

Testimonies



Baptism not only signifies
resurrection to a new life in Christ,
but it is also a public commitment to
walk in Christ's way.

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Acts 2:38-39

TESTIMONIES

Saturday

5:30PM	Tyler Bancroft	Karson Berg
	Kamilah Bancroft	Dakota Brown
	Conny Delorme	Gavin Lande
	Janae Pauls	Nathan Nickel
	Natalie Parmar	Forrest Krahn
	Angela Ofenboeck	Jaxxon Hung

Sunday

9AM	Isabel Gosselin	11AM	Ava Greenhalgh
	Riana Cedarblade		Mattias Meleg
	Kenya Loeppky		Daisy Kropp
	Kyra Loewen		Quintin Bosma
	Austin Wiebe		Maiya Stevenson
	Jackson Peters		Annie Allison
	Indigo Maiden		Addison Matties
	Shyla Maiden		Elliette Janzen
	Penelope Dyck		Courtney Giesbrecht
	Lincoln Thammavong		Katie Derksen
	Gideon Robertson		Tiffany Sanna
			James Sanna
			Kevin Munday
			Kaitlyn Friesen

S A T U R D A Y



Tyler Bancroft

I grew up in a Christian family, going to church every Sunday, and family gatherings on Sunday nights. I accepted Jesus very young, knowing that He is the son of God and that He died for my sins. I have been blessed to know this truth for my entire life.

During my senior year in high school, I started missing church, only going sporadically. I wouldn't say I fell away from the faith, however it certainly was not as high a priority as it had been in the past. By my mid-twenties I was attending regularly again, and that's when I started to date my future wife, Kamilah. She wasn't a Christian when we first began to date. When I shared the gospel with her she was open to listening, and was curious to learn more. Telling her about Jesus and taking her to church helped me to grow in my faith. As time went on, I was amazed at her love for God, and she actually was the one to push me to make Christianity and Jesus a priority in our lives.

I have been wanting to get baptized for over ten years, but I always wanted to wait until I was in the right place, spiritually. Just like getting married, Kamilah has helped me understand that there will never be a time when everything feels just right. I know that baptism is commanded by Jesus as an outward expression of faith, and I want to honor that calling.





Kamilah Bancroft

I didn't grow up in a Christian household. I can count on one hand how many times I've stepped inside a church as a child and young adult. My family celebrated Christmas and Easter, but I never truly understood the meaning of those holidays. Not having a strong foundation of God contributed to a lot of poor decisions in my teens and early 20s. I had no desire to learn about Jesus, because in my mind I was a good person and there was nothing I needed to be saved from.

That all changed when I met my now husband, Tyler. He decided to share the gospel with me. He explained to me what sin was and who Jesus is. God had begun changing my heart in that moment. However, it took many years before I fully accepted Jesus as my personal Lord and Saviour.

That was nine years ago. And throughout the past (almost) decade, God has shown Himself to me time and time again. He has been there in my darkest moments, answering desperate prayers. He has shut doors when something isn't right and opened them when it is. My life has been filled with miracle after miracle. Most recently was the birth of our sweet baby boy, Isaiah. Since having Isaiah, my faith has grown immensely. Not only have I been blessed enough to witness the miracle of life firsthand, but through having a child of my own, I get a tiny glimpse of the unconditional love that God has for His children.

It's time for me to get baptized to not only be obedient to God and to outwardly profess my faith, but to be a role model for my son, who I pray grows up to love Jesus, just like his parents do.





Conny Delorme

I was a lukewarm Christian for most of my life. I grew up going to church and knowing about God, but I never felt that close personal relationship that other people spoke about. I wanted to, but I just didn't know how. I tried very hard to do the 'right' things (go to church, pray, try to read the Bible), especially when I had my own three girls. But there was always a peace and joy that was missing.

Recently the Lord brought me to the end of myself, and that is where I found Him! My life had become such a mess and I didn't even recognize the person I had become, which was someone I didn't care for very much. Through a heartbreaking season in our family, I decided to cry out to God and surrender everything to Him. There was nothing else I could do! That was when He started transforming my heart big time.

