

NAZ NEWS

NAZARETH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ————— JANUARY 19, 2025

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



Cocoa and Coats Event

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Register for Birds & Bees 2025

Join us February 1, 2025, from 3:00 - 5:00 pm at Naz for a special event that will equip, encourage, and empower you to talk to your kids about sex. Come learn from Mary Flo and Megan from Birds and Bees are in a video-based format. Content is directed at parents of kids ages 1-10 years old, but information can be used by grandparents or any adult engaging with kids. Don't miss out on having some great conversations with the young people in your life about God's design for sex! Registration is required, and the cost is \$15 per family. Childcare is provided. Sign up online at naz.org

Belong Membership Class

Nazareth's mission is to live together in God's amazing grace, inviting all people to know Christ, grow in Christ, and make Christ known. If you feel called to join this mission, we encourage you to become a member through our Belong class. This class will provide allow you to learn more about our beliefs, mission, Lutheran traditions, campus, ministries, and membership covenant. Our next Belong class is on Sunday February 2, from noon to 3:00 pm. A light lunch is included. Register online at naz.org/belong.

Register For Our Baptism Class

The holy sacrament of baptism is a sign of God's love and will that we be reborn in the image of Christ our Savior. At Naz, we practice baptism at any age, and for those seeking an infant baptism, we have a special class that is part of this first Milestone we celebrate. This class provides an opportunity for parents to learn the theology behind this sacrament, our role as parents, and the logistics of a baptism on Sunday mornings. An overview of the milestone project and family and children's ministry programming will also be provided. Child care and a light lunch will be provided.

Nazareth's winter Baptism Class is Sunday, February 2, from noon to 1:30 pm. You can sign up online at naz.org/milestones. If you have questions, please contact Meg Husted, Director of Family and Discipleship Ministry, at meg.husted@naz.org. We look forward to getting to know you and your family at Nazareth's Baptism Class!

CONNECT WITH NAZARETH

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

BIBLE OVERVIEW

EXPLORING THE WORD AND WORLD OF GOD

TITLE | Living Like We Are In Exile

TEACHER | Pastor Tim Boettger

TEXT | Jeremiah 29:4-11 & Matthew 8:18-22

Synopsis

During the exile to Babylon and Assyria, God gave specific instructions to His people on how to live in a foreign land. The same instructions are given to us as we live on earth as strangers in a foreign land. In God's master plan, nothing is done randomly or by chance. Everything written in the past is to reveal the glory of God, lift up Christ, and teach us so we can have hope!

SERVICE PROGRAM

Your Grace Is Enough

Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)

Confessions and Forgiveness

Announcements

Prayers of the Church and Lord's Prayer

Lesson: Jeremiah 29:4-11

Children's Sermon

Gospel: Matthew 8:18-22

Sermon

Offering: *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing | red 886

Blessing and Benediction

Flowers

The chancel flowers are dedicated for the blessing of strong messages and rich music each Sunday at Nazareth - God is so good!

Sympathies

Prayers and condolences to the family and friends of Phyllis Lane who passed away Friday, January 10.

Prayers and condolences to the family and friends of Diane Hinke, wife of Jim Hinke.

Prayers and condolences to the family and friends of Wayne Purk .

MUSIC SPOTLIGHT

At Naz, 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 wholeheartedly sing in full voice as we worship together.

This coming weekend, we will close our service by singing, "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing." Written by well-known hymn writer, Charles Wesley, in 1739, the original context of this hymn holds some surprises. After being plagued by extreme doubts about his faith, Wesley wrote the hymn to commemorate the one-year anniversary of his conversion and, accordingly, the hymn's original title was "For the Anniversary Day of One's Conversion." Wesley's original hymn consisted of 18 stanzas, and the familiar opening stanza that many people know today was not the first verse. In the original version, the first verse is a doxology addressed to God, followed by five autobiographical verses that recount Wesley's conversion and coming into full assurance of salvation. Then, finally, in the seventh verse, Wesley turns from testimony to praise with the familiar line, "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing." With this phrase, Wesley draws upon a literary technique known as an "inexpressibility motif" (a symbol that expresses something too powerful or complex to fully describe in words), as the hyperbolic wish for a thousand tongues implicitly acknowledges that a solitary human cannot express God's glory adequately.

Check out "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" along with the music for Sunday on Spotify:

open.spotify.com/playlist/2JyRxc1fyDvcfWTpRgYMLv



**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 Nazareth congregation? Please share any proposed entries with Sam Madson via email at sam.madson@naz.org.

