

Another gift is waiting for you to open! A six-week “Zoom” Alpha Class will begin on Sunday, January 3, at 6:00 p.m. You will discover this gift will never wear out. In fact, it is good for eternity. Explore the meaning of life through short teaching talks and discussion of life’s biggest questions. To sign up, contact Mallory Jensen at mallory.jensen26@gmail.com. You’ll be glad you did!

Have a Blessed New Year!
Pr. Bob Ericson and Mallory Jensen, Alpha Director

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ Join us for Worship services at Nazareth every Sunday at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
- ◆ **Ingathering Pledges** Still Being Received, see page 2.
- ◆ See page 3 for a year-end letter from our Church Council President, Joyce Barbatti!
- ◆ **ALPHA ZOOM** BEGINS JANUARY 3!!! See more information on page 4 about all Winter Discipleship U offerings.



Please join us in welcoming **Emily McCalla** to the Naz Staff! Emily will join our team on January 6 as our new Communications Director. Emily is a graduate of Wartburg College with majors in Graphic Design, Journalism and Communication with an emphasis in Public Relations and a minor in Leadership. Emily is highly motivated and passionate for working with nonprofits. We are excited to welcome her to our family! For communication needs starting January 6, you may reach Emily at emily.mccalla@naz.org or you can call her at 266.7569, ext. 106.

CONNECT WITH US

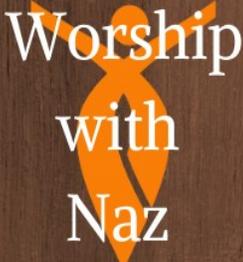
Address: 7401 University Avenue, Cedar Falls, IA 50613
Phone: 319-266-7589 Email: info@naz.org
Website: www.naz.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/MyNazareth
Instagram: www.instagram.com/mynazchurch

Wednesdays
CFU Channels 18 & 95.5 | 4:30pm

Saturdays
CFU Channels 18 & 95.5 | 5:30pm

Sundays
CFU Channels 18 & 95.5 | 8:30am
In-Person Worship at Nazareth | 9am & 10:45am
CW (check your local listings for channel) | 10am

Online Options
Naz.org – Recordings of Sermons Always Available
[Vimeo.com/mynazareth](https://vimeo.com/mynazareth)
Livestreams Broadcasted to YouTube Channel |
Search: Naz Church Media



YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED!

As we deeply desire to continue to do the ministry God has called us to do here at Nazareth, your continued generous support of prayers, service, and financial gifts is so important. Even while we may be apart physically, giving is still possible online at www.naz.org/give. You can also mail your donation to the church office or use the free GIVE+ Mobile App (by searching “GIVE PLUS CHURCH” in the app store). We truly cannot do this without you and are grateful for your continued partnership!

ALPHA “ZOOM” 2021 BEGINS JANUARY 3

Sign up today by registering directly with Mallory Jensen at mallory.jensen26@gmail.com

Sunday, January 3rd – Video One & Two
Sunday, January 10th – Video Three & Four
Sunday, January 17th – Video Five - Seven
Sunday, January 24th – Holy Spirit Day Zoom Online
Video Eight - Eleven
Sunday, January 31st – Video Twelve & Thirteen
Sunday, February 7th – Video Fourteen & Fifteen



WORSHIP: "A Word to the Wise Is Sufficient"

TEACHER: Pastor Bob Ericson

TEXTS: Luke 2:22-40

FLOWERS:

Altar: The flowers at the altar are in remembrance of Judy Magee and Robert Knight from their families.

GO BEYOND THE SERMON...

Use the "Read It", "Watch It" and "Live It" recommendations to apply this Sunday's sermon to your everyday happenings. And/or, gather with a small group to discuss the sermon and do life together! Not connected with a Naz small group yet? Email Pastor Bob Ericson at bob.ericson@naz.org to learn more or join a group.

Ingathering Faith Promises Being Received

We want to thank you in advance for the tremendous response to our Ingathering. We are in the process of planning our 2021 budget and there is still time to get your pledge cards returned to the church. You can also fill out your serve brochure and pledge form online by going to www.naz.org. Please keep in mind that even if you give electronically, we would appreciate it if you return your pledge card so that we can plan accordingly. Thank you for your generosity as we give out of love for Christ in the area of our faith!

Nazareth Stewardship Committee

DIGEST THE WORD...

