

WELCOME

It has been said, "A baby is born with a grabbing hand, and all of life is spent learning how to open it up to give." And isn't that true? There is no better person in the Bible to reveal this problem and show us the cure than Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector in Jesus' day. Along with Zacchaeus, when we realize Jesus recognizes our need, seeks us out, and meets us with grace, our lives will be changed. For us too, along with Zacchaeus, "The Journey Continues . . . Out of Getting into Giving."

Be well! Be loving! Be courageous! Be the Church!
In Christ,
Pastor Bob

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Information for the Aug. 1 newsletter should be submitted by 3 p.m. on Monday, July 26.
- For more information and ways to get connected, visit Naz Next Steps in the Fellowship Hall!

SMALL GROUP LEADERS NEEDED

Starting the week of September 12, Nazareth will begin studying the third book in the Apprentice Series by James Bryan Smith, "The Good & Beautiful Community". We are inviting the congregation to engage in small group communities this fall as we go through the final book in the apprentice series. If you are interested in leading your own group, there will be short training on August 4 at 6 p.m. in room 301. Please email mallory.jensen@naz.org to sign up!

CONNECT WITH US

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CONGRATULATIONS TO PASTOR BRIAN & PASTOR BOB ON THE ANNIVERSARIES OF THEIR ORDINATIONS!

Nazareth recently celebrated two Anniversaries of Ordinations! We celebrated Pastor Brian's 25th Ordination on June 13, and Pastor Bob's 50th Ordination on July 18. It was a wonderful turnout and a much-deserved recognition of two of our outstanding pastors! A special thanks to the Ordination Celebration Committee for all their work in putting together these celebrations. Members included Pastor Dennis Hanson, Larry Steffens, Joyce Barbatti, Dave Welter, Hank Wellnitz, and Chris Hansen. Also thanks to Steven Heerts for putting together the videos of the pastors, and to Barb Burbridge and Peg Merfeld for providing food at the receptions!

Two funds have been set up honoring Pastor Brian and Pastor Bob. If you are interested in giving to either fund, the information is as follows:

In honor of Pastor Brian's passion for missions, the gift recipient is 'Framing Hope Endowment Fund', which is a local Waterloo partnership of the House of Hope Shelter Ministry. House of Hope ministers to single mothers, and Habitat for Humanity helps to enable qualifying applicants to own their own home. If you desire to give a gift to this worthwhile mission, you can do so by going to www.cfneia.org and under "Giving", click "Find a Fund." Search for "Framing Hope Endowment Fund" and follow the Give Today instructions. You can also mail a donation to the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa at 3117 Greenhill Circle, Cedar Falls, IA 50613, and please note on the check "Framing Hope Endowment Fund".

In honor of Pastor Bob's passion for missions, the gift recipient is Mustard Seed Communities (Gift of Hope) in Spur Tree, Jamaica, for the installation of a solar water heater. If you desire adding to this gift, please send a check to *Mustard Seed Communities*, 29 Janes Avenue, Medfield, MA. 02052. Please indicate in the memo that it is for "Gift of Hope – in honor of Pastor Bob Ericson".





SERMON | "The Journey Continues: Out of Getting into Giving"

TEACHER | Pastor Bob Ericson

TEXTS | 2 Corinthians 8:1-7; Luke 19:1-10

ALTAR | The flowers at the altar given in thanksgiving for God's faithfulness and the new mercies He provides each day.
 **Flower Donors needed for August 22nd and September 12th.



A THANK YOU FROM PASTOR BOB

Dear Members of Nazareth,

Thank you so much for all your kind expressions of appreciation as you celebrated the 50th anniversary of my ordination on Sunday, July 18. From the special worship service, to the beautiful bouquet of yellow roses, to the many cards and gifts, to the personal greetings given to us after the first service – you have filled our hearts with thankfulness and joy.