I can't say things have been easier now, but I know Who to turn to for hope and help. I fully depend on the Lord for everything and trust Him completely. I hunger and thirst for Him now. I can't wait to read my Bible and talk with Him, to hear what He has to say to me. I don't know how I lived without Him before. I've finally got that connection with Him that I always longed for. As I learn to be obedient to the Lord, I see Him working in my life and I can't wait to see what He does!

Jeremiah 29:13 "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."





Janae Pauls

I was around 3 or 4 when I first accepted Jesus. I remember being on the way to preschool, and my mom guiding me through my first prayer. To the younger me it was so simple; say the right words and... bam! I was a Christian. But over the years I have grown a lot since that day in the car. At first it was just like a chore to have devotionals, something that I did and then moved on. I went through the motions without really thinking about it. But when I started thinking more about what I believed, I turned to the Bible. Over time my faith got stronger and I am still working on becoming closer to God.

It was around the time I was going into middle school that I started reading the Bible because I wanted to, not out of habit. I also started applying it to my life. It has helped me to attend MEI and go to my youth group.

Right now, I am so excited to continue my walk with Jesus and grow in my faith! I am keeping a running prayer list for people the Holy Spirit puts on my heart and am open and excited for what God has in store for me.

I want to be baptized because in the Bible Jesus tells us to, and I want to take that next step in my faith.

Two of my favourite verses are Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.", and Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."





Natalie Parmar

My whole life I had grown up in a Christian family. I became a Christian when I was 4 and went to school where I learned all about God and what Christ did. Throughout my life I thought of myself as a Christian, but I was always putting off baptism because I did not think that I was ready for it or that I did not know enough about Christianity to become baptized. I had always known that I had sinned and that I needed Jesus in my life, but I never felt the true need of baptism till now.

Over the last few months I know that it does not matter how much I know or how long I have been a Christian. All that matters is that I am showing that I trust Jesus with my life and that I am publicly declaring that I am stepping from my old life into a walk with Christ.

Through this I am sharing that I want him to work in my life so that I can become the hands and feet of Christ and let him work in my life.





Angela Ofenboeck

I grew up in a Christian home and accepted Christ at the age of 8 with help from my Mom. I have attended Northview for 30+ years and I went to a Christian school for K-12. God has always been in my life in one way or another. However, in my early 20's I suffered with physically, crippling anxiety. I relied on my faith and knowing that God was with me to help me through my toughest days. It was a long process of learning how to cope with anxiety but God was present with me everyday and put people in my life to aid in carrying the load. During this time the verse that I prayed was Philippians 4:13 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me'. There have been struggles over the years but God has carried me or walked beside me through every time.

God has given me many blessings in my life, a loving husband, 2 beautiful children and a fulfilling job. Joining Precept Bible study 5 years ago has grown my faith tremendously. I have learned to be disciplined in spending time with God and understanding the Bible in a new way.

Over the last couple years God has challenged me to give my fears to Him, which has encouraged me in taking this next step of Baptism. I know that God loves me and will continue to walk with me all the days of my life.





Karson Berg

I have always known about God, having grown up in a Christian home. As I grew older, I began to realize that I was just watching others live out their faith. I knew that if I was going to be an actual Christian, faith would have to become my own personal belief.

My mom says that when I was quite young, I would constantly ask her how we could be sure that our god was the real God. I didn't feel I could be sure. I remember when I was in Middle School, I started getting stressed out because I had never experienced that perfect moment when I could "become a Christian" and feel confident that I was doing the right thing. It was around that time that I stumbled across some scripture that challenged me to make a choice; by choosing God I was choosing life. When I made that decision there was a sense of peace, and I felt as though God had given me the assurance that I was seeking.

