

NAZ NEWS

NAZARETH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ——— DECEMBER 22, 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



Christmas Food Box Packing

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. Whether you're a familiar face or new to our community, come as you are, and invite your friends and family to experience a wonderful service filled with vibrant music, inspiring messages, and lots of holiday cheer. Let's celebrate the joy and hope of the birth of Christ together!

Route 66: The Life of Christ

Over the last year, Andy Walser has led the Route 66 Bible Study through all 66 books of the Bible. Starting January 8 and 9, Route 66 is back with a new study focused on The Life of Christ. The Life of Christ study group will meet weekly on Wednesdays from noon - 1:00 pm and Thursdays from 10:30 - 11:30 am to explore the chronological life and ministry of Jesus, comparing and contrasting the accounts found in each of the Gospels. Both time slots will cover the same information and new participants are welcome anytime. Please join us as we continue to learn from God's word and Jesus' example.

Prayer Shawls Available This 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. Prayer Shawls will be available at the table in Fellowship Hall after each service this Sunday, December 22. We encourage you to take one 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.

CHAOS - Ski & Shop Trip

All junior high students are invited to join us for this fun overnight trip to Minneapolis on February 22 & 23. Students can go skiing, snowboarding, and tubing at Wild Mountain or enjoy bowling and an arcade. Evening service and overnight stay will be at New Life Church and Academy in Woodbury, Minnesota. Shopping at Mall of America on Sunday. For more information about available scholarships or to register, please visit: cedarvalleystudents.org/chaos

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 Love
TEACHER | Pastor Tim Boettger
TEXT | 1 John 4:7-12 & John 3:16-21

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 by sending His Son into the world! These gifts come from His deep and abiding love for us! He is constantly working to draw us into a relationship with Himself so that we might experience His love and the gifts that are present in Him and His love. We are called to make every effort to live into them so that we might experience them and share them with others!

SERVICE PROGRAM

Angels We Have Heard on High
Midnight Clear (Love Song)
Confessions and Forgiveness
Advent Reading
Angels from the Realms of Glory
Lesson: 1 John 4:7-12
Children's Sermon
Gospel: John 3:16-21
Sermon
Apostles' Creed
Prayers of the Church and Lord's Prayer
Offering: *I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve*
Offering Response: *Away in a Manger* | red 277
Announcements
Joy to the World | red 267
Blessing and Benediction

Sympathies

Prayers and condolences to the family of Shirley Harvey, who passed away Saturday December 14. Her visitation and memorial service will be Saturday, December 21, at 9:30 and 10:30 am at Nazareth. There is a viewing at Richardson Funeral Home from 6:00 - 8:00 pm on Friday.

MUSIC SPOTLIGHT

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 the music selections for Sunday so that we can sing in full voice as we worship together.

This coming weekend, we will sing "Joy to the World" – an English hymn written by Isaac Watts and sung to Lowell Mason's arrangement of a tune attributed to George Frederic Handel. Drawing on a paraphrase of Psalm 98, "Joy to the World" has a peculiar place in hymnody. That is, while "Joy to the World" is primarily sung at Christmas, it makes no single, specific reference to the birth of Christ: no stable, no shepherds, no wise men, no Mary or Joseph, no Bethlehem, no angels, no silent nights. In fact, in our hymnals, it appears as an Advent hymn – most likely as a reference to the second coming of Christ. When reading the hymn's text through a lens of Christ's second coming, we find that the lyrics make a lot of sense.

So why do we sing this song at Christmas? It is clearly a song about Christ's second coming—when the full expression of his glory will be revealed. It doesn't really have anything to do with the Christmas story. Or does it? After all, there is no second coming without a first coming. During Advent, as Christians, we can anticipate the second coming of Christ and the life of the world to come even as we remember and celebrate when Christ first came to us at Christmas. Check out "Joy to the World" with other music for the upcoming Sunday at this Spotify playlist:

open.spotify.com/playlist/2JyRxc1fyDvcfWtpRgYMLv



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

CHURCH REMINDERS

- If you purchased Christmas Poinsettias, you can take yours home after the 10:00 pm Christmas Eve service or on Sunday, Dec. 29, and after.
- Nazareth will be closed Dec. 25-26, and offices are closed Dec. 27, and Wednesday, Jan. 1.
- There will only be one worship service on Sunday, Dec. 29, at 10:00 am.

NEW WINTER SMALL GROUPS VISIT NAZ.ORG/NEXTSTEPS TO JOIN A GROUP

Navigating Family Conflict

Join our 6-week study facilitated by Meg Husted on Mondays at 7:00 pm. This Bible study stems from a series that is provided by Lifeway Publishing called Bible Studies for Life. This sticky topic is something all of us experience. What better way to understand how to navigate these issues than digging into scripture. The group meets January 13 through March 3. There is a \$5 fee for materials.

The Gospel Project: Genesis to Revelation

Meeting on Sundays after the first service, this study unites the big story and big truths of Scripture for everyone as we trace the good news of our Redeemer from Genesis to Revelation. This winter and spring the curriculum will cover: Law and Life (Exodus-Deuteronomy) starting January 5. There is a \$5 cost for materials per semester. The nursery is open and available for children 0-3 years old.

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. Mike, Tim, and the Council are excited about these newly defined roles.

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.

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.