During my years here, I have had many ministry opportunities and experiences – from 1987 to 1998 as Minister of Education and from 2015 to the present with Visitation Ministry and other responsibilities. As I said in my response on Sunday, I am so thankful for Nazareth's consistent emphasis over the years on a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, the on-going work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and the centrality of the Gospel in preaching. May God continue to bless us and many others as we seek to know Christ, grow in Christ, and make Christ known.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Bob

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 group yet? Email mallory.jensen@naz.org to learn more or join a group.

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 | Search for a short article on Christian giving by J. I. Packer entitled "4 Truths about Christian Giving." Packer briefly explains the giving to which believers in Christ are called in the following way:

1. Christian giving is both a spiritual gift and a discipline of discipleship to our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Christian giving is management of God's money.
3. Christian giving is ministry with God's money.
4. Christian giving is a mind-set regarding God's money.

J. I. Packer (1926–2020) served as the Board of Governors' Professor of Theology at Regent College. He authored numerous books, including the classic best seller *Knowing God*. Packer also served as general editor for the English Standard Version Bible and as theological editor for the ESV Study Bible.

WATCH IT | Search for "5-Minute Film Festival: 10 Videos about Generosity and Giving Back" from Edutopia.org. These short videos (most 3 minutes or under) are truly inspirational. Some involve our use of money while others point to other resources we might use to care for others. While the videos don't examine the motivation for giving, they show the benefits and power of giving. The videos remind one of 1 John 3:7 – "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." As Christians, however, the Apostle John points us as believers to our motivation for love expressed through giving. "We love because he (God) first loved us" – 1 John 4:19.

LIVE IT | This week seek to intentionally share a resource (money, time, possessions) meeting another person's need and lift someone else's burden. While this week's sermon focused on money, it can be applied to any resource we have that might help another. Ideas include:

- Give an extra financial gift to a local charity
- Listen, really listen to someone
- Help your kids with homework
- Work at the NE Iowa Food Bank or volunteer at the Salvation Army
- Do a random act of kindness



SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday lunches at Nazareth are coming back this fall, better than ever! Starting on Thursday, September 2nd, Nazareth is hosting a series of Lunch & Learn topics in Bethel Hall from noon – 1p.m. Cost is \$6 per person for the meal. Bring your friends, family, co-workers, and classmates to learn about some outstanding organizations and personal testimonies taking place right here in our community. The lineup of speakers and registration will be announced on August 1st. For questions, please email mallory.jensen@naz.org.



BAPTISM CLASSES

At Naz, we practice baptism at any age and for those seeking an infant baptism, we have a special class that is the first MILESTONE we celebrate. We ask parents to attend this class prior to the baptism. This is a great way for parents to hear about the theology behind our traditions, our role as parents, logistics of a baptism at Naz and what our children's ministry provides to families.

If there is an emergency, you live out of state or have already attended this class with older children, the class is still strongly encouraged, but not required.

We will do our best to accommodate needs and also want to express how important we feel this class is for our parents at Nazareth. You may take a baptism class even if you have not decided on a baptism date or your child has not yet been born. Classes will consistently be held the first Sunday of August, November, February and May.

All classes will be held at noon on Sunday in-person and last approximately 90 minutes. Childcare and a light lunch will be provided. Please sign up at naz.org/nextsteps.

NAZARETH SOFTBALL SUMMER GAMES

(Softball Complex off of 12th Street ... next to Pheasant Ridge Golf Course)

- Monday, August 2 - 6 p.m., on Field # 1

BLESSED BEGINNINGS HIRING

Blessed Beginnings Preschool is currently seeking one individual to work as a Preschool Teacher in our Preschool Classroom. This person needs to be reliable, punctual, respectful and professional. We love creative thinkers who are also great communicators!

YOUR DUTIES WILL INCLUDE: Creating, implementing and teaching curriculum throughout the school year; maintaining appropriate records; some cleaning duties; reading to children; playing with children; doing art with children; and nurturing children.

