorites is to take to heart the words of Martin Luther in his early writings where he challenged his followers to see in one another a reflection of Christ and treat them as you would Christ "in the midst of" as we have been exploring in the post Easter Gospel lessons. In the days ahead, focus on your sources of Hope. Drink from them deeply and live in Hope!

Pastor Peter Morlock

Nazareth's Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

The 2nd quarter sign up for Nazareth's Food Pantry is out in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider signing up to help us out. The experience is extremely rewarding.

Thank you so much for your continued support!!!

Your help is greatly appreciated! Dennis and Renae, Administrators

National Day of Prayer

Day of Prayer has been scheduled for Thursday, May 6th at noon. This will be held at the shelter house in the Armstrong City Park.



Readers Wanted

There is a sign-up sheet on the credenza for those willing to read during our worship services in May and June. We appreciate your help!

Church Offering Update

(as of April 23rd)

Our monthly budgeted income for 2021 is projected to be \$8,833.33. The below numbers show our actual offering totals for this month.

Regular Offering - \$6,585

Loose Offering - \$82

Online Offering - \$670.09

Total Offering Received - \$7,337.09



Noisy Offering

April's Noisy Offering went towards Confirmation expenses. May will go towards Vacation Bible School which will be July 5th-8th this year.

Remember In Your Prayers

Nursing Homes: Marilyn Naig, Duane Moore- Valley Vue Care Center

Lucille Guinn, Dona Opsal – Spring Creek Assisted Living

Tom Barrett – Good Samaritan, Estherville

Joan Lindholm – Keelson Harbour, Spirit Lake

Linda Polzin – Ingleside Assisted Living, Fairmont

Grace Askeland-Temperance Lake Ridge, Sherburn

Ill or Recovering: Those who had or have COVID-19 and Karen Ulrich,

Julius Irmiter, Alaina Aksenov, Dan Lindholm, Roger Spiegeler, Kim Naig,

Rhianna Smith (niece of Lisa Hansen), Betty Moeller, Butch Thackery, Dona Opsal, Billy Ross, Judy Richmond Stevenson, Steve Lang, Karen Ann Thackery, Phyllis Evans, Sandy Laabs, Janis Campbell, Blaine Griese

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

If you would like your loved one placed on the Prayer List, please let us know.

Names will be removed only upon the personal request of the ones listed, their family members or their friends.

The only way we know if someone is hospitalized and/or in need of a visit is if the family lets us know at 712-868-3510

We need volunteers for the following:

- Food Pantry
- Special music during worship
- Readers for May and June



May & June 2021

Service Group Co-Chairpersons: Sharing Equal Responsibilities
(Altar & Flower assignments can be found on the monthly events calendar)

- Greg & Rhonda Oleson.....868-3755**
- Marilyn Johannesen868-3519**
Or 712-260-5460
- Betty Nelson.....712-298-2711**

- Steve & Nancy Heck515-320-4061**
- Dave & Lorae Radunz507-848-1551**
- Jack & Jenny Von Bank.....712-363-2993**
- Jay & Kris Grabinoski712-260-6650**
- Dustin & Judy* Moore712-363-2469**
- Deb Godfredsen.....712-260-3284**
- Derek & Christy Anderson712-260-9028**
- Tom & Brenda Feddersen.....712-260-2605**
Or 864-3684
- Rick & Joanne Boicourt.....868-4162**
- Ty & Bailey* Anderson712-209-9328**
- Jason & Amber Henderson.....712-260-5532**
- Peg Askeland712-260-8803**
- Don & LaDonna Jenson868-3003**
- Dan & Denette Moore.....868-3273**
- Tom & Krista Mart.....712-260-0523**
- Dennis & Cindy Mathiason.....712-260-9354**
- Mort & Marklynn Wegner.....507-848-6485**

Call Committee Update

The call committee recently compiled the congregational surveys. They used that information to fill out and submit our congregational profile which was submitted two weeks ago. The next steps are to make a slideshow highlighting our church, community, and surrounding areas to the candidates. After that the synod will start sending us candidates to interview for a possible call to Nazareth.

Virtual Synod Assembly Report

Charlotte Thiesse virtually attended the Western Iowa Synod Convention, April 9-10, 2021. We thank her for doing this and representing Nazareth. Below you will find her summary of the event.

April 9 – All activities held virtually. Friday session was training for Saturday.

We learned how to register and how to vote.

April 10 -8:30am start with Bishop Lorna Halaas presiding. She began with prayer. ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton also sent greetings.

