



Dr. Larry Lacher

March 2026

Approaching the Cross

I heard a newscaster say today that she could hardly believe that it was just a month until Good Friday. At first, I was pleased to know that someone in the public space was still concerned about expressing the Christian Faith. Then I realized how difficult it has become for me personally to retain the rhythms of the Christian calendar that I practiced so regularly when I pastored a congregation.

Still this season is a time when we are invited to take intentional steps to draw near the cross. Perhaps in the weeks that we have left between now and Good Friday, we could intentionally take some of these steps toward the cross.

The step of EXAMINATION

The journey toward the cross invites us to examine our lives for cracks and crevices that have developed over the last months or years that have displaced our pure devotion to God. As we approach the cross, we pray with David, ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. ²⁴ See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (Ps139). We ask the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth (John 16:13). Drawing near the cross is a time for looking inward and examining ourselves to ensure that there is nothing within us that would displace our open communion with Jesus.

The step of REPENTANCE

Once we have taken the step of examination, we will take the step of repentance. 2 Corinthians 7:10 instructs, ¹⁰ For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret." When we realize that we have offended God in some way, we want to get that resolved so that we can close the breach and restore our fellowship with Him. Often, I hear people proclaim, "I know that I am a sinner," like that is some badge of honor that they wear. They proclaim that as if sinning is inevitable and they go on sinning because they must. That idea is completely unbiblical. John wrote, ⁸ Everyone who commits sin is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The Son of God was revealed for this purpose: to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ Those who have been born of God do not sin because God's seed abides in them; they cannot sin because they have been born of God" (1 John 3:8-9). If in examining yourself, you discover sin, then repent of it and know, "I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, ² and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:1-2).

The step of ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Drawing near the cross invites us to take the step of acknowledgement, declaring again our trust in Jesus as our savior and Lord. Paul reminds us in Romans 10:9, "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." When you draw near the cross, you see God's love on display. Just as Jesus explained to Nicodemus in John 3:14, ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." We draw near to the cross to acknowledge again, I believe, I believe."

The step of ADORATION

In believing, we come to the cross in adoration. Only faith can turn a Roman weapon of ultimate torture into a thing of absolute beauty. We see the cross on display everywhere as an art piece. We see crosses crafted of gold and silver, formed with jewels and precious stones. We see crosses hung on walls of churches and houses, often with Christ crucified depicted upon them. And when we gaze upon the cross, we are no longer horrified at the gruesome sight of such a torturous death. We look on the sight with awe. We are amazed by the grace that we see there. We are humbled by what God has done for us. We are embarrassed to know that he took our place, bore our sin, suffered our death. We are thankful to know that he offers us forgiveness for our sin. We are excited to know that he demonstrated our resurrection from the dead. Oh, the wondrous cross! Let us draw near and see it in all its fullness as we draw toward Good Friday.

You are loved,

Dr. Larry

Volume 89 Number 02

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And Much More.....

NM District
website: www.nmnaz.com

District Office:
300 Bonita Park Rd
Capitan, NM 88316

District Phone:
575-626-1116

MAN CAMP APRIL 24-26



Man Camp 2026 is coming up April 24-26, 2026.

The Cost is \$170.

Our speaker this year is Michael Pigg, who is the pastor of Wayfinder Church in San Marcos, TX.

He was actually the speaker at our teen camp last summer. So if you want some recommendations ask some of your teens at your church. I'm positive they will highly recommend you coming to hear him be used by the Lord at this year's Man Camp.

As always online registration will be available on our district website...in the near future, at nmnaz.com.

Grace and Peace—Wade Elftman



The new year is bringing a new look for Child Discipleship in the Church of the Nazarene. NDI is excited to release a new image for Nazarene Kids!

DISTRICT NMI NEWS

Greetings, NM District! I hope you are all enjoying the warming weather and the anticipation that the Lenten season brings!

This week is our NMI Global Week of prayer and I hope you have taken advantage of the materials available on the NMI website to join with the nations in prayer for our world.

There are a few opportunities below that I wanted to share with all of you.

NMI is rolling out some NEW initiatives that are worth looking at.

Check out the NMI Creativity Contest, Discerning God's Call, and The Cause.

