



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the Council's recommendations and next critical steps that we strongly believe are essential prior to calling our next Senior Pastor. For the second time in the past year, after much listening, prayer and discussion, **the Nazareth Church Council, with full support of the Pastoral Staff, unanimously recommends that you vote YES to disaffiliate from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and also vote YES to affiliate with the North American Lutheran Church (NALC).**

With this recommendation in mind, the Church Council has called for a special congregational meeting on **Wednesday, April 17th at 6:30 p.m. in the Worship Center.** The registration tables to check-in and receive your ballot will open at 5:45 p.m., and the meeting will commence promptly at 6:30. The purpose of this meeting will be to vote on the two resolutions set forth on page 2 of the enclosed Resolution of the Church Council adopted on March 5th, 2024. In order to terminate Nazareth's affiliation with the ELCA, a resolution stating the intent to terminate Nazareth's affiliation with the ELCA must be adopted at two legally called and conducted special meetings of the congregation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members present at each meeting. In order to affiliate with the NALC, a resolution stating the intent to affiliate with the NALC must be adopted at one legally called and conducted special meeting of the congregation by a simple majority vote of the voting members present at that meeting. Enclosed is a formal written Notice of this special meeting of the congregation on April 17th, 2024.

During this special congregational meeting, like all congregational meetings, Nazareth Lutheran Church By-laws will be followed. Nazareth will also follow the procedural requirements in the ELCA Constitution and Bylaws regarding the disaffiliation process. This process began by delivering the enclosed Church Council Resolution to Bishop Jones of the Northeast Iowa Synod of the ELCA on Thursday, March 7th, 2024, which exceeds the required thirty (30) days stipulated to call the special meeting. During the thirty (30) day waiting period, Bishop Jones is welcome to be in consultation with either the Council or the congregation. Requirements #2 and #3 below are not in Nazareth Bylaws. However, in order to comply with the ELCA Constitution, these requirements will be followed for this special congregational meeting. Please read...

Per the ELCA constitution, **in order to be recognized as a voting member of Nazareth, and to have the privilege of voice and vote at the special meeting, you will need to:**

- 1. be listed on Nazareth's current membership roster;**
- 2. have attended communion at Nazareth at least once during the 2023 or 2024 calendar years; and**
- 3. have given a gift of record to Nazareth at least once during the 2023 or 2024 calendar years. A gift of record simply means that the church has a record of your gift. Cash gifts have no record unless they were in an envelope with your name on it. The minimum gift of record is \$1.**

When you check in at the special meeting on April 17th, in order to receive your ballot, you will be required to sign a statement attesting to the fact that you have communed and given a gift of record during the 2023 or 2024 calendar years at Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church. If you have not fulfilled both of these requirements, you will have time between the receipt of this letter and Sunday, April 14th, 2024 to do so. Otherwise, as per the ELCA Constitution, you will not be considered a legal member and will not be eligible to receive a ballot. Again, this protocol will be in place for this particular special meeting to satisfy the requirements found within the ELCA Constitution. If you are not sure you have given a gift of record to Nazareth over the past year, you may call the church office and inquire. Communion will be held during both services at Nazareth on April 7th, 2024. Please note the Sunday, April 14th, 2024 deadline for both of these requirements. **Gifts of record will NOT be accepted for voting eligibility purposes at the special meeting on April 17th.**

There will be childcare available at this meeting. Please email Kim Albertsen ahead of time at kim.albertsen@naz.org if you plan to take advantage of this childcare opportunity. Kim will need to know approximately how many children will be attending so that she can ensure enough help to cover the time.

We thank you for your prayers, your support, and your patience as we work together as faithful servants of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Sincerely in Christ,

The Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church Council
President Wayne Jacobson, Vice-president Kristina McBurney, Treasurer Cindy Wilson,
Secretary Julie Creeden, Chris Hansen, Beth Harris, Nate Greiner, Kristie Lehman, and Ron
Martin Pastoral Staff
Mike Brost, Tim Boettger, and Andy Walser