It was noted that there will be 28 congregations in our synod who will be in Call process as of this summer. 17 persons are now in candidacy...this includes our own Kim Campbell.

Pastor Harold Heinzig was honored for his 50 years of service.

Congregation anniversaries were noted from 5 to 150 years.

Christopher Otten spoke about the Chaplin ministry that is available.

Credentials Committee reported there were 194 persons in attendance – online.

Agenda was approved and secretary minutes from 2019 are posted online.(No convention last year due to Covid 19)

This is not a year to elect WIS Bishop – various other offices were filled by submitting a unanimous ballot.

Vote was approved amending two by-laws concerning terms of office. Amendments must be voted on two years in a row. These will be presented again next year.

Treasurer reported synod will need \$1,242,600 for budgeted items. Request is being made for one and one-half percent increase from each of the 125 congregations in Western Iowa Synod.

There are lots of ways the Synod helps congregations/groups/individuals. Nazareth has received money for the Food Pantry and Gifts for Kids.

Synod convention ended at 12:30 with Bishop Halaas giving the closing prayer.

Charlotte Thiesse, Representative from Nazareth.

Church Mice

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Newly Baptized

Jo Leigh Oleson was baptized yesterday, April 24th here at Nazareth. We rejoice, give thanks, and welcome her as a member of Nazareth Lutheran. May God bless her and guide her and her continued spiritual journey.



2021 Nazareth Confirmands

On Sunday, May 2nd, five youth from Nazareth will be confirmed.

Congratulations to the following:

Alaina Shannon, Sienna Hansen, Kartor Nicoson, Owen Haukoos & Jo Oleson

We wish you continued blessings in your spiritual journeys.

2021 North Union Graduates

North Union Graduation will be held Sunday, May 16th at 1:30 PM. We will be honoring eight Nazareth Lutheran seniors at our regular service on Sunday, May 9th.

Congratulations to the following:

Halle Rezac, Shantel Engeman, Damian Freitag, Carys Fuller, Shawn Odegaard, Jaden Quastad, Vanessa VonBank and Emma Haukoos

May God bless you on your future endeavors!



Volunteer Needed

Early Childhood of North Central Iowa (ECNCI) needs an Emmet County community member to fill a position on their board. Each of the 5 counties in ECNCI get 2 representatives. One is the Emmet County Supervisor representative (Lisa Hansen).

The other is a community member.

The board meets once a month on the 4th Monday @ 12:30 pm at the Bancroft City Hall for approximately an hour. This board supports families to keep children healthy, school ready, living in secure and nurturing environments and have access to quality childcare. Please let Lisa Hansen (712-260-2671) know if you would be interested in being involved.

Church Cleaning

The annual church cleaning volunteer list is on the credenza in the narthex. Please take a look at the items that need done. You can do the item whenever it fits your schedule. We would appreciate your help.

LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Happy Mother's Day!

Mother's Day is a time to celebrate the strong, loving women in your life. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we see thousands of Iowa moms through their journey to build the brightest future for their children.

We see moms turning to LSI Behavioral Health Intervention Services to ensure their child is receiving the coping skills and behavioral supports they need to thrive. In our Early Childhood Services, we see first-time moms who are eager to join our parenting education classes and support groups. In 2020, LSI's Early Childhood programs provided support to more than 1,097 families of young children. We are so inspired to hear their stories and see their hard work pay off as they raise our next generation.

As you celebrate Mother's Day this year, remember how many Iowa moms are being empowered because of your support. If you are looking for a way to honor your mother this year, please consider making a gift in her name to LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Wrapping Care Around Iowa Children

Martha and Marti first became foster parents in September of 2018, after their biological children expressed that they wanted to provide foster care as a family. They decided to become licensed through LSI Foster Care and Adoption and soon after, they welcomed a sibling group of three into their home.

"Our kids really wanted to look into foster care as a way to be able to help others as a family," Martha says. "Everybody had to sacrifice and pour in, and everybody was needed and brought something to the table."

The siblings stayed with the family for almost two years, until the opportunity came for them to find a forever home through adoption. Over the years, the siblings had become bonded to Martha and Marti, as well as their extended family and friends. The siblings are currently in the process of officially being adopted by a family close to Martha and Marti, so they can continue to stay connected to the important relationships they built in foster care. The family has found a passion they can all share, and it's making a difference in the lives of Iowa children.

"We always explain fostering as 'good' and 'hard.' You never want to take one away from the other, because it's both. It's the hardest thing we've ever done, but it's the best thing we've done," Martha says. "We've had the privilege of having the kids in our home and you have the responsibility and the privilege to take care of them in their time of need."