REQUIRED: A degree in Early Childhood Education.

Please send resume to danielle.lickteig@naz.org.

BIRDS AND BEES

Naz Family and Children's Ministry is excited to share with you a special event that equips, encourages and empowers you to talk to your kids about sex. On August 13, 2021 from 6:45-8:30 p.m. we will host an in-person opportunity to learn from Mary Flo and Megan from *Birds and Bees* in a video based format. This content is directed to parents of kids ages 1-10 years old. They will walk you through 6 steps preparing you to have the beginning discussions about sex with your kids. Please check out their website at birds-bees.com.

You may think you have plenty of time before this is a topic needing to be addressed, but kids are hearing, seeing and learning about sex from friends and social media earlier and earlier. We will provide you with breaks throughout the program discussing each section with your spouse or significant other, access additional resources, and learn ways to incorporate your faith and God's design into your explanation. This event is free and open to the public. We encourage both parents, if possible, to hear the content. Please be invitational! Sign up at naz.org.

The logo for "Birds & Bees" features the words "BIRDS" and "BEES" in a dark blue, serif font, separated by a large, stylized ampersand (&) in the same font.

YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED!

As we deeply desire to do the ministry God has called us to do here at Nazareth, your continued generous support of prayers, service, and financial gifts are so important. You can give online at naz.org. 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!



SLOTS ARE FILLING FAST!

Go to ucdir.com to register:

Church code: ia123 | Password: photos

You can choose your desired photography date and time!

EXHIBIT IN MISSION LOUNGE

To continue Nazareth's 150th anniversary celebration, there is an exhibit in the Mission Lounge featuring the Danish flag and its history. The Danish flag is known as Dannebrog. It holds the Guinness World Record for the oldest continuously used national flag....over 800 years. The flag consists of a red field with an off-center white cross.

You might want to show your Danish pride or heritage by flying a Danish windsock, custom designed and made in South Dakota. One design features the Danish flag (red background with a white cross) and the second design features a Danish woven heart. Each windsock is approximately 42" long, has red and white tails, and made from fade resistant 100% nylon. Each windsock is \$25. You can see them in the display case in the Mission Lounge. Contact the church office to purchase one of your own!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank you to all the blood donors who came to the blood drive on Tuesday, July 20. The next blood drive hosted at Nazareth will be in December!

JOIN US FOR PERSPECTIVES CLASS!

USE WHAT'S IN YOU TO BLESS THE WORLD AROUND YOU.

Experience 15 powerful lessons that have equipped thousands of everyday believers with greater vision, hope, and passion!

Please join fellow Nazareth members, as well as members of other churches, to learn about God's mission in the world and how we can join Him.

PERSPECTIVES is a life-changing course that will open your eyes to God's call on your life! (scholarships available through Naz)

When? The class is held on Sundays and begins August 22 and ends on December 5, 2021.

Where? Immanuel Lutheran Church - 4820 Oster Parkway, Cedar Falls

Register online and see more information: www.perspectives.org/cedarfallsia

If you have questions, please email cfperspectives@gmail.com or contact Maureen Hanson at mohan@mchsi.com



PRAYER RETREAT

There will be a centering Prayer Retreat at the Shalom Spirituality Center in Dubuque on Dec.10-12, 2021. This is an opportunity to learn about centering prayer. Room and board are included in the cost. For more information call the Shalom Spirituality Center at 463-582-3592 or Bonnie Smith Davis at 319-230-2165.

If you want to do Centering Prayer via Zoom, also call Bonnie Smith-Davis.

There are meetings on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 to 9 a.m. and Lectio Divina on Friday at 3:30 p.m. There will also be Silent Saturdays which is a once-a-month 3-hour morning of prayer and discussion at various homes in the Cedar Valley. This is a good way to get to know similar minded individuals.

