

# NAZ NEWS

NAZARETH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 24, 2024

## WORSHIP WITH NAZ

### SUNDAYS

CFU Channels 18 & 95.5 | 8:30 am  
In-Person Worship at Nazareth | 9 & 10:45 am

### WEDNESDAYS

CFU Channels 18 & 95.5  
4:30 pm Wednesday

### ONLINE OPTIONS

Recordings of sermons available on  
[Vimeo.com/mynazareth](https://vimeo.com/mynazareth)  
Livestreams Broadcast on our website  
[www.naz.org/onlinechurch](http://www.naz.org/onlinechurch)



2023 Palm Sunday Service



## Celebrate Easter with Nazareth

You are invited to join Nazareth, Sunday March 31st, to worship and celebrate Easter! With lively worship music, prayer, and scripture-filled messages, Nazareth is the perfect place for you and your family to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Nazareth's Easter Services are at 9:00 and 10:45 am in the worship center. You can also tune into either service through our online livestream, at [naz.org](http://naz.org). We hope you are able to join us for this Holy Celebration!

And don't forget, Nazareth will be hosting special services throughout Holy Week:

- Mar 28: Maundy Thursday | 6 pm | Soup 5 pm
- Mar 29: Good Friday | 10 am, 7 & 9 pm

## Easter Greeter Volunteers

Nazareth is dedicated to creating the best possible worship experience, and we believe that experience starts as soon as you arrive at our services. We are looking for passionate congregation members to volunteer as door greeters for our Easter services. As a door greeter, you are responsible for welcoming visitors to Nazareth with a bright smile! If you are interested in volunteering scan the QR code below to sign up. For more information please contact Meg Husted, by calling the church offices or emailing [meg.husted@naz.org](mailto:meg.husted@naz.org). Thank you for allowing Nazareth to be the most inviting church possible!



SCAN HERE TO  
SIGN UP TODAY!



## CONNECT WITH NAZARETH

 7401 University Ave.

 319-266-7589

 [info@naz.org](mailto:info@naz.org)

 [www.naz.org](http://www.naz.org)

 MyNazareth

 [mynazchurch](https://www.instagram.com/mynazchurch)



**SERMON | Believing In the One Who Made and Proved the Promise**

**TEACHER | Pastor Mike Brost**

**TEXT | Romans 4:13-25 & John 12:12-19**

## Synopsis

On the day we celebrate Palm Sunday we are inspired by the faith of Abraham to deepen our faith in the one who made and proved the promise of the gospel.

## Digest The Word

Read the scripture passages from the Service and reflect on the sermon and on these questions to help you live out God's Word in your everyday life.

- How did the sermon challenge/encourage you?
- Does this passage teach you about who God is?
- What are the personal implications for you?
- What does this mean for the Church as a whole?

## READ, RUMINATE, AND REMEMBER

### Psalm 23

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Although I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me*

In different bible versions, the first line has been translated as: I shall not want, I lack nothing, I have everything I need, I will never be in need, I am never in need. What does it look like in YOUR life to say "I shall not want" or "I lack nothing?" Are you currently resting in God (lying in green pastures), or fighting your circumstances? Take timethis week to ruminate on your life and desires and remember how The Lord is our shepherd..

## SERVICE PROGRAM

### 9:00 Service

Processional Gospel: John 12:12-19  
*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* | brown 174  
Responsive Reading  
Confession and Forgiveness  
*Throw Open the Gates*  
Lesson: Romans 4:13-25  
Children's Sermon  
Palm Sunday Video  
Sermon  
*My Jesus, I Love Thee* | brown 364  
Prayers of the Church and Lord's Prayer  
Offering and Announcements  
*Lift High the Cross* | red 660

### 10:45 am Service

*Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)*  
*Wonderful, Merciful Savior*  
Welcome and Announcements  
Prayers of the Church and Lord's Prayer  
Offering  
*Offering Song: Great is Thy Thankfulness*  
Lesson: Romans 4:13-25  
Children's Sermon  
Palm Sunday Video  
Processional Gospel: John 12:12-19  
Sermon  
*Build Your Kingdom Here*

### Flowers

The Altar Flowers are in memory of Bob and Peter Surface from Darlene.