My faith grew quite slowly. I was being spiritually lazy. I used to put very little effort into my relationship with Jesus. It was a struggle to find the discipline and commitment that is really needed as a faithful Christian. More recently, new influences and a stronger community has inspired me to make practicing my faith a priority. I currently have a stronger connection with God as I continue to grow more and more in my faith by praying, worshipping, reading His Word and seeking to learn more about Him.

I am getting baptized today because I believe in Jesus and I have no hesitation about being baptized like I did in the past.





Dakota Brown

I'm 16 years old. My family is Christian, and I was raised in the church with Bible teaching. I accepted Christ into my heart when I was 5 years old, but I did not fully understand it because I was young. Over time, a lot changed in my life, which affected me and the way I viewed my faith. I began to struggle with social anxiety, low self-esteem, and depression as a preteen. It got especially bad in 2018, and I had a long period of loneliness and spiritual rebellion. I am ashamed of this time in my life. I got into things I shouldn't have and lived in sin. Because of my shame, I still have a lot of difficulty accepting Christ' grace and love. However, He opened my eyes to the spiritual world a year and a half ago, and I felt Him working in my heart. I realized I was disobedient, that I was sinful and needed a saviour. So, I have confessed and re-committed myself to Christ and the teachings of His word.

I have been trying to repent of my sin, live in obedience and grow in my faith. I am still learning how to do this, and I now understand I am helpless and need Him.

I want to be baptized as a public declaration of my faith in Christ, and let my life be changed by Him in heart, mind and spirit.





Gavin Lande

I first heard about God from my parents who taught me about God's love from the time I was born. I continued to learn about Him by going to church, reading the Bible, and going to Christian school. I am learning that God is cheering me on, that He's always with me, and He gives me strength in my struggles.

I'm being challenged to make all of my actions be Christlike. I want to be baptized because I believe it says in the Bible that we are to follow God with our whole life, and baptism is important to me. I believe baptism shows publicly that you are a follower of God.





Nathan Nickel

I was born to a Christian family, but wasn't always among other Christians, as I went to a public school for elementary school. During these years, my faith was never at the forefront of my mind, however, it was still important to me. I distinctly remember bringing my elementary school friends to church with me on a Sunday morning.

I switched schools to a Christian school, and this is where I started to properly think about my faith, as I had known and accepted the Bible to be true, but never questioned or challenged myself in it. As I got older, I kept thinking more about Christianity and how it affects my everyday life. I believe I've reached a point in which I am confident in my faith in Jesus and am ready to take a step forward in what I believe is true.





Forrest Krahn

I have known about God for as long as I can remember. I learned about God from my mom and dad when I was really young. Whenever my parents spoke to me about God and being saved they always spoke to me like I was already part of God's family. I've never questioned it.

I first realized I was a sinner whenever I did something bad. I have a hard time being obedient right away when my mom and dad tell me to do something. It has always weighed really heavy on my conscience. So I always confess my sins to either my parents or God.

I became a Christian when I was really young while talking with my mom. As soon as I knew there was a decision to be made I made it. Keeping my conscience clear and obeying my parents is how I'm responding to Jesus these days. I am learning to navigate my relationships with people who have different views from me and to be gracious while not compromising my beliefs. I am growing in perseverance and building character.

The reason I want to be baptized is as an act of obedience to Jesus' command.





Jaxxon Hung

I first learned about God from my mom. When I was 4 I started to learn to read and was reading the Bible and John 3:16 stood out to me because there I read God gave his son Jesus to die for me. I was going to Sunday school at that time and doing family devotions and wanted God in my life. I had a good understanding of what was right and wrong and what sin was and that I was a sinner.

One night I asked my mommy to help me ask Jesus into my heart. 3 years ago my Papa passed away and I was very close to him and missed him a lot. Last year I started thinking about baptism because I wanted to know I would see my Papa again but as time went on I realized that I want to get baptized to tell and show everyone that my faith is very important to me and that I love Jesus.

I might be young but I want others to know this is my faith, what I believe in and not just my parents faith.