KINDERGARTEN RITE OF PASSAGE MILESTONE

On August 22, our church family will be praying over students going into kindergarten, along with their families, at both services. If you cannot attend either service, contact Meg at meg.husted@naz.org so we can still celebrate with you!

KITS AND QUILTS DONATIONS

The Kits and Quilts team is packing school kits for Lutheran World Relief in August and need donations of school supplies. These school kits equip a child with the supplies they need to keep learning even in a crisis. Each backpack contains 4 notebooks, 5 pens, 5 pencils, 1 eraser, 1 pair of scissors, 1 box of crayons, 1 pencil sharpener and 1 ruler. We are hoping to pack at least 700 kits! Supplies can be dropped off on the table marked LWR School Supplies behind the Welcome Desk.

If you would like to donate, we need the following:

- Scissors, child, blunt tip
- Crayons, 16 or 24-pack
- Pens, blue or black ink (no gel ink)
- Erasers, 2 1/2"
- Spiral notebooks, 70 sheet, one subject (wide or narrow ruled)
- Pencil sharpeners
- Rulers, 12" with both inches and centimeters

Thanks so much for your generosity! Because we are cautious about having a large number of kids and adults working closely together inside, we will NOT be having Marathon Monday this year to pack the kits.

HIGHLAND BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES

With July almost over, now is the time to think about Highland School and their supply needs for the fall. There are two ways you may choose to help the local mission committee's Partners in Education provide those items:

- 1) Purchase supplies that you choose from the list and deliver them to Nazareth.
- 2) Donate a cash gift, and the items needed will be purchased according to the staff specifications in bulk at a much reduced rate.

This year Highland is requesting only the following supplies for the children:

- Wide-lined spiral notebooks (NO loose leaf paper)
- 3"x3" sticky pads
- Pocket folders (red, blue, green, yellow and orange)
- Tissues (individual plastic wrapped packages)
- Pencil boxes (hard-sided only/easily sanitized – NO pencils, pens or individual erasers)
- Scissors (blunt tips)
- Glue sticks (narrow tubes like Elmers)
- Box of 8 assorted markers (basic colors)
- Crayons (boxes of 24 – Crayola brand preferred)

Collection of purchased items begins now and continues through August 15.

Purchased items may be brought to Nazareth and placed on the designated table behind the Information Desk. Cash gifts may be left at the Information Desk on Sunday, at the Reception Desk Monday through Friday, or mailed to the church.

For cash gifts in check form, please make the checks to Nazareth Lutheran Church, Highland Supplies in the memo; it is important that they are not written to Highland School. Highland School has many needs and has always appreciated the heart-felt generosity of this congregation. In advance, thank you again for your support of these children.

UPCOMING DATES

July 7, 14, 21, 28: Grief Group meets at Naz in Room 156

July 13, 20, 27: Entrusted Small Group - Room 160 at 8:30 a.m.

July 27-31: Photo Directory Picture Sessions

August 1: Baptism Class

August 2, 9, 16, 23: Trapshooting Ministry - 6 p.m.

August 5-6: Global Leadership Summit at Orchard Hill Church (Naz offices will be closed)

August 8: Outdoor Service at 10:45 a.m.; 9 a.m. in Worship Center

August 13: Birds & Bees Event

August 22: Kindergarten Rite of Passage. Ice Cream and Games to follow

August 25: BASIC Kick Off

August 29: PreK Orientation

September 2: Lunch and Learn

September 8: CHAOS Kick Off

September 12: Naz Fall Kick Off! KIDZ Rock begins!

CEDAR FALLS BIBLE CONFERENCE

The Cedar Falls Bible Conference is celebrating its 100th gathering Saturday, July 31 - Saturday, August 7, 2021. Great music, world-class Bible preaching, and programming for kids of all ages are just a few reasons you should join us at Riverview Conference Center, 439 N Division St, in Cedar Falls. All events and activities are FREE and no pre-registration is required. Visit their website (CedarFallsBibleConference.com) for more details or to catch the livestream of each session!