The Stage Flowers are in loving memory of Jim Gates from his family.

Last week's Altar flowers were in loving memory of Glennis Formwalt from her family. And the Stage Flowers were in loving memory of Talan Preisser from his family.

*Dedicate flowers via [jordan.keating-venghaus@naz.org](mailto:jordan.keating-venghaus@naz.org).*

## NAZ CHAT

- Monday, March 25th, is your final chance to order Easter Flowers. To purchase flowers please sign up at the welcome desk or contact Jordan Keating by calling 319-266-7589.
- You are invited to our Community Soup Supper, Thursday March 28th, at 5:00 pm before the Maundy Thursday Service. Chicken Noodle and Chili will be served.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *continued...*

### Prayer Shawls Available This Sunday

Prayer Shawls will be available in Fellowship Hall after each service on Palm Sunday, March 24th. Prayer Shawls make the perfect gift for a loved one, to let them know you're thinking of them. The Prayer Shawl Ministry invites you to stop by the table in Fellowship Hall TODAY!

### Preschool Wrap-Around Program

Blessed Beginnings is excited to announce their Public Preschool Wrap Around Program. This program offers before and after school care Monday - Friday for children enrolled in: Aldrich, Southdale, or Orchard Hill Elementary.

If you are interested in enrolling in the program, our wait-list form can be found online at [naz.org/blessed-beginnings](http://naz.org/blessed-beginnings). The link is at the bottom of the web page. Separate forms must be completed for each child you wish to enroll. Please understand that completing the form does not guarantee a spot in our program, but allows us to keep your contact information as we track you on the waitlist. Email [phil.plourde@naz.org](mailto:phil.plourde@naz.org) with any questions.

### Deadline For HyVee Receipts

The deadline for HyVee Receipts Collection for Highland School is Sunday, April 21, 2024. Please remember that the stores participating are only in Cedar Falls, Waterloo, and Waverly. Please do not staple, clip or roll the receipts together. Thank you for your amazing support.

### March Donation Requests

Nazareth is accepting donations of Canned Vegetables. Nazareth is also contributing to Love Inc's Monthly donations campaign, asking for Cleaning Essentials. Essentials include brooms, mops, and sponges. You can drop off donations at the Welcome Desk on Sundays, or at the Receptionist's desk during the week. Thank you for your generosity.

### Visitation Updates

If you or a loved one have been hospitalized or are unable to attend church. If you are interested in scheduling a hospital visit or home communion, please contact Andy Walser, Nazareth's Director of Visitation, via email at [andy.walser@naz.org](mailto:andy.walser@naz.org).



### Mama Bear Apologetics - Summer Group

Calling all Mama Bears! Join us for a summer study and reading of Mama Bear Apologetics by Hillary Morgan Ferrer. Mama Bear Apologetics is the book you've been looking for. The mom-to-mom guide will equip you to teach your kids how to form their own biblical beliefs about what is true and what is false. Through transparent life stories and clear, practical applications, the band of Mama Bears offers you tools to train yourself so you can turn around and train your kids. Join Mama Bears and raise your voice to protect your kids, by teaching them how to think through and address the issues head-on, yet with gentleness and respect. Our group will meet Thursday Mornings 9:30-10:45am, beginning June 6th. Sign up online at [naz.org/nextsteps](http://naz.org/nextsteps). Email [meg.husted](mailto:meg.husted) for more info.

### The Art of Marriage - Small Group Study

Every marriage has its strengths and its stresses. There's not one that can't be improved, fine-tuned, or made stronger. In this six-session series made in partnership with FamilyLife, discover a transformative marriage resource designed to help you explore new levels of intimacy, communication, and connection with your spouse. Whether you're a newlywed or have been married for decades, this series can be your path to a stronger, more beautiful masterpiece of God's handiwork. Join Naz's new 6-week small group study series, The Art of Marriage, starting April 2nd, meeting Tuesdays from 7:00-8:15 pm in Rooms 151/153. Sign up online at [naz.org/nextsteps](http://naz.org/nextsteps).

