

# NAZ NEWS

NAZARETH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ————— DECEMBER 15, 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)



*Family Christmas Extravaganza 2024*

## 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!

### Christmas Poinsettias For Sale

Every Christmas season, we strive to fill the Worship Center with the beauty of poinsettia flowers, symbolizing and celebrating God's love entering the world through Jesus. You can now purchase a poinsettia from Nazareth in dedication to a loved one. Poinsettias are \$20 each and can be purchased at the Reception or Welcome Desk or email [jordan.kv@naz.org](mailto:jordan.kv@naz.org). The deadline to order is Wednesday, December 18th, by 5:00 pm. You can pick up your flowers starting December 27th.

### Prayer Shawls Available Next Sunday

Do you know someone who could use the warmth and comfort of God's love? Consider gifting them a Prayer Shawl, made by Nazareth's Prayer Shawl Ministry. Our faithful Prayer Shawl Ministry will have prayer shawls available at the Prayer Shawl table in Fellowship Hall after each service next Sunday, December 22. We encourage you to take one home or give one as a gift. Prayer Shawls make the perfect Christmas gift for a loved one, to let them know they are loved and prayed for. We invite you to stop by the table in Fellowship Hall!

### Nazareth Holiday Season Office Hours

Nazareth's church and offices will be closed on Christmas, Wednesday, December 25, and Thursday, December 26 the following day. Staff will be back in the office on Friday, but the church will be closed again on New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1. Please call the church at 319-266-7589 with any questions or concerns.

## 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)



## MUSIC SPOTLIGHT

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

This coming weekend, we will sing, "Go Tell it On the Mountain," a carol that has its roots among unknown African American slaves. As a largely uneducated people, longing for freedom, suffering incredible cruelty and humiliation, many still somehow managed to encounter the power touch of the Holy Spirit in ways that manifested themselves in songs. Equally amazing, many composers of these spirituals could not read or write, and their works remained unpublished, but yet the songs survived being passed down orally through generations.

Not long after the Civil War, John Wesley Work - who was a church musician from Nashville and one of the few educated African American scholars in the South - developed a deep interest in music that defined the experience of the Negro in America. He believed that the new generation of Black Southerners might best understand the importance of spirituality by learning the songs their ancestors sang during the days of slavery. Work passed his love of music and history onto his son, who - with the help of his brother - kept the flame of spiritual music burning brightly and saved a huge number of Negro folk songs from being lost or forgotten.

Check out "Go Tell It On The Mountain" with other music for this Sunday at this Spotify playlist: [open.spotify.com/playlist/2JyRxcTfyDvcfWTPRgYMLV](https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2JyRxcTfyDvcfWTPRgYMLV)



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

### Share in the Newsletter

Do you have a story to share, event to promote, or an announcement for the Naz congregation? Please share any proposed entries with Sam Madson via email at [sam.madson@naz.org](mailto:sam.madson@naz.org)

**TITLE | Living Into Joy**  
**TEACHER | Pastor Tim Boettger**  
**TEXT | Psalm 16:1-11 & Luke 2:7-18**

### Synopsis

Every human heart longs to live in hope, be at rest in peace, and experience great joy! God has made these and many other 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 cooperate with Him so we might experience them and share them with others!

### SERVICE PROGRAM

- Intro Video – Joy
- Go Tell it On the Mountain*
- O Little Town of Bethlehem*
- Confessions and Forgiveness
- Advent Reading
- Coventry Carol*
- Lesson: Psalm 16:1-11
- Children's Sermon
- Gospel: Luke 2:7-18
- Sermon
- Prayers of the Church and Lord's Prayer
- Offering: *A Merry Tango*
- Offering Response: *What Child is This* | red 296
- Announcements
- Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* | red 270
- Blessing and Benediction

### Flowers

The chancel flowers are dedicated in loving memory of Jane, Jerry, & Steven Slykuis with love from their friends.  
*You can dedicate the service flowers to family, friends, or whomever they would like. This touching gesture is perfect for anniversaries, birthdays, or honoring individuals no longer with us. If you are interested, email [jordan.kv@naz.org](mailto:jordan.kv@naz.org).*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *continued...*

### 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.

### Membership Updates

If you have had a permanent or temporary address change, family changes, or other life updates, Nazareth would love to be informed to keep our records updated. Please share your relevant information to Jordan Keating-Venghaus by emailing [jordan.kv@naz.org](mailto:jordan.kv@naz.org).

## 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.



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

FROM WORLD MISSIONS COMMITTEE

"For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me."

*Matthew 25:35-36:*

Nazareth World Missions and the UNI International Engagement Office would like to offer a "warm" thank you to those who donated winter outerwear for international students attending UNI. They arrived in the United States when it was balmy, and now that the cold weather is upon us, many are protected and cozy because of your generous donations! World Missions will continue to partner with UNI to foster a welcoming and caring environment for those newcomers among us, as Jesus taught us.

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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!***