

Honor the Lord your God by bringing him a freewill offering
in proportion to the blessing God has given you.
Deuteronomy 16:10

**Giving Back to the Lord is an Honor:
A Testimony from Arlene Schwarzenbach, Capital Campaign Co-Chair**



How did I arrive at my belief that joyfully giving back to the Lord is an honor? The answer is I learned it from the time I was a child, but it took on a whole new meaning when I committed my life to Christ. On top of that, life experiences were thrown into that belief to arrive where I am today. Let me explain further.

I was raised in a Christian family. On Sunday morning, each of us children tied our coin in the corner of a handkerchief so it would be almost impossible to lose. Then we would carefully untie it before placing it in the offering plate at church, acknowledging our thankfulness for the gifts our Lord and Savior had provided. We would return a portion of those gifts to Him.

Many years later, this concept was reinforced and broadened when my career took me to Wartburg College. One day at a meeting, the President stated that each of us should be committed to the mission of educating students. Then he asked, if we made that commitment, would we then be willing to contribute financially to support it. The rationale was that if the majority of employees were willing to jump onboard the campaign, then that showed alumni and friends of the college that we believed it was a worthwhile endeavor, and alumni and friends would then be more willing to support it.

So giving back to God has deep roots in my life, and believing everyone needs to participate to some degree financially is part of who I am. But how could that practice move so deep into my heart? The answer is because life events happen - not only to me, but to each of us. First, I was blessed with the birth of two children and quickly realized that raising them was the hardest thing I'd ever do. One Sunday, I knelt in the Chapel and committed my life to the Lord. Every Sunday thereafter I would kneel in the Chapel as I prayed for guidance in raising these priceless children. They are now adults. My faith grew. Thank you, Lord!

Then another life-changing event happened. Following the tragic death of my husband at a young age, I wasn't even strong enough to pray at times, but the Lord sent blessings and more blessings day after day, month after month, and year after year. He guided me back to peace and returned joy to my life, not an easy task by anyone's standards. My faith deepened. Thank you, Lord!

Yet another major event in my life was retirement. Throughout my career, my Lord gave me a passion and mission to help college-age students, and I truly loved it for twenty-seven years. Then Christ asked me to retire a few years before I had planned. Why do you want me to do that, I asked? The answer to that question was, Trust in God. I did and retired. In retirement, I have been given joy beyond what I had ever dreamed. I should have known He had plans for me. My trust in God was cemented forever. Thank you, Lord!

Throughout all these years, I was asked to serve at Nazareth in many ways. I could easily do lots of things, but many times I didn't feel capable of what was being asked of me, including serving on Church Council and co-chairing God's plan for this Capital Campaign. With knees knocking, I said yes each time, knowing that the Lord has always guided me and provided me with the ability to joyfully do what has been asked of me. Thank you, Lord!

Yes, I believe giving back to the Lord is very important, and my faith grew through life-changing events. Now Nazareth faces a challenge, and we have a plan. So in honor of that plan, it is now that I commit myself to "tying my coin in the corner of my handkerchief" and believing all hands need to be on deck to complete the Lord's plan for Nazareth. I am making a pledge to You, my dear Lord and Savior, to honor and glorify your name and to be your servant in retiring the debt on the Family Life Center, providing funds to do Your mission work, repairing Bethel Hall, building a new kitchen, and providing a covered entry. Praise, honor, and glory be to God. Thank you, Lord!



nazareth
evangelical lutheran church

Living together in God's amazing grace, we invite all people
to know Christ, grow in Christ, and make Christ known

**Nazareth
Evangelical Lutheran Church**

7401 University Avenue
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613
319.266.7589 • www.naz.org

Welcome to Nazareth

We are blessed to have you
worship with us this morning

Sunday Worship Services

8:30, 9:50 & 11:10 a.m.

Sunday Nursery Provided

Infants & toddlers thru 3 years

Pastor Brian King

Senior Pastor
brian.king@naz.org

Pastor Denny Hanson

Associate Pastor
dennis.hanson@naz.org

Pastor Dennis Dickman

Visitation & Education Pastor
dennis.dickman@naz.org

Church Office Hours

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. • Mon - Fri

**The Art of
Neighboring**



**BUILDING GENUINE RELATIONSHIPS
RIGHT OUTSIDE YOUR DOOR**



May 3, 2015

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Teaching - *Loving Our Neighbors Starts Within Our Walls* - Enrique Ochoa
Today's Texts - Galatians 6:7-10; Luke 8:4-15

8:30 a.m.

Prelude - *Morning Has Broken* (arr. Manz)
Gathering Hymn - *We All Are One in Mission* - #755 (blue)
Special Music - *Celebration Bells - Ring For Joy* (Wagner)
Offering - Senior Choir - *Come Share the Lord* (Leech/Tabell)
Distribution Hymns - #197, #212, #433 (all green)
Postlude - *Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* (arr. Cherwien)

9:50 a.m.

Gathering Song - *We All are One in Mission* - #755 (blue)
Special Music - *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands* - Ali Parrish
Offering - *Make Us One* (ensemble)
Distribution - *Surrender All* (ensemble)
Sending Song - *We Are the Body of Christ* (ensemble)

11:10 a.m.

