

Nazareth Financial Statistics - June 2009

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|------------------------------|---------------------|
| General Fund: | |
| Budgeted for June | \$147,482.00 |
| Gifts Received for June | \$100,298.56 |
| | |
| Budgeted YTD | \$883,048.00 |
| Gifts Received YTD | <u>\$846,372.95</u> |
| As of June 30, 2009 | \$ -36,675.05 |
| | |
| Lighthouse Project: | |
| Monthly Loan Payment | \$ 14,089.73 |
| Gifts Received for June | \$ 10,480.53 |
| | |
| Capital Improvements: | |
| June Gifts | \$ 2,021.00 |
| Gifts Received YTD | \$ 4,751.00 |

Nazareth Attendance Statistics - June 2009

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| <u>8:45</u> | <u>11:00</u> |
| 2002 | 1399 |

Upcoming Worship Services

July 19 - The Habit of Simplicity

8:45 a.m. - Pastor Philip Hougen
 11:00 a.m. - Steve Nelson

July 26 - The Habit of Solitude

8:45 & 11:00 a.m. - Dave Bartlett

August 2 - The Habit of Service

8:45 & 11:00 a.m. - Bill Withers

August 9 - The Habit of Confession

8:45 & 11:00 a.m. - Pastor Philip Hougen

About the Summer Worship Series

Our summer worship series continues to explore Richard Foster's *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*, a book that examines the disciplines Christians practice as a way to grow in love of God and neighbor. So far we have looked at the disciplines of prayer, fasting, meditation, study, and submission. The series concludes August 30 with a look at the discipline of celebration.

To enrich your understanding of the disciplines, Table Talk, a summer class for adults at 9:50 a.m. in Bethel Hall, will take a deeper look at the morning's teaching.

Practicing the disciplines will deepen and enrich your spiritual life in ways you could never have imagined. Please join us for this life-changing sermon series.

Nazareth WELCA Opportunities Available

Nazareth Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELCA) is seeking women from the congregation who want to become active in our mission work. Leaders are needed for Nazareth WELCA Mission Growth, Mission Action, and Mission Community committees and Nazareth WELCA Vice President. Contact Cheryl Moore at 234-5837 for additional information and to place your name in nomination. Circle membership is not required for these leadership opportunities.

Build the Habitat House
 Wednesdays and Saturdays
 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 324 Oneida Street in Waterloo
 Lunch provided
 Call John Tucker at 268-0064



Messenger

Nazareth Lutheran Church

July 13, 2009 Volume 56 Number 7

Loving the Church and Fixing the Roof A Letter from Pastor Hougen

I've conversed with a number of people who begin by saying, "I love Nazareth." They usually go on to tell me why, sometimes adding a clause that begins, "but . . ." and ending the sentence with the assurance that "I still love Nazareth."

This phenomenon of loving the church is interesting. Biblically, the church is the Body of Christ. It's not a building or an institution. It's a living reality that incarnates the person and mission of Jesus Christ.

What do we mean when we say that we love Nazareth? Usually we mean that we love what Nazareth has meant in our lives. Perhaps we've met our best friends here; perhaps Nazareth has been a part of the most meaningful passages in our lives; perhaps our acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior or our personal relationship with Christ is tied to our relationship with Nazareth.

The people who have told me they love Nazareth are young and old, long-time members and newer members, people at the center of congregational life, and people on the fringes. All of them have a heart for the future well-being of this part of the Body we call Nazareth.

I want to suggest a couple of specific ways we can love the church. Since Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church is the people, we can demonstrate our love for the people by speaking well of them – all of them, all of the time. St. Paul was very clear when he listed gossip and slander among the evils church people were called to avoid. If we "love Nazareth," we will, in Luther's words, "put the most charitable construction on all that our neighbor does."

As we prepare to receive a new, regularly called pastor, it behooves us to put our differences in the past and open ourselves to God's renewed future. No pastor will find conflict in a congregation an attractive asset for a new call. Congregations in conflict decline; they don't grow.

In my short time here, another question has occurred to me. If we "love Nazareth," why does the roof leak? That may seem like a silly question, but it is a fact that this wonderful building that houses the people and ministries of Nazareth has some very important capital repairs that need to be made. Generally, the building is cared for extremely well. Our excellent custodial staff keeps it clean and neat. We can be proud of this beautiful structure in this exceptional location.