Read the scripture passages from the week's Sunday's Worship Service and reflect on the sermon and on these questions to help you live out God's Word in your everyday life. Or, use these questions in your Naz Small Group to discuss and apply each week's scripture and sermon!

- ⇒ How did this passage/sermon challenge or encourage you?
- ⇒ What questions do you have about this topic?
- ⇒ What does this passage teach you about who God is?
- ⇒ What are the personal implications (for you)?
- ⇒ What does this mean for the Church as a whole?

READ IT: Being first to hear doesn't always mean being first to understand. Read a very interesting article published by the Biblical Archaeology Society entitled: "Mary, Simeon or Anna: Who First Recognized Jesus as the Messiah?" Simply Google that title and enjoy an engaging read.

WATCH IT: Google "Mya Angelo: The Power of Words" and watch a minute and a half video on that subject. In the short video U. S. Poet Laureate Angelo makes reference to the Gospel writer, John's, description of creation and how God "spoke" creation into being through his powerful Word. Reflect on how God also "speaks" a new creation into being by the powerful Word he speaks to us in his Word Incarnate, Jesus.

LIVE IT: Recall a Word of Scripture through which God has brought you comfort, peace, healing, hope, or forgiveness. Pause three times during the day to verbally repeat that Word and let it direct your thoughts and activities throughout the day. If the opportunity arises share that Word that is special to you with a family member or a friend and tell them the reason why.

If you would like to order flowers for the Worship Center for 2021, there are still dates available! Please contact Lori Fegley at lori.fegley@naz.org or call her at 266-7589, ext. 101 to order your flowers.

Also, if you or someone you know has a new WINTER address, please contact Lori Fegley and give her the updated information for our mailings this winter!

Are You Ready for Christmas?

That question is heard all through the month of December. We check tasks off our list—shopping, decorating, wrapping gifts, baking cookies, sending cards. Then, ready or not, Christmas comes and goes. We spend so much time and money in preparation, and it goes by so quickly, usually with lots of unmet expectations if not disappointments.

Christ gets lost in Christmas, even by those of us who call ourselves Christians.

Just as when Jesus came to earth, no one expected the Messiah to be born in a cave where lambs fed and slept. The last people that expected to be told about the newborn Savior were the lowly, socially-unacceptable shepherds. Those well-trained in the scriptures were too blind to recognize the fulfillment of the prophecies they studied.

God's ways are not ours. His kingdom norms are so different from those of our world and culture. Jesus came to this earth, leaving heaven and perfection and majesty to reunite us in relationship with our Father. Max Lucado compared Jesus birth to as if he would choose to become a grey squirrel that lived outside his office window, giving up his warm, comfortable home, the plentiful food, his intellect and intelligence and family.

And how do we receive Him? With joy and gratitude and awe?

One of my favorite carols is Joy to the World. A verse says, "while fields and floods; rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy!"

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the Pharisees told Him to tell His disciples to be quiet. Jesus replied, "If these were silent, the very stones would cry out." Luke 19:40.

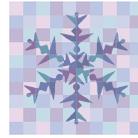
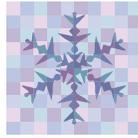
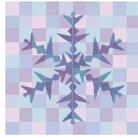
Nature understands the great gift of the Savior more clearly than we do at times. If we fail to appreciate and honor the Lord, even the inanimate rocks and hills will proclaim His glory.

What about you? Are you ready for Christmas? Have you prepared your life as a living sacrifice for the greatest gift of all? Are you ready to face your Savior when He comes again?

Or will you safely tuck Jesus away like a precious ornament, return it to the basement and forget about Him until next Christmas?

Jesus came so that we might have life, eternal life and relationship with Him. Accept the gift.

Joyce Barbatti
Council President



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Small Group Opportunity LENT 2021

Congregational Study: *The Good and Beautiful LIFE: Putting on the Character of Christ*

Our 2021 Lenten series will offer opportunities to participate in spiritual formation small groups for 6 weeks. These groups will complete the study of *The Good and Beautiful Life* by James Bryan Smith based on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount that was begun last Fall. This study compares false worldly narratives about where abundant life is found with Jesus' narratives that deliver on his promise, "I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). The sermons each Sunday will be based on the same words of Jesus which each chapter examines. Opportunities to sign up for a small group will be available online in January or by calling Terri Packard, Receptionist at 319-266-7589 (Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

Books will be available at the Welcome Desk (Sundays) and the Receptionist's Desk (Weekdays). The cost is \$15. It would be wonderful if, in addition to reading the book, many of our congregation members would participate in a small group discussion, either in person or via zoom. You may either join a group that met in the Fall or form a new group of your own.

