

NAZ NEWS

NAZARETH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ————— DECEMBER 8, 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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Nazareth would love for you to join us for our Christmas Eve Worship Services! We are having three gatherings on Tuesday, December 24 at 3:00 and 5:00 pm, and a special candlelight service at 10:00 pm. Everyone is warmly welcomed.

Make sure to invite your friends and family to experience a wonderful service filled with vibrant and uplifting music, inspiring messages, and lots of holiday cheer. Whether you're a familiar face or new to our community, come as you are; let's celebrate the joy and hope of the birth of Christ together! We can't wait to worship with you and your loved ones this Christmas Eve. See you there!

Cozy Carol Sing

Nathaniel and Ali Parrish invite you to a "Cozy Carol Sing" this December. Come to the Parrish home on December 8th or 15th from 7:00 - 8:00 pm to gather around the piano and sing your favorite Christmas carols. Light refreshments will be served. We can accommodate up to 20 people each evening, so please sign up in advance by emailing Nathaniel at nathaniel.parrish@naz.org. Details will be provided upon signing up.

December Donation Requests

Nazareth's food pantry is accepting donations of all essential living items, including deodorant, razors, soap, shampoo, laundry detergent, and paper products

We are also participating in Love Inc's Make-a-Difference Monthly donation campaign. Love Inc is accepting Kitchen Essentials during December, including dishes, pots and pans, and silverware. Please drop your donations off at the Welcome Desk on Sunday mornings, or at the Receptionist's desk during the week during office hours. Thank you for your generosity!

Christmas Food Box Delivery Volunteers

Nazareth is looking for volunteers to help deliver our Christmas Food Boxes to community members. We will deliver the boxes on Saturday, December 14, at 9:00 am. If you are interested in being a blessing and giving joy this season, please email kim.albertsen@naz.org.

CONNECT WITH NAZARETH

-  7401 University Ave.
-  319-266-7589
-  info@naz.org
-  www.naz.org
-  MyNazareth
-  [mynazchurch](https://www.instagram.com/mynazchurch)



TITLE | Living Into Peace
TEACHER | Pastor Mike Brost
TEXT | 2 Peter 1:3-11 & John 14:6-17, 27

Synopsis

God has made many supernatural gifts available to us by sending His Son into the world. He is constantly working to draw us into a relationship with Himself so that we might experience all these gifts that are present in knowing Him. We are called to make every effort to experience them!

SERVICE PROGRAM

Intro Video – Peace
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
The First Noel
Confessions and Forgiveness
Advent Reading
Wonderful, Merciful Savior
Gospel: John 14:6-17, 27
Children's Sermon (9:00 am) / Baptism (10:45 am)
Lesson: 2 Peter 1:3-11
Sermon
Prayer
Offering: *The Thrill of Hope*
Prayers of the Church and Lord's Prayer
Offering
In The Bleak Midwinter
Announcements
Soon and Very Soon | red 439
Blessing and Benediction

Baptisms

Congratulations to Ashley Berkey, daughter of Ryan and Johanna Berkey, celebrating her baptism this Sunday.

Flowers

The chancel flowers are dedicated in loving memory of Tasha Crowe from her parents.

Please email jordan.kv@naz.org to dedicate service flowers

MUSIC SPOTLIGHT

At Naz, we want to lift up vibrant, congregational singing as an integral part of our time together on Sunday mornings. "Music Spotlights" are designed to encourage and help familiarize us with the music for the upcoming weekend so we can sing in full voice as we worship together.

This coming weekend, we will sing, "The First Noel," which is one of the oldest Christmas ballads still sung today. Though it first appeared in print in 1833, the carol goes back at least 300 years prior to that. The exact place or time of its origin are in doubt, with both France and England claiming it as part of their heritage. The spelling of "Noel" would seem to indicate a French connection, but there seems to be more evidence pointing to this carol migrating from Britain to France.

The word "Noel" means a joyful shout expressing the exhilaration at the birth of Christ. While the carol's anonymous writer knew enough about language to use this all-encompassing term to begin the chorus, the author wildly missed the mark on several Scriptural points in this song. For example, the Bible does not mention the star with the shepherds – only the wisemen. Such writing errors would have been normal at that time – especially before Bibles were in circulation – and it suggests that the writer was illiterate and common as he/she drew from stories of Christ's birth passed down through the years. Accordingly, for the first 300 years of its existence, "The First Noel" was not a part of religious services; clergy wouldn't allow new songs in church services, even if they embraced a story from the Scriptures. Rather, the carol became the holiday voice of the people – those who embraced the wonder of God sending a Son to save every man and woman, no matter their station in life. Thus, when a lawyer who was particularly fond of French and English folk songs finally published it in 1833, they had already become a favorite of many people.

Check out "The First Noel" with other music for this Sunday at this Spotify playlist:

open.spotify.com/playlist/2JyRxcIfyDvcfWTpRgYMIv



**SCAN HERE TO
LISTEN TO THE
SPOTIFY PLAYLIST!**



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Nazareth wants to share a special congratulations to 2nd grader, Charly Zierke. Last Sunday, Charly was able to recite every book of the Bible from memory. And if that wasn't impressive enough, she also completed the whole 2nd Grade Bible Work Book, cover to cover! For these achievements, she was awarded a red Bible cover. Congratulations to Charly!

