



Ash Wednesday is this Wednesday, February 26. Ash Wednesday is a significant day on the Christian calendar, denoting the beginning of the repentant period of Lent which precedes Easter. Please join us for our first Lent Soup Supper at 5:00 p.m., followed by the Ash Wednesday Worship Service at 6:00 p.m. This Ash Wednesday Worship Service will include worship music, a message from Pastor Dennis Hanson, imposition of ashes, and Holy Communion.

The 2020 IF:Gathering will be held on Saturday, March 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Cedar Valley Church located at 3520 Ansborough Avenue in Waterloo. Online registration is now open at www.local.ifgathering.com/ifcedarvalley. With questions, please email ifcedarvalley@gmail.com.

Spring Break Service Opportunities: During Spring Break, there are two great local servant opportunities organized by the Nazareth Local Missions Committee where individuals and families will use our hands and feet to serve the Lord through caring for folk in the Cedar Valley:

- ⇒ One choice is to serve noon meals at the Waterloo Salvation Army (89 Franklin Street) on March 16, 18, and 20. Each shift requires eleven volunteers who will commit themselves to serving and clean up from 11:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- ⇒ A second choice is to volunteer at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank in Waterloo (1605 Lafayette Street) on the evenings of March 16, 17 and 19. There is a need for 25-30 volunteers each evening who will serve from 5:00-6:45 p.m. Our task will be to pack student weekend food backpacks or to prepare boxes of groceries for food insecure senior citizens.

To register, sign up on the sheets provided at the Naz Next Steps desk or email info@naz.org.

High School Spring Break Mission Trip: All 10th-12th graders are invited to the God's Mountain Mission Trip in Rushville, Missouri to partner with God's Mountain Ministries Summer Camp - March 14-20. To get registered, go to www.cedarvalleystudents.org/bighouse/events. Cost of this trip is \$275 per student. With questions, please email Kristina McBurney at kristina.mcburney@naz.org.

February Donation Requests: The Blessed Beginnings Learning Center is seeking donations of hand sanitizer of any size. The Nazareth Food and Essentials Pantry is seeking donations of women's deodorant. Please place donations on the table behind the Welcome Desk in Fellowship Hall.

The first of our Lent Soup Suppers will be served at 5:00 p.m. this Wednesday, February 26 (Ash Wednesday). The menu includes chili, chicken rice soup, hot dogs, fruit and cookies. All are welcome!

Thursday Fellowship Meal is served at noon each week. The menu for February 27 is meatloaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, roll and dessert.

Blessed Beginnings is seeking to hire part time associates for mornings and/or afternoons. Go to www.naz.org/careers or email kate.demartino@naz.org to apply or for more details.

Surgical Masks Needed: Nazareth is seeking donations of surgical masks to help the Island Community Church in Hong Kong as they face the Coronavirus epidemic. Please deliver all donations to the box at the Welcome Desk no later than Sunday, March 8. With questions, please contact Nathan Mork at morkish21@gmail.com.

Join a Lent Small Group TODAY! Our 2020 Lenten series will offer opportunities to participate in spiritual formation small groups, and everyone is invited! The focus will be on the James Bryan Smith book, *The Good and Beautiful God – Falling in Love with the God Jesus Knows*. Books are now available for purchase at the Welcome Desk. Signups are at the Welcome Desk today. Weekly group meetings will begin the week of March 1st and will last for 9 weeks.

U.S. and World Missions: Danny and Nel are Nazareth World Missions Partners serving in the Middle East. They share these prayer requests:

- ◆ Praise and thanksgiving for Danny's recent trip to India where he was able to partner with and learn from two Indian brothers, sharing Bible lessons about Kingdom growth and God's plan for the nations. May those who accepted Jesus grow in love, faith, and obedience to Him.
- ◆ Praise and glory to God for Danny's teaching placement.
- ◆ Please continue to pray and lift up praises to God for Nel as she works in a refugee camp to bring the SHINE program to women residing there. May God continue to work through this program to show that He is their hope.
- ◆ Pray for God's Kingdom to reign in peace in that troubled and war torn region, especially with unrest in many countries in the area.
- ◆ Please pray that Danny and Nel and their girls stay healthy, even in the midst of some long and hard work days.

Work as Worship: Nazareth is hosting the *Work as Worship* Live Stream Event on Friday, May 15. NOW IS THE TIME to make plans to attend on your own or with your work team. Speakers include John Maxwell, Louie Giglio, Stephanie Chung, John Acuff, David L. Steward, Brandon K. Mann, and Henry Cloud. Every speaker and real-life story will focus on what it means for Christians in the workplace to see their work as an act of worship. Cost to attend is \$30 per person. Online registration is now open (or you can learn more about the event) at www.workasworshipretreat.org. With any questions, please email Pastor Brian King at brian.king@naz.org.

Caravan registration is now open! This high-energy trip for current 9-12th graders heads to Rocky Mountain High in Estes Park, Colorado, July 24 to August 1. Cost per student is \$845. Go to www.cedarvalleystudents.org/caravan to get registered. Email kirstina.mcburney@naz.org with questions.

...from the desk of...

The 2020 Nazareth Church Council President

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of Nazareth:

Basic composition teaches the foundation of good writing answers six questions—who, what, when, where, why and how. Using this format, let me introduce myself.

Who? Joyce Barbatti

What? Council President

When? March 2020-2021

Where? Nazareth Lutheran Church

Why? Serving God and our congregation

How? Meetings and prayers and relationships

Now you know about me, but unless we have spent time together and have a relationship, you don't really know me. You probably won't know that I came to Naz in 1993 primarily to get my weekly "God fix" and to blend into a large congregation where I wouldn't have to make a commitment or do anything outside of Sunday Service.

You wouldn't know the full story of my husband's and my journey through cancer or how God redeemed Tom's faith before taking him to heaven.

You may not know the "stretching" the Lord has called me into these past two years which has led me to be the committed follower of Jesus I am today.

Many "Sunday-only Christians" are like this with Jesus; they know about Him but don't really know Him.

Over the next twelve months I pray that all of us are stretched by God into areas that may be uncomfortable, but that will draw us closer to Him and deeper into relationship with Him and each other.

Having just completed the first phase of the 2020 Vision Process and moving forward into the implementation phase, as well as looking forward to celebrating 150 years of Nazareth Lutheran Church, I believe this is the perfect time to pray BOLD prayers, to re-evaluate how BIG our God is and to ask Him how He wants to USE us to accomplish AMAZING miracles in and through our Nazareth family. I will be offering challenges to all of you to prayerfully discern what and how God is calling you to make a difference.

I'm excited the Lord has given me this opportunity to serve Him and you. As Mordecai says to Esther in the Old Testament, "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14) While I don't consider the Council president position as royal, we are all sons and daughters of the King. And we are all called to the position we are in right now for such a time as this.

I ask for your prayers as we journey this year together. If you ever have concerns or questions, please email me at joyce.barbatti@naz.org. Congregational input is always welcome at 7:00 p.m. at the council meetings which are held on the second Tuesday of the month.

*I can't wait to see how our **BIG BOLD GOD** works miracles this coming year!*

For His Glory,

Joyce Barbatti

Nazareth Church Council President