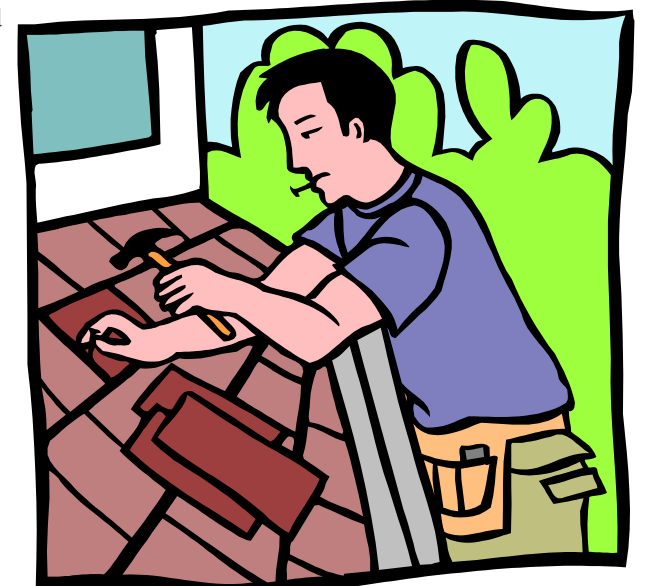
I know the church is not the building, but as a newcomer among you, I hope we will raise and spend the money necessary to maintain the building as a beautiful house of God, dedicated to serving God and others. Part of our love for Nazareth can be expressed in our stewardship of the resource which is our church building. We have a great gift from people who have gone before us. This building belongs to all of us, and we all have a responsibility to pay the mortgage and fix the roof (and other things that need fixing.)

If we "love Nazareth," we will speak well of its people – all its people – and we will take care of its building.

I know I'm an outsider and a newcomer, and I'm here for an "interim." Forgive me if I have written too presumptuously or too boldly. I pray that these words are shared with you in a spirit of true affection and that you receive them as such.

Philip Hougen

Interim Senior Pastor



American Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, July 22

1:00 - 6:00 p.m. • Fellowship Hall

Sign Up on Sunday, July 19

Visit the registration table in Fellowship Hall or contact Pat Dove at 266-7589 ext 27
pat.dove@naz.org

Donor Information

- Donors must be at least 17 years old (16 with parental consent in Iowa)
There is no upper age limit
- Donors must weigh at least 110 pounds
- Donors must bring a driver's license or blood donor card or 2 other forms of ID

Two Volunteers Needed to Greet Donors

One from 12:45 - 3:00 p.m.

One from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

To volunteer, contact Pat Dove at 266-7589 ext 27
pat.dove@naz.org

Why Give?

Every two seconds, someone needs blood.

Blood is needed for emergencies and for people who have cancer, blood disorders, sickle cell, and other illnesses. Some people need regular blood transfusions to live.

Imagine if giving blood was part of everyone's life. What kind of difference would that make? For nearly 5 million people who receive blood transfusions every year, your donation can make the difference between life and death.

Give Blood. Give Life

Short-Term Medical Mission Trip to Jamaica January 30 - February 11, 2010

Medical professionals and non-medical volunteers are needed to provide medical, dental, and spiritual care to the people of Jamaica. The team will provide care through the government clinic system and will work with Catholic missionaries to provide care to residents of two orphanages and a nursing home.

Physicians, nurses, dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, pharmacists, physical therapists, construction workers, musicians, and general helpers are needed.

Applications for health care professionals must be received by September 15, 2009. For more information, contact Barb or Bob Ericson at 277-1880 (home) or 319-493-5039 (Barb's cell).

Nazareth Member Writes for Augsburg Press

Augsburg Fortress, publishing house of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will include prayers written by Nazareth member Kim Groninga in the 2011 edition of *Sundays and Seasons*, a Lutheran worship resource used by worship leaders, musicians, and liturgists throughout the United States.

For several years, Kim has written *Prayers of the Church* for the 9:50 a.m. service at Nazareth. This summer, she has served as liturgist for the 8:45 a.m. service. For the services she assists, Kim has also written the *Prayers of Intercession*.

A book of Kim's prayers is now available for purchase. Kim writes, "*On Our Knees* is a collection of prayers originally written for worship services at Nazareth. Each page lists one to three scripture passages and a corresponding prayer. The collection can be used in worship settings or for individual or group devotions.

"This prayer book is also a memory book, weaving in and through the life and teachings of Nazareth for parts of 2008 and 2009. *On Our Knees* is dedicated to the people of Nazareth Lutheran Church, past and present."

Copies of *On Our Knees* can be ordered by sending a check for \$9.00 (\$8/book + \$1 postage) to Kim Groninga, 1410 Hawthorne Drive, Cedar Falls IA 50613.

Job Vacancies at Blessed Beginnings

Director of Blessed Beginnings

The Blessed Beginnings Childcare & Preschool Program has an opening for a director. Send cover letter and resume to Sally Young, 7401 University Ave, CF 50613.

Part-time Childcare Providers

Must love children and possess strong Christian values. If you are a student, we will work around your class schedule. Please pick up an application in the Blessed Beginnings office or call the Blessed Beginnings office at 266-2503 for more information.

Preschool Associate

Blessed Beginnings Preschool is in need of an associate to work 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. M-F. Please pick up an application in the Blessed Beginnings office or call the Blessed Beginnings office at 266-2503.

The 88th Annual Cedar Falls Bible Conference will take place July 25-August 2 at the Riverview Conference Center in Cedar Falls. Featured speakers include Josh McDowell, Lloyd Ogilvie, and Derek Thomas. A conference booklet is available at the Information Desk. A schedule and other information can also be found online at www.cedarfallsbibleconference.org.