### BIGhouse Caravan Trip 2024

Registration is open for BIGhouse's annual Caravan trip. From July 27th - August 2nd, 9th-12th graders and Ministry leaders will be traveling to Whitewater Express Camp in Copperhill and Chattanooga, Tennessee! Caravan shows students how exciting it is to grow their relationship with Jesus! Student and leader registration is open now at [orchardcentral.info](http://orchardcentral.info), and registration closes on May 15th.



# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND AFFILIATION VOTE

The Church Council is hosting a Congregational Meeting on **April 17th, 2024 at 6:30 pm** (check in at 5:45 pm). During this meeting Nazareth members will have the opportunity to vote on the church's affiliation. The Church Council, with full Pastoral support, has recommended to the congregation that Nazareth disaffiliate with the ELCA and affiliate with the North American Lutheran Church (NALC.) In order to vote you must be a current Nazareth member, and have attended communion and donated a minimum of \$1 at Nazareth at least once during the 2023 or 2024 (a gift of record is required.) The vote must pass by 66% or more on April 17th to reach the second vote on the August 28th. If the threshold is not met, there will not be a second vote on the 28th.

## WHY LEAVE THE ELCA?

**Because the ELCA has compromised or departed from the authority of Scripture and is no longer aligned with the beliefs of Nazareth:**

**The Bible teaches salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone.**

In contrast, there is evidence that the prevailing view in the ELCA seems to be that *all* people are saved, regardless of their relationship with Christ. This view is not Biblical. In John 14:6 Jesus tells us "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

**We believe that the Bible is the eternal Word of God which never changes.**

In contrast, there is evidence that ELCA seminaries and many leaders appear to believe that we are free to interpret or modify scripture based on culture or popular opinion.

**Central to Nazareth's beliefs is the message of the Gospel and the Great Commission to make disciples.**

In contrast, there is evidence that the ELCA appears to be more focused on creating social statements in an attempt to make right in the world what only a changed heart for Jesus can actually repair.

**Nazareth has a congregational governance structure.**

In contrast, the ELCA is structured so that the majority of the power lies with the bishops and the Churchwide Assembly. Our congregation has very little say or influence in what the ELCA says or does. In the future we will likely be held accountable for beliefs our church does not support and be more strictly under their auspices.

Nazareth will remain a Lutheran Church. However, we cannot in good conscience partner in ministry with an organization whose beliefs no longer align with ours. Therefore, the Nazareth Church Council, with full Pastoral support, unanimously recommends voting to leave the ELCA, and to join the NALC.

## WHY JOIN THE NALC?

**Because the core values and beliefs of the NALC are in full alignment with Nazareth:**

**The Bible teaches salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone. We believe that the Bible is the eternal Word of God that never changes.**

In full alignment with Nazareth, the first core value of the NALC is *Christ-Centered*. They confess the apostolic faith in Jesus Christ according to the Holy Scriptures. They affirm the authority of the Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm. The second core value of the NALC is *Traditionally-Grounded*. They affirm the ecumenical creeds, the faithful witness of the Church, and the tradition of worship under Word and Sacrament.

**Central to Nazareth's beliefs is the message of the Gospel and the Great Commission to make disciples.**

In full alignment with Nazareth, the third core value of the NALC is *Mission-Driven*. They believe it is a priority that the mission of the Church is to preach the Gospel and to make disciples for Christ.

**Nazareth has a congregational governance structure.**

In full alignment with Nazareth, the fourth core value of the NALC is *Congregationally-Focused*. They strive to be a church that is organized to facilitate the ministries of local congregations in a posture of servant-hood. No decisions can be made churchwide without ratification by a two-thirds majority of congregations.