WINTER 2021 DISCIPLESHIP U OFFERINGS

SUNDAYS

Title: **MidKids – Gideon**

Dates: Sundays, ongoing (starting January 3)

Time: 10:10 to 11:10 a.m.

Description: *A study of Gideon, an Old Testament hero with great strengths and many flaws with application for our lives. This Bible study and Fellowship group has met on an ongoing basis for thirty years, and they continue to welcome new members.*

Facilitator: David Duncan

Location: Bethel Hall

Title: **Bible Study - David: Warrior, Writer and Witness**

Dates: Sundays, ongoing (starting January 3)

Time: 10:00 to 11:10 a.m.

Description: *This class will trace the life of David through Biblical historical records, his writings in Psalms and his witness of God's favor and to other historical figures including Jesus. New members are welcome at any time!*

Facilitator: Larry Leutzinger, Adrian Talbot

Location: Room 155

Title: **The Good and Beautiful Community**

Dates: Sundays, ongoing (starting January 10)

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Description: *"The Good and Beautiful Community: Following the Spirit, Extending Grace, Demonstrating Love" is the third book by James Bryan Smith in the Apprenticeship Series. New members are welcome at any time! This study is led by Bill (319-830-7178, billyz6342@gmail.com) and Susie (319-830-9142, susie9229@gmail.com) Zimmerman. Contact them for the Webex link to the sessions.*

Facilitators: Bill and Susie Zimmerman

Location: Webex meeting

Continued...

SUNDAYS

Title: **Alpha**

Dates: Sundays, January 3 to February 7

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Description: *Over a series of interactive sessions, Alpha helps participants explore the meaning of life, revealing that Christianity can be every bit as relevant to life today as it was 2000 years ago. Alpha makes it easy to invite friends, enjoy food and fellowship (if in-person becomes possible), hear short teaching talks, and have opportunities to discuss and explore life's biggest questions in a safe and respectful environment.*

Facilitator: Mallory Jensen

Location: Zoom meetings

MONDAYS

Title: **Men's Bible Study Fellowship (BSF)**

Dates: Mondays, beginning January 4

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Description: *Bible Study Fellowship invites you to join in studying the book of Genesis. The first book of the Bible reveals our shared story as a single race created in God's image. We look forward to exploring the book of "Beginnings" together, where we witness the wonder of God creating the universe, the tragedy of humanity's fall into sin and God's gracious redemption. BSF this winter will be on Zoom in discussion groups. Please go to bsfinternational.org to learn more and register for a class this winter. You may also contact Travis at the email address above.*

Facilitator: Travis Toliver

Contact: cedarvalleybsf@gmail.com

Location: Zoom meeting

Title: **Young Adults**

Dates: Mondays, ongoing (beginning January 4)

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Description: *Are you a young adult interested in getting connected to others here at Nazareth? Join the "Young Adults at Naz" Facebook Group to get updates about activities and/or meeting times. Contact tolson@gmail.com for more information.*

Facilitator: Troy Olson

Location: Room 156

TUESDAYS/THURSDAYS

Title: **Centering Prayer**

Dates: Every Tuesday and Thursday, ongoing

Time: 8:30 to 9:00 a.m.

Description: *Craving a time of peace in your hectic life? Seeking silence as you intentionally listen to God during prayer? This class gives you the opportunity to "be still" and to experience the Lord in intentional moments of silence and reflection. All are welcome.*

Facilitator: Lorene Wellnitz

Location: Zoom meeting

WEDNESDAYS

Title: **Men's Prayer Breakfast**

Dates: Wednesdays, ongoing

Time: 6:30 to 7:30 a.m.

Description: *The Nazareth pastors facilitate a time of (singing), prayer and Bible study from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. Weekly, we have 20-30 men gather for fellowship and study, and there is room for more.*

Facilitators: Prs. Brian King, Denny Hanson

Location: Bethel Hall

Title: **Women's Bible Study Fellowship (BSF)**

Dates: Wednesdays or Thursdays

Time: (W) 9:30-10:15 a.m., (Th) 9:30-10:15 a.m., 7:00-7:45 p.m.