There are some informational opportunities and zoom events below.

If you have not seen our NEW District Resource, please check it out and let me know what you think!

The link is here: [NM District NMI Handbook](#)

As always, please let me know how I can be praying for you and your engagement in the mission of God in our world!

Joyfully,

Nicole Young



NMI IMPACT CREATIVITY CONTEST

Deadline: June

Please encourage each church on your district to:

- Choose ONE Area of Impact
- Create ONE one-minute video
- Make it VISUAL

A video of someone simply explaining what happened will not be effective, as videos will not be translated.

We genuinely hope every Nazarene church — regardless of location, language, size, or finances — will participate. That won't happen unless they hear about it.

Action: Please personally invite and remind churches in your district to participate.

More information and promotional graphics:

<https://nubo.nazarene.org/index.php/s/2zsZ2axWdNWWPjQ>

Note: Please do not delete videos that are submitted but not selected. Global NMI would like to retain them for possible future use.

Onward 2026

NM District Young Adult Conference Ruidoso NM

June 5, 6, and 7th 2025

Come join us as we study God's word and fellowship with our friends from across the district!

\$120/person

To Register: Contact Nathaniel Pfeifer

Call or Text (719) 251-8673

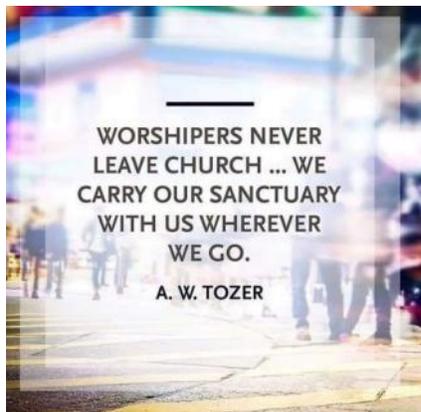
Email pfeifernathaniel0@gmail.com

Women's RETREAT

SAVE THE DATE!

SEPTEMBER 25—27

2026



Up Coming Important Dates for the New Mexico District 2026

MARCH

District NYI Zoom March 21

Palm Sunday March 29

MISSION PROJECT FUND MONTH!!!

APRIL

EASTER April 5

YEAR END MEETINGS (BONITA PARK) April 9-11

MAN CAMP April 24-26

MAY

ANNUAL PASTOR'S REPORT/NMI REPORT DUE MAY 14

THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER EVENTS HAPPENING ON OUR DISTRICT, SO PLEASE BE CHECKING THE CALENDAR AT:

www.nmnaz.com

Look Whats Happening Around our District.

SANDIA CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Register today: Spring Break Day Camp!

Register for Spring Break Day Camp today! You can drop your kids off at one of four locations: 1) MA Mission Training Center (Event Location), 2) Kingdom Builders Preschool & Day Care, 3) Copper Terrace Apartments, 4) Calle Cuarta Apartments



SPRING BREAK DAY CAMP
HOSTED BY MISSION ABQ
FREE!
MARCH 30TH-APRIL 1ST
9:00AM-4:30PM
KINDERGARTEN - 5TH GRADE

SNACKS, LUNCH, GAMES, CRAFTS AND MORE!

REGISTER TODAY!
2315 MARKHAM RD SW
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87105



HEIGHTS FIRST CHURCH
FAMILY FUN NIGHT!
SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH - 6-8 PM
GLOW IN THE DARK EASTER EGG HUNT!
FOOD & GAMES!
EGG DECORATING CONTEST!

Women's Bible Study

Monday, March 9th @6:30!



*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
Hebrews 10:24-25*




Bonita Park Sunday
At Open Gate

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH

SPRING Fling



Code Scan Up

BUBBLES • FACE PAINTING • FOOD TRUCKS • COOKIE CLASS
BOUNCE HOUSE • PETTING ZOO

EVENT FROM 12-3
101 E COUNTRY CLUB RD. CENTRAL NAZARENE



Meet at the Cross in the Sanctuary
10:00AM

 Sunday Worship Service 10:30AM




WONDER SALT LAKE CITY NYC26

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 Select your district to see a personalized schedule of what YOU will be doing each day of NYC