

WELCOME

St. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 1:18 "The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God." The ultimate self-revelation of God is in his hiddenness. Contrary to what most of the world seeks and desires, God is found in the overlooked, the marginalized and under-privileged. God is found amid the left out, cast out and the lonely. God is found among those who suffer and struggle – those whom Jesus himself calls the "least of these."

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Box Fan donations needed for the Food Pantry. (Box fans need to be "new" and in original box.)

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!

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!

CONNECT WITH US

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Phone: 319-266-7589 | Email: info@naz.org
Website: www.naz.org

CONGRATULATIONS PASTOR BOB!



Today is the 50th anniversary of Pastor Bob Ericson's ordination into the Lutheran ministry. For almost half of those years, Pastor Bob and Barb have served in and through Nazareth Lutheran Church. With the Ericson family and friends, we give thanks for the blessing that they have been in their passion for ministry and missions! Congratulations Pastor Bob and Barb!

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.

Save the date for the upcoming classes! 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.



SERMON | "The Journey Continues: Out of Unbelief Into Faith"

TEACHER | Pastor Brian King

TEXTS | 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 12:20-33

ALTAR | The flowers at the altar are in celebration of Miller and Sharon Roskamp's 65th wedding anniversary on July 6th.
***Flower Donors needed for July 25th and August 22nd.*

BAPTISMS

Brynn Taylor Story, daughter of David and Kenzie Story.

OUR SYMPATHIES

- Our deepest sympathies are extended to Glenda Sidler and family on the death of her husband, Sid.
- Our deepest sympathies are extended to Lisa Nieman and Michelle Eichhorn and families on the death of their mother, Janet Nieman.

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!

CONGRATULATIONS NAZARETH!

The ELCA recently recognized Nazareth as one of the 156 Most Generous Congregations in the ELCA (out of over 9,000 congregations) for our generous contributions to the World Hunger Appeal and Lutheran Disaster Response. Thank you for helping Nazareth to make such an impact, leading and responding "Beyond our Walls!" Your generosity makes a difference to our neighbors all around the world!

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 | Read, study, reflect and pray over our two texts for today in context including all of 1 Corinthians 1 and all of John 12. What do these two chapters tell us about the character of God and the heart of God for his people?

WATCH IT | *The Passion of the Christ (2004)*. In this version of Christ's crucifixion, based on the New Testament, Judas expedites the downfall of Jesus (Jim Caviezel) by handing him over to the Roman Empire's handpicked officials. To the horror of his mother, Mary (Maia Morgenstern), Magdalen (Monica Bellucci), whom he saved from damnation, and his disciples, Jesus is condemned to death. He is tortured as he drags a crucifix to nearby Calvary, where he is nailed to the cross. He dies, but not before a last act of grace.

LIVE IT | As we honor Pastor Bob Ericson's 50th Ordination Anniversary this week, take a moment to reflect upon someone in your own life who has been instrumental in planting the seeds of faith or modeling for you what it means to be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. If that person is still alive, take a moment to reach out to them through a letter, email, phone call, or text to thank them for the impact they have had in your life and to encourage them to continue to point others to Jesus.

NAZARETH SOFTBALL SUMMER GAMES

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

- Monday, July 19 - 8:30 p.m. on Field #1
- Monday, August 2 - 6 p.m. on Field #1

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.

NEW EXHIBIT IN MISSION LOUNGE

To continue Nazareth's 150th anniversary celebration, there will be an exhibit in the Mission Lounge beginning July 1, 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.



SLOTS ARE FILLING FAST!

Go to ucdir.com to register:

Church code: ia123 | Password: photos

You can choose your desired photography date and time!

BLOOD DRIVE JULY 20

Help the American Red Cross by donating blood on July 20 in Bethel Hall, from noon-5 p.m. The American Red Cross is experiencing a severe blood shortage as the number of trauma cases, organ transplants, and elective surgeries rise – and deplete the nation's blood inventory. The Red Cross is working around the clock to meet the extraordinary blood needs of hospitals and patients, but can't do it alone. All blood types are needed, particularly type O. Those who give blood, platelets or plasma July 7-31, 2021, will receive a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card, via email, in addition to receiving automatic entry for a chance to win gas for a year (a \$5,000 value).

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 (who may not be eligible for Covid vaccinations) and adults working closely together inside, we will NOT be having Marathon Monday this year to pack the kits.

BIRDS AND BEES

Naz Family and Children's Ministry is excited to share with you a special event that will equip, encourage and empower you to talk to your kids about sex. On August 13, 2021 from 6:45-8:30p 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 to 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 that needs 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 to discuss 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

UPCOMING DATES

July 18: Pastor Bob Ericson's 50th Ordination at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. in the Worship Center. (reception in between services at 10 a.m.)

July 23-24: Junior High CHAOS - Maquoketa Caves

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.

August 1: Baptism Class

August 5-6: Global Leadership Summit at Orchard Hill Church

August 8: Outdoor Service

August 13: Birds & Bees Event

August 22: Kindergarten Rite of Passage and Introduction of new staff members at Naz

August 25: BASIC Kick Off

August 29: PreK Orientation

September 8: CHAOS Kick Off

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

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!

We are in need of some volunteers to help with the photo directory. Opportunities include: Greeting/Signing in guests when they have their photo session (2-3 hour commitment during designated time slots) or calling members to help them register for their photo session (1-2 hour commitment, at your leisure). Please contact Terri Packard (terri.packard@naz.org or 319-266-7589) to find out where you can help make the photo directory as impactful and memorable as possible!

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US IN OUR OUTDOOR SERVICE!

We had a great turnout on July 11 at our first outdoor service at Naz!

Pastor Brian and the Worship Band did an amazing job and we even had a Baptism that morning!

Please join us again for our next outdoor service on Sunday, August 8 at the 10:45 a.m.! Please remember to bring your lawn chairs or blankets. We will still have our regular 9 a.m. service inside the worship center.