SUNDAY 9AM



Isabel Gosselin

I grew up in a Christian home and have always been surrounded by a Christian environment which has led me to always be aware of the Lord. I have been exposed to God and Christianity through my family and my friends and my church. I had always been taught that I am a sinner in need of a Saviour and I have seen it throughout my life.

I officially accepted Jesus in my heart when I was about 8. I am learning to trust God and His plans for me because even when I believe that one direction will benefit me and is my preference it might not be God's plan for me. I would say I am also growing in that way because I am trying to not make big decisions simply because it feels right for me at the moment. I am being challenged with this as well because I decided to go the way I felt God was calling me towards rather than what I preferred.

I want to be baptized because the Bible says if you believe then be baptized and I believe, so I want to be baptized. I don't think it will do me any good to wait any longer.





Riana Cedarblade

I grew up with Christians and Christianity all around me. I think I always wanted to believe in God but ignored the rest. I always struggled with the faith part; how could you really know God was real. I didn't understand that leap of faith. So, I chased other things that led me to feel loneliness, boredom, and depression. I always knew I was a sinner but it wasn't until 2019 when my life blew up in my face and my family was shattered. I couldn't ignore God anymore; I couldn't do this alone. I turned my life over to God. I gave up the notion that I knew what I was doing. I was a sinner, and my life was a mess. I stopped trying to control everything. Everything that I used to worry about and consumed my life just dissipated. It was if the shackles the devil had on me had broken – and it was freeing. I didn't worry anymore – I'd lost everything that I had wanted my whole life, but it made me appreciate every little thing. I gave my life to the Lord. I didn't know what the right thing to do was, and what my path was. So, I prayed every night for Him to lead me in the right direction, to make the right decisions. And it was like God wrapped a coat of armor around my body and mind. He was right there, holding my hand, and carrying me during times I didn't think I could walk through. And then God sent these wonderful mentors to help guide my husband and I through a very difficult time.

A mission statement gifted to my husband and I still sits at the top of our white board in our kitchen: Put God First....Life goes best. My heart had changed, and I witnessed something I didn't think possible. I didn't believe people could change, especially at our age. But with a lot of work: muddy, messy, sticky - blood sweat and tears kinda work, I saw my husband's heart change too. God answered prayers – I got what I asked for. But that still doesn't make it easy. The hard part has been doing the work. Pray for a care group – well, when you get invited – you go, you say yes. Even when your introverted self has a panic attack on the way there. You go to the bible study – even though you haven't opened a bible since high school, you do the hard stuff. I want to show up for Him, like he showed up for me.) It's uncomfortable and out of my comfort zone – but I took that leap of faith - and wow – the gifts He has brought to my life and my family.

I never thought I would be here, living this life. The life I had a window to as I grew up -just peeking inside, but never entered. I want to be baptized to share with my community – family – friends – strangers – and the world what's been happening in my heart and in my mind. The change – my leap of faith. Jesus Christ is my Lord and Saviour.





Kenya Loeppky

I am in grade nine and am 14 years old. I have had a relationship with Jesus since I was 3 years old. I have always had a love for God, and somewhat of an understanding of Him. As I have been growing up, I have been desiring a deeper relationship with God.

Growing up I went to church with my family and have been a part of church-based activities. These things have grown my love for Christian community, and spiritual relationships. In the last while I have been wanting more. Wanting to learn and grow in the Lord. This summer I was able to go to camp. There I felt God reaching out, and touching my heart. I remembered that before I left, I had been praying for God to show the path that He has for me. My mom had been praying for me that my faith would grow, and that I would have a deeper understanding of Him. The amazing thing that I learned was that spiritual growth in the Lord isn't a big production. For me, it was a soft gentle knock on my heart.

I believe that baptism is the next step for me in my spiritual journey. It is the first chapter in a lifelong commitment to God, and a public proclamation of my faith.





