

WELCOME

God is the author of all life and restoration. Christ followers understand that God desires to bring healing and wholeness to the hurting. We are called to be prayerful, hopeful, faithful, trusting and patient as we ask for God's healing. - Andy Walser

Be Well - Be Loving - Be Courageous - Be the Church

WORSHIP WITH NAZ

SUNDAYS

CFU Channels 18 & 95.5 | 8:30a.m.
In-Person Worship at Nazareth | 9a.m. & 10:45a.m.
CW (check your local listings for channel) | 10a.m.

WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS

CFU Channels 18 & 95.5
4:30p.m. Wednesday | 5:30p.m. Saturday

ONLINE OPTIONS

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Congregational Meeting

The Nazareth Church Council has called for a Special Congregational meeting on Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. in the Worship Center. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the amended By-Laws of Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church. If you are interested in learning more about these By-law changes, we encourage you to attend the upcoming Informational sessions.

We invite you to attend Informational Sessions of the proposed By-Laws changes on Sunday, December 4 at 10 a.m. and/or on December 5 at 6:30 p.m. in Bethel Hall. These sessions are intended for discussion (presentation, questions/answers) to inform the congregation before the vote on December 11.

Prayer Shawls Available

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will have Prayer Shawls available in the Fellowship Hall after each service on Sunday, November 20th. Prayer Shawls make for the perfect gift for a loved one, to let them know you're thinking of them. The Prayer Shall Ministry invites anyone to pick one up, to be given for any reason. Please stop by the table in Fellowship Hall.

CONNECTIONS

7401 University Avenue, Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Phone: 319-266-7589

Email: info@naz.org

Website: www.naz.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MyNazareth

Instagram: www.instagram.com/mynazchurch



SERMON | Does God Heal Today?
TEACHER | Andy Walsler
TEXT | Psalm 103 & Mark 2:1-12

Digest The Word

Read the scripture passages from this week's Sunday Worship Service and reflect on the sermon and explore the following recommendations.



Read It

In Henri Nouwen's book, *The Wounded Healer*, Nouwen combines creative case studies with stories from diverse cultures and religious traditions in preparing a new model for ministry with a balanced and creative theology of service that begins with the realization of fundamental woundedness in human nature.



Watch It

Check out the ALPHA video series for free on Vimeo. This week's topic "Does God Heal Today?" can be found at the following URL: <https://player.vimeo.com/video/184825500>



Live It

"Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." - James 5:13-16 ESV

Flowers

The flowers at the altar are in celebration of the 60th wedding anniversary of Ron and Sharon Lance.

Music

9:00 a.m.

Gathering Hymn: Oh, Worship the King | *red 842*

Special Music: This Little Light of Mine

Children's Song: Unity and Harmony

Sermon Hymn: O Christ the Same | *red 760*

Sending Hymn: Goodness of God | *red 838*

10:45 a.m.

Opening Song: Graves Into Gardens

Closing Song: King Of Kings

Closing Song: Build My Life

Closing Song: Build Your Kingdom Here

NAZ CHAT

Nazareth Church Offices and Blessed Beginnings Daycare are closed November 24-25th for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

We are looking for volunteer greeters at each door during our Christmas Service! Please sign up at the Welcome Desk on Sunday or contact Terri Packard (terri.packard@naz.org) if you can serve in this way; thank you for helping us make this Christmas Season special!

When Nazareth hosted Chosen, your bold response spanned oceans and borders, creating a path for your church and the Kamwenge-Kabambiro community to walk in partnership. Your congregation sponsored 109 children in this community. Together with God's help, Kamwenge-Kabambiro will overcome poverty, hunger, and injustice. This is a journey of transformation, one we take together, so we've created a resource to help Nazareth keep up with what God is doing in Kamwenge-Kabambiro. The *My World Vision* app keeps your church connected as you walk with the Kamwenge-Kabambiro community! It offers the best sponsorship experience, making it easy to see photos, videos, letters, and progress toward community goals. – *World Vision*

Do you have a story to share, event to promote, or an announcement for the Nazareth community? Please email any proposed entries to Sam Madson at sam.madson@naz.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *continued...*

Blessed Beginnings' Giving Tree

The Giving Tree for Blessed Beginnings can be found in the Fellowship Hall. Lots of decorated hand-painted ornaments offer suggestions for gently used or new items for the Learning Center and Preschool and School-Age Center. If you want to help this ministry, please take an ornament. Bring your items back to the Church and leave them in the information area or drop them off at the Blessed Beginnings office. We don't need any item wrapped but we would like to know to whom we can send our thanks and appreciation.

Purchase Your Poinsettias Today

Nazareth would love to fill the Worship Center this Christmas with beautiful Poinsettia flowers! Please consider helping Nazareth achieve this goal by purchasing a poinsettia from Nazareth - all to be given to the Glory of God. The cost is \$15 each, and you are able to pick up your plant beginning the week of December 27th. Terri Packard is happy to help you purchase a flower at the Welcome Desk Today! Thank you for your consideration.

Thank You from Pastor Brian

Grace to you and peace!

As I have quoted many times before, St. Paul's words to the Church in Philippi come to mind once again:

I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace..."

It is with a heart full of gratitude, a mind filled with wonderful memories, and a soul filled to overflowing with love that I give thanks for the privilege of serving as one of your pastors these past nearly 13 years. Thank you all for the thoughtful cards, kind words, generous gifts and many prayers that have been shared with me and our family since I announced my acceptance of a new call to serve Chisago Lake Lutheran Church in Center City, Minnesota. The reception at my final Sunday and many private conversations and gestures of kindness over the past weeks has meant the world to us and we continue to treasure the friendships forged here.