Description: *Bible Study Fellowship invites you to join in studying the book of Genesis. The first book of the Bible reveals our shared story as a single race created in God's image. We look forward to exploring the book of "Beginnings" together, where we witness the wonder of God creating the universe, the tragedy of humanity's fall into sin and God's gracious redemption. BSF this winter will be on Zoom in discussion groups. Our preschool children's program will also provide each child with a video Bible story each week so that your child can learn the same thing you are learning but at their educational level. New participants are welcome! Please go to bsfinternational.org to learn more about this unique way of studying God's word and to register for this winter.*

Facilitators: Diane Curtis & More

Contact: diane.curtis@uni.edu

Location: Zoom meeting

Continued...

WEDNESDAYS

Title: **Men's Wednesday Promise Keepers Bible Study**

Dates: Wednesdays, (will meet when COVID restrictions are lifted)

Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Description: *Men gather to discuss the scriptures upon which the upcoming Sunday sermon/teaching is based. Bring your own lunch and join us in prayer and discussion.*

Facilitators: Prs. Brian King, Denny Hanson

Location: Room 160

Title: **POW – The Life-giving Parent: Giving Your Child a Life Worth Living for Christ** by Clay/Sally Clarkson

Dates: Wednesdays, January 27 to April 21(not meeting Ash Wed. and the 2 weeks of Spring Break)

Time: 6:00-7:15 p.m.

Description: *This book and study guide explores 8 key principles--heartbeats of lifegiving parenting--to shed light on what it means to create a home where your children will experience the living God alive in your family. Filled with biblical insights and classic Clarkson stories, The Lifegiving Parent will equip you with the tools and wisdom you need to give your children much more than just a good Christian life. You'll give them the life of Christ. Kid's programming/childcare (up to 6th grade) is provided for families participating in the small group. Registration is required. Please email Meg at meg.husted@naz.org*

Facilitator: Meg Husted

Location: Room 301

Title: **Winter Gather Bible Study 2021 – “Journeys with Angels”**

Dates/Times: Wednesdays, 9:15 a.m.; Thursdays, 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Description: *The Winter Bible study series will be about: "Journeys with Angels" in which we will shake those biblical branches, watch for angels and listen for God's call to action.*

- January - Wednesday (13th) and Thursday (14th) - New beginnings, awe-full, awe-some angels
- February - Wednesday (10th) and Thursday (11th) - Repentance and route-changing angels
- March - Wednesday (10th) and Thursday (11th) - Loneliness, abandonment and holy comfort
- April - Wednesday (14th) and Thursday (15th) - Feasting angels

Please note: *The above is the schedule for in-person meetings and are subject to change if changes in COVID restrictions.*

Facilitators: Various Leaders

Location: Bethel Hall

THURSDAYS

Title: **Search Thursday Fellowship Bible Study**

Dates: Thursdays, ongoing (will meet when COVID restrictions are lifted)

Time: 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Description: *Men and women gather for an hour to (sing), pray and study the Biblical texts and themes for the upcoming Sunday sermon/teaching. After the study, participants are invited to join in on the Senior Fellowship Luncheon (will be available when COVID restrictions are modified to allow luncheon to resume).*

Facilitators: Pastors Brian King, Denny Hanson

Location: Room 151/153

CLASSES NOT MEETING THIS WINTER - - - UPDATES WILL BE COMING

Title: **BELONG - New Member Class**

Dates: Sundays, April 11, 18, 25 and May 2*

Time: 5:30 to 7 p.m. each week

*This is a 4-week class; each class will be approximately 90 minutes. *New members will be received on May 2nd during worship service.*

Description: *This class is a great opportunity to explore the Lutheran faith, learn about the history of Nazareth and begin to build community with others who are interested in membership. With questions, contact Lori Fegley at lori.fegley@naz.org or 319-266-7589, ext. 101.*

Facilitators: Various Naz Leaders

Location: Nazareth or Zoom meeting - TBD

Title: **Financial Peace University**

Time: TBD – Watch for announcement

Description: *With Dave Ramsey's class Financial Peace University, you CAN take control of your money and start planning for your future. Watch the Financial Peace University Videos from home and then gather together for discussion. With questions, email danijoqlaspie@cfu.net.*

Facilitators: TBD

Location: TBD

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON “DISCIPLESHIP U”, PLEASE EMAIL PASTOR BOB ERICSON AT bob.ericson@naz.org