

**I am a young adult who wants to attend the later service. I also want to serve as a volunteer in KidzRock or Confirmation.**

- ◆ Volunteers for KidzRock and Confirmation may need to meet together with others who are serving prior to when the programs begin at 9:30 a.m.
- ◆ From 9:30-10:30 a.m., KidzRock and Confirmation volunteers will serve with children and students as small group leaders, large group teachers, and worship leaders, etc.
- ◆ Following KidzRock and Confirmation, there will be an opportunity to worship from 10:45-11:45 a.m.
- ◆ When the service concludes, please feel free to linger in Fellowship Hall to make connections (and maybe even invite someone new to lunch!).

**I am a long-time member who attends the first service. I also participate in a Sunday Morning Bible Study.**

- ◆ It is a joy to see many long-time members coming early on a Sunday morning so that they can have conversations with church friends and family. Since the first service begins at 9:00 a.m., there is still plenty of time to strengthen those relationships before the service begins.
- ◆ Following the 9:00 a.m. worship service, there will be additional opportunities for fellowship with friends as well as the chance to make new connections with those who attend the second service.
- ◆ Bible Studies and Small Group meetings will also be scheduled throughout the morning so that these long-established groups can still come together each week.

**I have only been here at Nazareth a few times. I am not sure which worship service to choose and/or if I should start volunteering or joining groups.**

- ◆ Welcome to Nazareth! We are so glad you are here!
- ◆ We encourage you to “try out” each service for a few weeks to see which one God may be calling you to attend.
- ◆ Finally, there is no better time than the present to begin to make connections here. We deeply desire that all Nazareth community members feel that they are known and loved here—by both God and by the people. Stop at the Naz Next Steps area to have a conversation with someone who can help you find a Bible Study or Small Group that is the best fit for you.

***Still wondering how this works for you?***

*We invite you to have a conversation with a Nazareth Task Force member or with anyone on the Nazareth Leadership Team.*



## SUNDAY SCHEDULE CHANGES

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **What is the new Sunday morning schedule?**

- ◆ The first service will be from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- ◆ The second service will be from 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
- ◆ In the fall, KidzRock (for PreK-6th Graders) and Confirmation Classes (for 7th, 8th and 9th Graders) will meet from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- ◆ There will be opportunities for Bible Studies and Small Groups all across the morning.
- ◆ The primary time for connecting and building relationships with other Nazareth community members will be from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

#### **When will this new schedule begin?**

- ◆ The new worship service schedule will begin on Sunday, June 11.
- ◆ The new schedule for KidzRock and Confirmation Classes will begin on Sunday, September 10.

#### **Why can't we stay with our current schedule?**

- ◆ Based on Nazareth congregational survey feedback as well as data from national surveys, our current Sunday morning schedule begins too early and ends too late.
- ◆ A “drop off” culture exists and fewer families are worshipping together or attend worship at all.
- ◆ The number of students worshipping on a Sunday morning is decreasing.
- ◆ Our current weekly worship attendance is less than 1/3 of our total membership.
- ◆ There is an insufficient number of volunteers to consistently serve in three services.

#### **What are the primary reasons for making this change?**

- ◆ We believe God is calling us to intentionally cultivate a culture change that encourages people to better live out our mission to “invite all people to know Christ, grow in Christ and make Christ known”.
- ◆ We believe God is challenging us to deliberately gather people of all ages together for faithful, God-focused worship that is invitational and engaging.
- ◆ We believe God is leading us to carefully steward our resources while building a relationally renewed culture of unity, community and discipleship.
- ◆ We believe God is guiding us to purposefully create opportunities for families to worship together.