CHURCH CALENDAR

ALL NAZ'S UPCOMING DATES

- December 8 - 4:00 - 7:00 pm** Family Christmas Extravaganza | *RSVP via kim.albersten@naz.org*
- December 9 - 12:00 - 5:00 pm** American Red Cross Blood Drive
- December 14 - 9:00 am** Christmas Food Box Delivery | *Email kim.albersten@naz.org to help*
- December 24 - 3:00 pm** Christmas Eve Worship Service
- December 24 - 5:00 pm** Christmas Eve Worship Service
- December 24 - 10:00 pm** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- December 29 - 10:00 am** One Sunday Service Time

NOTICE FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Good morning! As your church council president, I wanted to bring to your attention a few updates.

First, many of you may have noticed our new sign that was recently installed along University Avenue. We Praise God for the generosity of one of our members who facilitated this project in honor of his late wife. We believe this sign will be a useful communication tool for many years to come.

As I mentioned earlier this fall, the church council appointed a committee to update the church by-laws now that we have changed affiliations to the North American Lutheran Church. The committee has been meeting every Tuesday morning at 6:30 am, working hard and will hopefully have a final draft ready for congregational approval at the annual meeting in January. After that, we'll consider the appropriate steps for the call process.

In the meantime, many of you might remember when Pastor Mike put up a slide during one of his sermons that read: "What are we doing to put Nazareth in the best possible position to be the most faithful witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ?" That slide became a catalyst for Mike, Tim, and me to begin conversations about what roles they each can play in living into that statement. In light of those conversations, the church council, along with Mike and Tim, have decided to clarify their roles to better align with their giftedness. Pastor Mike's new title will be Lead Shepherding and Discipleship pastor. He will be responsible for guiding discipleship ministries for children, students, adults, and families. He will also continue to do some of the preaching for our worship services. Pastor Tim, who is currently part-time, will now be full-time and his title will be Lead Preaching and Evangelism pastor. Tim will be responsible for preaching the majority of the time and will be supervising the planning of our Sunday morning worship experience. Both Mike and Tim are excited about these newly defined roles, as is the church council.

Lastly, I'd like to mention that this is a great time of year to invite a family member, friend, neighbor, co-worker or even a new acquaintance to come visit us here at Nazareth. Oftentimes, people will respond positively to... and even appreciate an invitation to a worship service over the holidays, especially from a trusted friend.

And let's all keep our hearts open with love and a spirit of hospitality to all those who come through our doors throughout this season, as we continue working to make this a welcoming place for all to experience the love of Jesus through us and by His Spirit.

WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE FINANCIALLY AT NAZARETH

Festival Offering Envelopes

If you are a Vanco or RMD contributor and would like to receive Festival Envelopes, please send an email to: susan.dean@naz.org OR call the office at (319) 266-7589, Ext. 105.

Dates for 2024 Contributions

For contributions to be applied in the 2024 year, please submit your Vanco contributions by December 24, 2024 in order to allow for their processing time. The cut off time for Offering Envelopes or Loose Checks to be processed in 2024 is on Sunday, December 29, 2024.

WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

Offering Envelopes

Offering Envelopes are available in the Education Hallway. If you're unable to get your envelopes, please request delivery by sending an email to: susan.dean@naz.org OR call the Nazareth office at (319) 266-7589, Ext. 105.

Give by Mail

Send your check or offering envelope in the mail to: Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church, Attn: Finance, 7401 University Ave., Cedar Falls, IA 50613.

Give in Person

Drop off your offering envelope with an enclosed check or cash during one of Nazareth's worship services, in the offering plate or the offering box by the Welcome Desk.

Give Online

For convenient contribution options, visit our secure Vanco page to make an electronic offering from your checking/savings account or debit/credit card. Or use the QR code to make a Vanco contribution:



Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent members are encouraged to donate their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Nazareth. Contact your local Thrivent Representative for more information.

Required Minimum Distribution from an IRA

Favorable tax treatment is available if you elect to direct your required minimum distribution (RMD) to Nazareth Lutheran Church due to our 501(c)(3) status. Contact your Financial Representative for more information.

Stock

Significant tax savings are also available when donating stock to Nazareth Lutheran Church through its Wells Fargo Brokerage Account. Please call Anne Carlson or Susan Dean in the Nazareth office for more information.

Estate Planning

Plan a future gift to Nazareth by including the church in your will or as a beneficiary.

Endowment Fund

The Nazareth Endowment Fund provides members and friends with the opportunity through current contributions and planned future gifts (such as Wills, Trusts, Beneficiary Designations of IRA's and Life Insurance) to endow funds to incentivize and support grants that create new Nazareth-based ministries and support the expansion of current Nazareth ministries that are consistent with our mission and values.

Current Contributions:

Contributions of any size are welcomed. Please add to the memo section of your check "Nazareth Endowment Fund" or give online to the Endowment Fund.

Planned future gifts:

Following the advice of your financial or legal advisor, contact the Endowment Committee by calling Nazareth at (319) 266-7589. Planned gifts require prior approval by the Endowment Committee.

Thank you for your continued support of the ministries at Nazareth Lutheran Church!