Kyra Loewen

I have grown up in a Christian family so Jesus has always been a big part of my life. I always went to Sunday school, talked about Jesus with my friends and family, and remember choosing to follow Jesus when I was about 5 or 6. When I was in middle school, I found myself constantly anxious about the changing state of my life and the world around me. It was during this time when I realized that Jesus was the only one who could give me real rest and peace in any circumstance. I learned to rely on Him and come to Him in prayer, bringing all my worries and problems to Him. Throughout the rest of middle school and high school I had times where I was “all in” for Jesus and other times where I felt like a lukewarm Christian, more caught up in what others thought of me than intentionally growing as a follower of Jesus. However, a defining moment in my walk with Christ was getting to talk about Jesus with one of my friends who was curious about Christianity. This was an opportunity that allowed me to dig deeper in my own faith and grow in a desire to understand why I believe what I believe.

At the beginning of this year, I had the opportunity to attend Bible school in Spain. During my time there, I learned more about the Bible than I ever have before through the lessons and experiences, and though growing with an incredible community of believers.

I am getting baptized today because I know that Jesus is my saviour and I want to follow Him in everything I do, living as a light for Him for the rest of my life





Austin Wiebe

I grew up in a Christian home and I've been coming to church for as long as I can remember. I learned that I was a sinner and I accepted Jesus into my heart when I was around 4-5 years old. I have grown stronger in my faith since then.

What I am learning right now is how to obey God and his commands and also how to grow more in my faith.

I want to be baptized because I want to show everyone that I want to live my life for Jesus and to show that I believe that Jesus died on the cross to save our sins.





Jackson Peters

I am 10 years old and I am growing up in a Christian home. I accepted Jesus into my heart when I was 5, when I prayed a prayer with my mom. I needed Him to save me from my sin.

I want to get baptized because I want everyone to know that I am following God. I want to live my life better with Him. I want to get to know God better and spend more time talking with Him and learning more about Him. I am thankful for what He has done for me.

My favorite memory vers is from Psalm 56:3 “When I am afraid I put my trust in You.”





Indigo Maiden

I grew up in a Christian home but it wasn't until I was about 8 years old that I really thought about what it meant to be a follower of the Lord. I attended summer camps at Northview and every time I went, it got me thinking. I wanted to know more about the Lord and what it means to be a Christian. They had talked about asking Jesus into your heart but I didn't really know what it meant. So I went home and talked to my parents about it and they explained it all to me. It was at that point that I realized I was a sinner and needed Jesus in my heart. As I've grown up, my love for the Lord and my understanding has grown through my family, friends and church.

I am getting baptized because I want to publicly profess my faith in Jesus and share my love for the Lord. In the New Testament we are told to get baptized so that we are born again through the Holy Spirit and have our sins washed from us. I believe that Jesus died for my sins and through getting baptized I can declare this. That I am a follower of Jesus Christ and I want to devote my life to him. When we get baptized we are dead to our old self and are brought up to new life. I feel like the Lord is telling me to be baptized and I really want to obey.

I want to follow the Lord for all of my life, so by getting baptized I will be able to look back on my baptism and remind myself to keep my faith in the Lord strong and not fail. My baptism marks the moment when I publicly declare my faith in God. "Even when I walk through the darkest valley I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me" Psalm 23:4





Shylah Maiden

I'm in grade 7, and I'm 12 years old. I grew up in a Christian home and I remember one night when I was 3 or 4 years old, lying in my bed, I realized that I needed Jesus in my life, so that night I asked him into my heart.

Since then, as I've gone to church, youth group, and with my family, I've learned more about who Jesus is and what He's done for me. He died on the cross to take my sin away and because of that I am free to love him and live for him. One way I have experienced God at work in my life was last year when I started middle school. I was really excited at first to start a new school and meet new friends, but it turned out to be way harder than I was expecting. I was very lonely. I talked with my mum and dad and we started praying about it. Nothing changed right away but after about a week, God answered my prayer by showing me someone else who was wanting to make new friends. The way we met each other, was really clear to me that God put her in my path and we became good friends and she also introduced me to some other girls and now we are one big friend group.