Meet Our Missionaries



Missionaries to Visit Nazareth Sunday, July 19

Matt and Cara, Nazareth-supported missionaries to the Middle East, will visit Nazareth and share their story on Sunday, July 19 at 9:50 a.m. in Bethel Hall. Please join us in welcoming Matt and Cara to Nazareth. (Due to the sensitive nature of their missionary work in the Middle East, the last name of our missionaries is not used in Nazareth publications.)

Call Committee Reports

Available Sunday at the Information Desk

Weekdays at the Reception Desk

Anytime at www.naz.org

Fair-Trade Chocolate Bars Back in Stock!

All chocolate bars are USDA organic and certified Fair Trade. Bars are \$2.50 each and can be purchased in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings or in the church office during the week.

Pick Your Favorite or Try a New One!

- Organic milk chocolate w/a hint of hazelnut - 38% cacao
- Organic dark chocolate w/almonds - 55% cacao (Best seller!)
- Organic MINT dark chocolate w/a delicate crunch - 67% cacao
- Organic dark chocolate w/pure cocoa nibs - 68% cacao
- Organic very dark chocolate - 71% cacao

Centering Prayer Group Welcomes You 1st & 3rd Tuesdays • 4:30 p.m. in Room 158

If the spiritual discipline of meditation interests you, then consider learning more about Centering Prayer, a silent form of Christian meditation. Several Nazareth members meet regularly to practice centering prayer together. They have attended workshops, silent retreats, and training sessions on centering prayer and will be glad to share what they have learned with all interested individuals. **The group meets the first and third Tuesdays of every month at 4:30 p.m. in Room 158.** For more information, contact Lorene Wellnitz at 232-4100 or Margaret Shay at 266-1357.

Gospel Trio Trin-i-tee in Concert August 8

The gospel trio Trin-i-tee will perform in concert on Saturday, August 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Gallagher Bluedorn in Cedar Falls. Tickets are \$20 and are available by calling 319-273-4849. All concert proceeds go to support the Salvation Army Family Activity Center.

A Benefit Concert featuring both Trin-i-tee and the Children's Choir from the Salvation Army Family Activity Center will take place Friday, August 7 at 7:00 p.m. at GPAC. This concert is free but does require a ticket, available by calling 319-273-4849. For more information, contact Kathy Oakland at 277-8563.

Gideon Sunday is July 26 • Donations accepted outside the Worship Center doors

Local Mission Committee Collects School Supplies for Needy Students

The first day of school is only a few weeks away. Unfortunately, many families in the Cedar Valley will be unable to afford school supplies for their children. You can help these families by donating one or more items to the Back to School Project from the following list. Please bring your donations to Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, July 26 or Sunday, August 2**. Cash donations are also welcome. We will send half the school supplies we collect to McKinstry Elementary, our Partner in Education; the other half will go to the Cedar Valley Back to School Project. Thank you in advance for your donation.

Rulers
Crayons
Glue/Glue Sticks
School Boxes
Erasers
Dry Erase Markers

Scissors
Markers
Back Packs
Colored Pencils
Kleenex
Pencil Pouches
Pencils and Pens

Wide-line Spiral Notebooks
Tab Dividers
Pocket Folders
Wide-line Paper
Dictionaries
3-Ring Binders



All Church Picnic

Sunday, August 30 • 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

More information coming soon!

Good Memorial Gifts Found in ELCA Barnyard

If you're looking for a special way to honor the memory of loved ones, or if you're shopping for that hard-to-buy-for friend or relative, check out the **ELCA's Good Gifts Global Barnyard**. In the name of your loved one, you can give a goat, rabbit, pig, or other animal to a person in need.

For \$5 - \$30, you can give a gift that will make a difference in the lives of people who are struggling to survive, giving them food, hope, and a future.

To learn more about **ELCA Good Gifts**, call 1-800-638-3522 to request a catalog. On the web, go to www.elca.org/goodgifts.

Spend Time with God in the Nazareth Chapel

The Nazareth Chapel, located near the building entrance next to Bethel Hall, is a wonderful place of refuge, quiet, and solitude. You are encouraged to pray there at your convenience. Devotion booklets and prayer cards are available in a wall rack directly outside the Chapel doors. A rack of prayer shawls is also available.

Prayer request cards are located immediately inside the Chapel. You may pray for those requests, and you may add your own prayer requests on the cards provided.

Walk the Prayer Labyrinth This Summer

Warm summer days and long summer evenings are the perfect time to walk the Prayer Labyrinth located on the Nazareth grounds near the South Main Street entrance. If you would like more information about the labyrinth, pick up a brochure from the church office or visit our website at www.naz.org.

Prime Time Potluck

Sunday, July 19 • 5:30 p.m. in Rooms 151/153

All Nazareth members 55+ are invited to enjoy good food and fellowship at the Prime Time Potluck. Please bring a dish to share. A program will follow dinner.