

NAZ NEWS

NAZARETH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ————— JANUARY 26, 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



Confirmation Students Volunteering

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

Responding by Faith to God's Call of Repentance

TEACHER | Pastor Mike Brost

TEXT | Malachi 3:16-4:6 & Matthew 3:1-3, 4:12-17

Synopsis

We have reached the point in our Bible Overview to jump from the end of the Old Testament into the beginning of the New Testament. One of the first observations we can make in the New Testament is that it begins with the same call from God that the Old Testament ended with. Let us explore God's word and consider the meaning of His call and how we answer it?

SERVICE PROGRAM

Christus Victor

Who You Say I Am

Confessions and Forgiveness

Announcements

Prayers of the Church and Lord's Prayer

Lesson: Malachi 3:16-4:6

Children's Sermon

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-3, 4:12-17

Sermon

Offering: *Greater*

Lead On, O King Eternal | red 805

Blessing and Benediction

Flowers

The chancel flower arrangement is dedicated in the loving memory of Fran Hedlund from her family.

The nave flower arrangements are dedicated in memory of William Judd Reinart.

Sympathies

Prayers and condolences to the family and friends of Miller Roskamp, husband of Sharon Roskamp.

Prayer and condolences to the family and friends of Zorah Pender, who passed away on Wednesday, January 22. Her funeral will be held at Nazareth on Tuesday, January 28 at 10:00 am in Larsen Chapel.

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, "Who You Say I Am," a contemporary piece written by Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan of Hillsong Worship. Too often, our identity can be wrapped up in a myriad of places – a career, a relationship, a talent, an interest – other than being a child of God. Seeing many people struggle with anxiety and stress, Fielding and Morgan wanted to write a song that helps us understand how God sees us and what He says about us. Drawing from John 8:32 ("and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."), this song reminds us the importance of going to the Scriptures and read who God says we are. Jesus says, "who the Son sets free, is free indeed" and our identity resides in knowing who we are in Christ. That's a real declaration of identity!

Check out "Who You Say I Am" along with the music for Sunday on Spotify:

open.spotify.com/playlist/2JyRxc1fyDvcfWTPRgYMLv



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

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

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!

CHAOS Ski & Shop - Spots Are Now Full

CHAOS, our junior High School Student Ministry's annual Ski and Shop trip has filled its open spots. You can still sign up to be put on a wait-list, but we cannot promise a spot. This exciting trip is to Minneapolis on February 22 & 23. Students can go skiing and snowboarding 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 please visit cedarvalleystudents.org.



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.

Bible Camps Visiting Nazareth

Do you want to learn more about Naz's partnered Bible Camps from around Iowa? If so, visit the table in Fellowship Hall between and after the services on Sunday, February 2, and talk to the representatives from Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp from Milford and Riverside Bible Camp from Story City. These are fantastic Lutheran summer camps for kids of all ages!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

FROM WORLD MISSIONS COMMITTEE

On January 16th, Nazareth hosted a Cocoa and Coats event to welcome international students who are attending UNI to the Cedar Valley and to offer them warm outerwear for our harsh winter weather. The event was a great success! Local and World Missions would like to thank everyone who helped students from 18 different countries feel a bit of warm hospitality as they venture out in the world, far from their homes. Another outreach opportunity is available to meet UNI international students and get to know them on a personal level. The information below gives some details and contact info:

My name is Ava Deitrich, and I currently serve as the Student Services Coordinator for the Office of International Engagement here at UNI. We arrange various volunteer opportunities through our office to help our students connect and engage with the larger community.

One of those programs is our Family Friendship Program. This program allows students to learn American culture and conversation skills in the community while cultivating meaningful connections with a local family or individual in the area. Unlike host family programs, the students do not live with local families but simply are asked to meet at least once per month with them to engage in a meal, activity, or event. Interactions and the amount of time committed to this connection depend entirely on the student and the family.

If this seems like something you would be interested in learning more about or would be open to talking more about, please reach out! I look forward to connecting with you and providing an opportunity for our international community and the Cedar Valley to come together through this initiative.

ANNUAL MEETING & NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Nazareth Annual Meeting

Nazareth is hosting its Annual Meeting this 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.

Update from the 2025 Nominating Committee & Nominee Biographies

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.

Erik Blanchard

Occupation: Operations & Facilities at Waterloo Christian School

Immediate family: Married to Ashley with four kids – Kyler, Norah, Grace, and Audry.

Church activities: Attending Sunday services and hoping to jump into more areas at Nazareth.

How has God prepared you to serve on the council? God has prepared me by continually working in my life. Teaching me through his word over the last 42 years. I am currently on a couple of local leadership boards that have also helped to prepare me.

Russell Curtis

Occupation: Retired US Bank Wealth Management Attorney

Immediate family: Married to Diane with two adult children.

Church activities: On the Finance, Endowment, and Bylaw Committees. Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) participant & discussion group leader.

How has God prepared you to serve on the Council? I was raised in a Christian home, committed to Christ at an early age, and have been a part of the Nazareth faith community for 30 years. A disciplined and intensive study of the Scriptures and the regular gathering with other Believers has been integral to the sustaining and growth of my faith. My professional experience as an advisor, together with leadership roles on Nazareth committees and numerous local community organizations, have honed my problem-solving skills and provided me with the ability to work with people of different backgrounds. One of the joys of the Christian life is our commonality that we have as Believers.

Doug Witham

Occupation: Retired

Immediate family: Married to Nancy with three children and four grandchildren.

Church activities: Long time Nazareth member, previously served on the Long Range Planning Committee and the Building Committee for the church's latest addition.

How has God prepared you to serve on the Council? I feel called by the LORD to serve Nazareth again and I believe the Bible is the inerrant word of God.