I sometimes find it hard to follow Jesus' commandments and I am learning that it is not always easy being a Christian. I would love to get bolder when telling my friends about Jesus, but with my family, friends, and youth group, they are helping me continue my Christian journey.

I want to get baptized today because I love Jesus and I want to live my life for Him.





Penelope Dyck

I am 11 years old. I have gone to church my whole life and grew up in a Christian home. My grandparents are Christians and my parents are Christians. I went to a Christian preschool and I went to a public school for 3 years and now I go to MEI.

I decided to follow Jesus when I was 4 years old. I want to follow Jesus because I believe Jesus is who He says He is. I believe that He died on the cross to save us from our sins. I also believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

I am excited to get baptized and show everyone that I want to follow Jesus and to show them how much I love Jesus.





Lincoln Thammavong

As long as I can remember, my parents have always talked about God to me. I heard more about God in Sunday School class and at MEI Preschool. One night, when I was 4 years old, I approached my mom and asked if I could have Jesus in my heart. My mom said the Lord's prayer to me and I repeated it and accepted Jesus in my heart, asking Him to forgive me of my sins. I felt like my sins were washed away and it felt amazing.

I'm trying to be the best Christian I can be by worshiping Jesus and loving Him. I try to read the Bible every night with my parents and ask them lots of questions. I even joined my school's Chapel team.

Sometimes I give my parents a little bit of attitude with listening and it challenges me as a Christian to work on it. I heard about baptism at Sunday School class, and felt in my heart that I wanted to do it too. So, I asked my mom one night before bed a couple months ago, if I could get baptized.

I want to be baptized so that I can be closer to God, and to show other people that I'm a follower of Jesus. To symbolize my sins being washed away and made new. I want to follow in Jesus footsteps every way I can, and tell people about how wonderful He is.





Gideon Robertson

The first time I learned about God was through my family and through Northview. I liked when I first learned about God, but now I realize I loved when I learned about God and continue learning about Him and Christ. I first realized I was a sinner in need of a Savior, and that Jesus is the only one who could save me when I heard that he sacrificed his life to wash away my sin.

I became a Christian by believing Him, following Him and obeying Him. I'm responding to Jesus by being baptized and connecting with my church more. I'm learning more about the Bible and the story and life of Jesus. I'm growing by trying to read the Bible more and taking the next step in my faith by being baptized.

I want to be baptized because I want to obey God and what He commanded. I want to be born again in the image of Christ.



SUNDAY 11AM



Ava Greenhalgh

I grew up in a Christian home, going to a Christian school and Bible camps in the summer. I knew all of the Sunday school facts about God but didn't really understand them. I "accepted Jesus into my heart" when I was about 6 but had no clue what that really meant for my life other than that I will call myself a Christian. My faith was not deeply rooted and I didn't always look to God when I was struggling.

Throughout my life I have had to teach myself that my plans for me are not always the same as God's plans for me. Through friendships, family, sports and many other elements in my life that I have considered an essential part of who I am, he has shown me that He has a greater plan than what I would like to happen.

Last year I was in the hospital for just over 2 weeks. In my suffering God performed miracles on me and it caused me to look to him more during this time. It made me realize that when you feel your life is on the line God is the only one to look to that can truly give you the comfort and strength that you need. I also was shown so much support by the Church and the power of prayer. I got to reflect on how good God is for giving us a strong community and a way to communicate with him.

I have decided to get baptized because Jesus has allowed me to really understand His gospel lately and know that He is the only one who can save me from my sins, I can't do it on my own.





Mattias Meleg

When I was little, God came into my life as I started to go to church with my family, but as I started to get older I grew away from him. I started to play sports and other things as my family wasn't big into going to church. As the years passed I always wondered if there was a God but I didn't do much about it.