Please see screens

Worship Assistants

Nathaniel Parrish - Director of Music (8:30)
Readers: Terry Wiebenga (8:30); Kathy Dubois (9:50)

Next Week's Worship - Sunday, May 10

8:30, 9:50 & 11:10 - Bill Withers

Bulletin Deadline

Every Tuesday • 8:00 a.m. • nancy.woodford@naz.org
Note: The May *Messenger* will be mailed Wednesday, May 13

All Hands on Deck for a Special Celebration!
Capital Campaign Commitment Sunday
One Worship Service
Sunday, June 14 • 10:00 a.m. • Worship Center



As we live in response to God's amazing grace and love, the people of Nazareth value






Reminders

Usher Orientation Today
10:50 a.m. **OR** 12:30 p.m. • Chapel

Support Kits & Quilts with a Purchase of Love Gifts

Today • Fellowship Hall
Love Gifts start at \$5 and provide funds for fabric and other supplies for Kits & Quilts Ministry.

Donate Cookies to NewAldaya

Four people are needed every Sunday in June to donate 3 dozen cookies each to the NewAldaya Sunday afternoon Coffee Fellowships. Cookies can be delivered to the Main Street building at NewAldaya by 1:00 p.m. on your chosen Sunday. **Please sign up today at the Welcome Desk.**

Help Plant the Nazareth Garden

Wednesday, May 13 • 6:00 p.m.

Donate Plants & Seeds

Tuesday, May 12

Sign Up in Fellowship Hall Today

Vacation Bible School

June 7-11 • 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Register in Fellowship Hall **TODAY**

Church Record

Funeral: Jennie Tjepkes (April 29)

Sympathy

The Nazareth congregation offers condolences to Melvin Tjepkes and family on the death of his wife.

Hospitalized (*as of April 28*)

Gordy Nieman; Joyce Cawelti

Welcome to Nazareth

We are blessed by your presence at worship this morning. Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in Fellowship Hall between services.

A Special Welcome to Our Visitors

Whether you're visiting from across town or out of state, your presence is a blessing to us. Be sure to ask for an information packet and a special gift at the Welcome Desk this morning.

ELCA Responds to Earthquake in Nepal

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is responding to the earthquake that devastated parts of Nepal, killing more than 5,000 people and leaving entire towns in ruins. Additional deaths have been reported in parts of India and Bangladesh. In total, more than 8 million people have been affected by the disaster.

Your help is needed to bring immediate relief and ongoing support to earthquake survivors. Financial gifts designated "Nepal Area Earthquake" will be used in full to help survivors clean up, rebuild, and recover. Checks can be sent to **Lutheran Disaster Response, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield VA 22116-8009.**

Checks may also be written to Nazareth with "Nepal Area Earthquake" noted in the memo line. All donations will be forwarded to the LDR office.

Pray for Our Missionaries

Nazareth-supported missionaries Danny and Nel in East Jerusalem send the following prayer requests:

- There have been some clashes in their neighborhood recently. Pray that this unrest opens a door for them to talk about peace and the Kingdom of God with their neighbors.
- Pray for Abu, Danny's close friend, that he and his wife would fully enter the Kingdom of God.
- Pray for the upcoming soccer camp in June. Pray that the young men from last year would become strong leaders in this year's camp and in the refugee community where they live.

Spring Discipleship U Classes Start Soon!

There's still time to sign up - but hurry!
Classes start today and later this week!
Sign up at the Naz Next Steps table today or register at www.naz.org

The flowers at the altar are in memory of Louise Lundberg from Sheila Lundberg. The flowers at the pulpit are in memory of Rex DeLavergne from Norma and family.

Thank You

From **Lee Engen** to the pastors for their visits and to all Nazareth friends for their cards and prayers during his recent hospitalization. *It's great to be part of the Kingdom of God.*

New Bible Study for Women Starts June 1

First Place 4 Health is the most complete Christ-centered healthy living program available. This series of Bible studies has helped thousands of participants create balance in the four core areas of their lives: emotional, spiritual, mental, and physical.

Join us for a new study in the *First Place 4 Health* series, "Walking in Grace," starting **June 1 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 156.** All women and their friends are invited to attend.

The book for the class is \$18. To order, please call Lana Hochreiter at 319-231-8168 or Pat Dove at 319-230-7455.

Job Vacancies at Nazareth

Website & Social Media Coordinator

Manage all social media networks and maintain the Nazareth website. Use the website and social media to encourage, inspire, and promote Nazareth's mission and vision. Part-time: 15 hours/week.

Worship & Technology Coordinator

Coordinate all audiovisual services required for Nazareth events and ministries, primarily the worship services, as well as forums, meetings, funerals, weddings, and other special events. Recruit and train volunteers to set up and run all AV equipment. Part-time: 25 hours/week.

An application and complete job descriptions for both positions can be found online at www.naz.org. Send application, cover letter, and resume to angie.rath@naz.org or Nazareth, 7401 University Ave, Cedar Falls IA 50613 ATTN: Angie Rath.