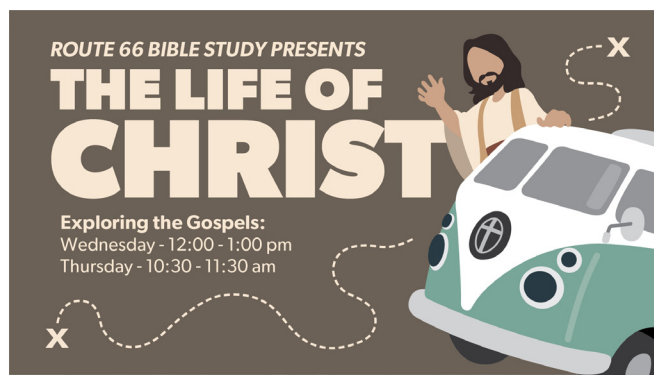
ANNOUNCEMENTS *CONTINUED...*

January Donation Requests

Nazareth is participating in Love Inc's Make-a-Difference Monthly donation campaign, who is accepting Non-Perishable Food Items.

Nazareth's food pantry is accepting donations of Boxed Macaroni and Cheese. For more information about scheduling an appointment or to find a full list of acceptable donations, please visit naz.org/foodpantry or email peg.merfeld@naz.org.

All donations can be dropped off at the Welcome Desk on Sunday mornings, or at the Receptionist's desk during the week's office hours. Thank you for your generosity!



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 on Wednesdays and Thursdays as we continue to learn from God's word and Jesus' example.

Visitation Updates

If you or a loved one have been hospitalized or are unable to attend church please email and update Andy Walser, Nazareth's Care and Missional Pastor, via andy.walser@naz.org, to schedule a hospital visit or home communion. We understand the importance and want to visit and share time with you, whatever situation you are in.

CHAOS - Ski & Shop Trip

Calling all Junior High students! Junior high students are invited to join us for an exciting overnight trip to Minneapolis on February 22 & 23. Students will be able to go skiing, snowboarding, and tubing at Wild Mountain or enjoy bowling and an arcade. An evening worship service and overnight stay will be at New Life Church and Academy in Woodbury, Minnesota. And we'll cap the trip off with shopping at Mall of America on Sunday. For more info about available scholarships or to register, please visit cedarvalleystudents.org. We hope your Junior High students are able to join us for this memorable faith-inspired experience!

Nazareth Lutheran Church Prayer Chain

Our Prayer Chain is a way for Nazareth members to lift up one another in prayer and stay connected throughout the week. Over 100 congregation members are subscribed, offering prayers of praise and petitions for God's guidance. Our Administrative Assistant, Jordan Keating-Venghaus, writes and shares these prayers via email. Whether it's for celebrating blessings or supporting one another in times of need, the Prayer Chain helps us strengthen our faith community. If you'd like to receive these emails, please email Jordan at jordan.kv@naz.org



Hiring Food Outreach Ministry Coordinator

Are you organized, self-motivated, and have a heart for missions? Nazareth is looking for a Food Outreach Ministry Coordinator to join our staff. They will be responsible for Nazareth's Food Pantry and helping with outreach food ministry opportunities. This position is flexible, part-time, 10-20 hours per week. To explore the job description, please visit naz.org/careers. If you are interested in applying for the position, please send a cover letter and resume to Interim Administrator Kristin Swenson at kristin.swenson@naz.org. Feel free to reach out to Kristin for more information.

ANNUAL MEETING & NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Nazareth Annual Meeting

Nazareth is hosting its Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26, at 12:30 pm. All Nazareth members are invited and encouraged to attend. The Annual Meeting will include a budget review and ministry updates from the previous year, as well as the election of new Church Council members. Only congregation members will be allowed to participate in the Church Council vote. Childcare will be available during the meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Nazareth's Church office at 319-266-7589. We look forward to hosting and seeing you at this year's meeting!

Update from the 2025 Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee (Nate Greiner, Kristina McBurney, Jon Peterson, Laurie Larsen, Jan Reisetter) brings forth three highly qualified candidates for congregational approval for the three open Church Council seats: Eric Blanchard, Russ Curtis, and Doug Witham. After meeting with all three candidates, the committee is unanimously confident that Eric, Russ, and Doug are theologically aligned with the beliefs of Nazareth, spiritually mature, and committed followers of Christ. They all feel called to serve and have the gifts of leadership, wisdom, and humility. Some things that were mentioned when talking about their hopes and dreams for Nazareth were:

- continuing to build a foundation of powerful, Bible-centered preaching;
- promoting dynamic Christian education and discipleship;
- facilitating vibrant and growing worship services;
- praying and working for Nazareth to be a beacon of truth and light in the community;
- striving to build up our college and student programs;
- providing spiritual leadership to a pastoral call process, strategic planning; and
- resting on the foundation of who Nazareth is and how we do ministry.