Then high school hit and I was surrounded by bad influences all the time but as my graduation was coming I looked at how I was living my life and I decided I wanted a change. The Start of 2022 my girlfriend and her amazing family asked me to start coming with them to church and when this happened I started to become more and more interested in finding out who God was. I started to believe in Him more and more. About 2 years ago I dislocated my shoulder and I was playing baseball at the time. The injury was so bad that my shoulder hasn't been the same. In July I decided to quit baseball and move on to go to school. This was very hard as I played for 11 years. In March my grandpa had passed away and it was very difficult as he was my only grandfather but through these hard times I prayed and trusted God that he would make everything better which has brought me closer to Him everyday.

By getting baptized I'm showing that I am confessing my sin to God, and I identify myself with Christ and will follow Him and His way of life.





Daisy Kropp

I have grown up in a Christian home and I go to a Christian school. I have been surrounded by strong Christian influences like my parents. They have encouraged me and my brothers in our faith.

Recently I have been feeling a push to take my faith seriously, especially as I am graduating this year. I have always known about the Christian faith as I have grown up in it, but I haven't taken it seriously. I have felt God pushing me to want to know him and know more about him. I want to be able to share my faith and defend it if needed. I want to show and be proud of what I believe. I know I don't know everything about God and the Bible, but I know that it is true.

Just like those in Acts, who believed and were baptized, I am getting baptized today to show that this is my faith and not just my parents faith.





Quintin Bosma

I've grown up in a Christian home, going to church, Sunday school, and Bible camps. I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour at age 5. It was in my bedroom and my mom and dad helped me realize that I was a sinner, in need of a saviour. That evening I received Jesus in my life.

In grade 4, when I was 9 years old, my brother Fenton unexpectedly passed away from epilepsy. It was then that I learned that as Christian I would still go through challenges and trials. God has given me peace, comfort, and hope because of what Jesus did on the cross. He has also provided friendships, loving parents, and a healthy Christian community that continues to guide me in my faith.

In the summer before grade 6, during COVID, my cousin invited me to go to Greendale MB youth group. I loved it! I started going regularly and it became my community.

I want to be baptized because it is an act of obedience and an outward showing of my faith so that others may hold me accountable.





Maiya Stevenson

Growing up in a family with two Christian parents, I started learning about God from a very young age. I always loved the stories about Jesus, and have accepted them as truth for as long as I can remember. I became a Christian at 4 years old while reading about the crucifixion in a storybook Bible with my dad. I was very sad that Jesus had to die for me, and eagerly accepted Him into my heart with a simple sinner's prayer. I didn't understand all the implications of what following God would look like then, but I knew I was a sinner that Jesus had saved. Since then, my walk with God has come in waves of closeness and feelings of distance, but He has always remained constant in my life, ready and waiting with open arms when I come back.

God used Bible study in high school to draw me closer to Him as I grew to really understand my childhood faith. I finally learned why Jesus had to die and God couldn't just save us all, because He's perfectly just. I learned the infinite value of grace when contrasted with justice and mercy. I'm still learning how to accept grace every day instead of legalistically trying to work for my salvation. I'm still learning to make Jesus the King of my life in every circumstance.

In an essay I wrote for a school world religions class, I learned the value of God's character. He doesn't choose love or justice on a daily whim, He is love. He is justice. And that will never change because He's the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. I know I will change and probably have a lot more to go through in my life, but I want to never stop following Jesus. Getting baptized is the next step in that.





Annie Allison

Growing up in a Christian home, I've known about God for about as long as I can remember. I've gotten to go to church almost every Sunday and slowly as I've gotten older, my parents' faith in Christ became my own. God blessed me with a wonderful family I can always turn to for help in anything. When I was about nine years old, I really realized how sinful and in need of a saviour I was. My family, especially my mom, helped me see that Jesus died on the cross for the very reason that I wouldn't have to carry the burden of my sin. Although it was when I was younger that I first saw I was a sinner, I still need to remind myself everyday of my need for God to save me.

As I continue to grow in my faith and learn more about God, I feel so blessed to have the opportunity to know and love Him. Sometimes I find it hard to trust God and let Him be in control of everything in my life, but as I pray and read His word, I know the Lord is helping me learn to trust Him in all things. God's plan is so much greater than my own, and though sometimes I feel frustrated by that because my human heart wants my own will to be done, I am so thankful that He is sovereign and I can trust Him in every little day to day thing because He is wise and good.