## What can I/we expect from our new worship services?

- ◆ Both of our Sunday morning services will typically include: singing songs of praise to God; greeting those around us and welcoming visitors; taking time to confess our sins and hear about God's forgiveness; proclaiming our Christian faith by reciting the Apostles' Creed; reading aloud Scripture passages; hearing a message based on the Bible; celebrating Holy Communion twice each month; gathering an offering in support of our mission; lifting up those in the congregation and around the world in need of prayer; praying together the Lord's Prayer; and receiving a sending and benediction blessing. In addition, on occasion, there will be special events like Baptism or Confirmation and/or there may be a drama performed.
- ◆ Music at the 9:00 a.m. service will complement the sermon topic through familiar hymns and worship songs. This service will typically feature the organ and piano, the Nazareth Choir, an "acoustic" worship team, and vocal and instrumental special music. The lyrics for all of the music will be projected onto our screens, and hymnals will be available, too.
- ◆ Music at the 10:45 a.m. service will complement the sermon topic through today's worship songs, including arrangements of familiar hymns. This service will typically feature a full worship team as well as vocal and instrumental special music. The lyrics for all of the music will be projected onto our screens.

## What steps were taken to come to this decision?

- ◆ When the "All Hands on Deck" building project was underway, Nazareth leadership and congregation members believed that the "All Things New" idea had to go beyond transforming the physical space to also transforming spiritual lives and practices here at Nazareth.
- ◆ The Nazareth Church Council formed the Worship Task Force early in 2016, and the first congregational survey was completed at that time.
- ◆ The Worship Task force facilitated the collection of information from the congregation throughout the past year through the use of additional surveys, focus group meetings, one-on-one conversations, and the study of data from surveys regarding current national worship practices and perspectives.
- ◆ The recommendation from the Worship Task Force was presented to the Church Council and to Staff Members in April 2017. The final plan was unanimously approved by the Worship Task Force, by the Church Council and by the Staff.
- ◆ Moving forward, Nazareth Worship Teams and Church Council members will continue to diligently assess how our Sunday morning offerings help further God's mission through the people of Nazareth.

**Living in God's amazing grace, we invite all people to know Christ,  
grow in Christ and make Christ known.**

## What might this look like for us?

**We know that many Nazareth Community members will be thinking about how this change in the Sunday morning schedule will affect them. As you make decisions about your individual plans, please keep in mind that this schedule change is not "just about worship times", it is because:**

- ◆ We believe God is calling us to intentionally cultivate a culture change that encourages people to better live out our mission to "invite all people to know Christ, grow in Christ and make Christ known".
- ◆ We believe God is challenging us to deliberately gather people of all ages together for faithful, God-focused worship that is invitational and engaging.
- ◆ We believe God is leading us to carefully steward our resources while building a relationally renewed culture of unity, community and discipleship.
- ◆ We believe God is guiding us to purposefully create opportunities for families to worship together.

**Here are some specific scenarios for how you might structure your Sunday morning time:**

**I am a parent with elementary kids and Confirmation students. I want them to go to KidzRock and to Confirmation. I also want to attend the first worship service.**

- ◆ There will be check-in stations for KidzRock available in Fellowship Hall prior to the 9:00 service. Parents need to check in their kids before going into worship together. Families who attend this service will have an opportunity to sing and experience other elements of worship together during the first half of the service.
- ◆ At approximately 9:25 a.m., there will either be a children's message or a presentation of special music during the first service. After that, the children and Confirmation students will be dismissed.
- ◆ KidzRock leaders will meet the children in Fellowship Hall and will walk them to class. Confirmation students will walk to their classrooms.
- ◆ When the first service concludes, parents have the opportunity to make new connections, engage in relationship building and/or to attend Bible Study or Small Group meetings.
- ◆ At 10:30 a.m., parents need to pick up their children and/or Confirmation students.
- ◆ If you would rather attend the 10:45 a.m. service, you can bring your kids to KidzRock and Confirmation at 9:30 a.m. and head over to Fellowship Hall to make connections and/or join a Small Group or Bible Study. Then, at 10:30 a.m., when they finish, the whole family can go to the entire 10:45 a.m. worship service together.