Jen, Nathan, and Grace will continue to reside in Cedar Falls and welcome your prayers during this transition. May God richly bless each of you and the ministry you share through Nazareth as God does a new thing in your midst. Tak for alt! (Danish for "thanks for everything")

In the strong love of Christ,
Pastor Brian, Jen, and family

Financial Update - October 31, 2022

- Year-to-Date Actual Income was \$1,671,946.50
- Year-to-Date Expenses were \$1,798,981.53.
- Income was \$127,035.03 less than Expenses.
- Line of Credit of \$181,495.28 was opened for Welcome Home! Appeal. Current loan balance is \$46,459.05.
- General Fund on October 31, 2022 was \$ 68,843.91.
- Reserve Fund balance \$207,512.81. (Money provided by Federal government for churches during COVID).
- Nazareth will borrow \$117,806.00 to supplement General Fund.

Nazareth Church is a body of believers. We operate on a very tight budget. The range of services from Sunday worship, to children's ministries, to supporting missionaries, to plowing the snow all depends on a relatively constant inflow to the General Fund from our congregation giving back from the gifts that God has given them. The Church Council is working on a plan to allow everyone to learn about concerns with the ELCA and to give congregation members opportunities to share their thoughts. We ask and pray for your patience, and that you please do not abandon your financial support of God's ministries provided through Nazareth Church while we discern together the direction God has in mind for Nazareth.



COUNCIL CONVERSATIONS

Council Actions This Week:

1. Met with the Nazareth staff to explain by-laws recommendations
2. The Council held a special meeting on November 14:
 - a. Appointed Chris Hansen to fill the opening created when a council member resigned
3. George Nederhoff heard from Bishop Kevin Jones of the ELCA Northeastern Iowa Synod that the Interim pastor candidate he had identified decided not to apply for the position. The Bishop shared that a second person had indicated interest and is currently praying about this opportunity.

Thank you for sending your questions and comments!
Thank you to those who have mentioned that you are willing to pray. Please continue to send all of your questions – and your willingness to join a prayer team – to council@naz.org. For a compilation of all of the Questions and Answers so far, please go to:
<https://www.naz.org/questions-and-answers>



**CHECK OUT THE
COUNCIL UPDATES
ON OUR WEBSITE**

Question and Answers:

Question: Is the Church Council currently working toward leaving the ELCA?

Answer: No. At the November 8th Council meeting, a motion was made to recommend Nazareth leave the ELCA pending approval from the congregation. The motion failed, which means that at the current time, the Council does not support recommending that Nazareth leave the ELCA. Instead, the Council is working toward holding Bible studies. We want to take time as a congregation to study what the Bible has to say. This will give us the appropriate background for studying ELCA decisions and actions so that all of us (including Council members) can share our thoughts based on facts. We do not want to make emotional decisions, but instead spend time in prayer and study, then make decisions based on biblical truth. Whichever decision we make as a congregation, we would like to make it together, and pray that we can all come to a consensus. We understand it is difficult to live in uncertainty, especially for multiple months. It is difficult for Council members, also. We request your prayers and your patience as we work toward learning together. You are always welcome to send your comments to council@naz.org, and/or to talk with individual council members.

Question: Who approves the budget?

Answer: The congregation approves the budget at the annual meeting in January. A proposed budget will be shared prior to the meeting. Congregation members will have the opportunity to propose amendments to the budget. Amendments will be voted on prior to voting to approve the entire budget.

Question: When will we learn about the recommended changes to the by-laws?

Answer: Everyone will receive information about the recommended changes in the mail shortly after Thanksgiving. Our by-laws require mailing written notice at least 10 days in advance of a proposed congregational meeting. Nazareth staff members are working to get the mailing out more than 10 days in advance so members have time to study the recommended changes prior to the education sessions and the congregational meeting. Your packet will include a letter containing the notice of a congregational meeting and information about the education sessions, a document that summarizes the recommendations, and a copy of the complete by-laws document that clearly shows every recommended change. Only the congregation can change the by-laws, and a 2/3 vote is required. Prior to voting on changes, congregation members can propose amendments to change one or more recommendations. The congregation would vote on any amendments prior to voting on the by-laws.

Question: Were the changes to the by-laws being recommended because the By-Laws Task Force wants Nazareth to leave the ELCA?

Answer: No. The by-laws were initially approved on Jan 26, 1993. Since then, they have been revised nine times (Jan 1999, Jan 2001, May 2001, Jan 2003, Jan 2004, Jan 2005, Jan 2011, Sept 2011, and Apr 2014). By-laws are revised regularly for many different reasons, and there were several reasons to recommend changes now. In addition to many other change recommendations, you will notice that there are several places in the by-laws where the recommendation is to change "ELCA" to "the church body with which we are affiliated." This change would make the by-laws generic enough to allow Nazareth to continue to affiliate with the ELCA or to affiliate with another church body without having to revise the by-laws again. Although individual members of the task force may hold views on whether or not to remain in the ELCA, the recommended changes to the By-Laws are not based on any person's views and are not intended to influence congregation members in one direction or another. The recommended changes were arrived at by consensus. Pastor Brian was a member of the Task Force, and the Task Force completed its work prior to Pastor Brian leaving Nazareth.

Question: If we were to leave the ELCA, what would be our future affiliation? Is there a list of potential affiliations that we would vote on?

Answer: If we were to leave the ELCA, there are many possible Lutheran organizations Nazareth could affiliate with. Some of them include: American Association of Lutheran Churches, Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, and North American Lutheran Church. There are others. Nazareth could also become an independent church that is not affiliated with any church body. If we were to leave the ELCA, we would have to learn about the different options as a congregation and determine which one best aligns with our beliefs and needs. There currently is no provision in the by-laws for affiliating with another church body; however, there is a proposed change that would provide for affiliating with another church body if 2/3 of the congregation voted to do so.