

Did You Know . . . ?

Facts About Nazareth's History



- In 137 years, Nazareth has been served by 17 senior pastors. The first associate pastor was hired in 1968.
- The cost of the first church building on Bluff Street was \$2,200.
- Women were given voting rights at Nazareth in 1921.
- Nazareth was at the forefront in providing assistance to Bosnian families who immigrated to the local community in the 1990's.
- Nazareth's first woman missionary was Eline Arildsen Uhrenholdt; she was born in 1875 and died in Sudan of black water fever.
- Nazareth provides financial and prayer support for nine long-term missionary families and numerous short-term missionaries.
- On September 23, 1962, more than 5,000 people attended the Open House for the new church building at University & Main.
- Also in 1962, Nazareth established a preschool, Blessed Beginnings, which today serves 68 children.
- Nazareth's first choir formed in 1898.
- Sixty men from Nazareth served in World War II; two were killed in action.
- In 1897, following dissention within the synod, 50 members of Nazareth withdrew to form Bethlehem Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church at 14th & Main Street in Cedar Falls.

Nazareth

Cherishing the Past ~ Looking to the Future

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Our Heritage

Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done.

1 Chronicles 16:8

Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church

Living together in God's amazing grace, we invite all people to know Christ, grow in Christ, and make Christ known.

In the Beginning

Danish Spoken Here

In 1871, a group of Danish immigrants adopted a constitution for a church to be called Nazareth Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Two years later, they celebrated their first worship service in a new church building on the corner of 9th & Bluff Streets in Cedar Falls.



*Nazareth 1911-1962
Bluff Street*

All worship services for the next 50 years were held in Danish, with the result that the church ministered almost exclusively to the Danish community. In 1923, one service a month was offered in English. By 1938, all services were held in English, and the congregation began to grow.

Growth in Membership

Expanding Opportunities

Over the years, the Bluff Street church underwent numerous renovations and additions, but even with these expansions, membership quickly exceeded available space. In 1962, a new building was dedicated on the corner of University & Main. In 1982, a new sanctuary with a seating capacity of 1400 was built on the same location, and an adult ministry wing soon followed. In 2003, the Family Life Center was added.

With each expansion, new opportunities for ministry became possible at Nazareth, and educational programs, volunteer services, and missions increased substantially.



*Nazareth 1962-82
University & Main*

Nazareth Today

Embracing Change

Throughout our history, Nazareth members have met the challenges of growth and change with the certain faith that God wishes to use us as a means of spreading the Gospel and sharing His love, both in the Cedar Valley and with the world beyond. Our ministries and programs continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of God's people, and yet we remain committed to teaching the Bible, fostering authentic community, serving others, and encouraging spiritual maturity.

Today, Nazareth is a vibrant congregation of more than 1,400 households. Working together, we strive to create a church community that is undergirded by prayer, permeated with grace, and marked by excellence in all we do.



Nazareth today