I am so excited to be baptized and publicly declare my love for God and my desire to follow Him all the days of my life as He commands.





Addison Matties

I grew up in a family that believes in Jesus, and that he died on the cross. But when I went to church and I listened to the teachings, nothing really changed when I went home. Everything was just the same as it always was. One day I heard a word I never heard before, repent. That night I prayed by myself before I went to bed which I didn't usually do before that day. I told Jesus that I repent and I'm sorry for everything that I did wrong. The next day I felt relieved and like I was new and all my sins were forgiven. It was then that I decided that I want to spend my life following God.

I want to be baptized because Jesus says we should and I want to show that I am committed to following Him.





Elliette Janzen

Before I gave my life to Christ, I didn't really understand the Bible, but I understood that there was God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and that God loved me. I think I always believed but I didn't have a good understanding yet. I was also pretty young, so I don't remember much.

When I was in grade 3 or 4, I started to understand more of what the Bible meant than the typical preschool answer of "Jesus". It clicked in me that I need a Saviour and that I couldn't do it on my own.

We've been doing devotions at home and I've been doing a Bible study and I've been able to get to know God more. Also, going to Higher Ground has been helpful too. My grandpa died in 2020 and my mom helped me to understand more of God's plan: how He uses everything for our good and His glory. It helped me to know my grandpa was in heaven and that there is a reason God does what He does.

I want to be baptized because I believe Jesus is my Lord and Saviour. I'm ready to see what He wants to do through me.





Courtney Giesbrecht

I grew up, like many others, in a loving Christian family. I have been blessed to have many Godly role models in my life. But in grade 8, after attending a youth Chapel event in Vancouver, I remember coming to realize what Jesus dying on the cross actually meant and I went home that night and accepted Jesus into my heart. I became excited to start praying and reading my Bible. I found joy in deepening my relationship with God and learning more about Him and His love for me.

Some of the most impactful times for me in my faith journey was attending private school for grades 11 and 12, attending Capernwray New Zealand and serving at Camp Squeah. My faith journey has been filled with ups and downs but I am very grateful for His patience with me. I have learned over time to trust His timing and judgment and He has provided for me every step of the way.

Baptism has been on my mind since grade 12, three years ago when my youth leader explained that you didn't have to be good enough or know a certain amount before getting baptized. I had already made the decision to live my life for Christ yet I continued to make excuses as to not get baptized. I have grown a lot spiritually in the last few years and He has continually cared for me despite my shortcomings. Because of this, I want to take the next step of declaring my faith publicly.





Katie Derksen

I was born into a family with Christian parents who regularly took me to church. Around the age of 3 my brother, Eric, who is 2 yrs older than I was very concerned that I had not accepted Jesus yet. He talked to me about how I should pray to invite Jesus into my heart and I followed his lead. Over a year ago, I talked to my parents about wanting to get baptized. This was after my dad showed me a video of people in Russia getting baptized and they had to break the ice in the lake to do this. This made me think that if believers across the world have to work so hard to get baptized then why am I not getting baptized when it's so much easier to do it here.

Jesus commands us believers to get baptized and I need to obey His commands. At this time my parents told me to wait until after the next surgery and hopefully get the all clear to be able to go under water. The doctor did not give the all clear but my desire to get baptized has only gotten stronger.

There was a sermon that impacted me and encouraged me to talk to my parents about baptism again. In the sermon the pastor spoke about us as Christians should submit ourselves to other people who don't treat us well because we are Christians. If I should submit myself to other people I should submit even more to Jesus who saved me from my sin.

I've been attending Awana for many years and some of my favourite verses I've memorized are Psalm 23, John 3:16 and Romans 6:23.





Tiffany Sanna

I didn't grow up in a Christian home but apparently my Mom would drop me and my siblings off at church on Sundays. I was too young to remember this. There was a lot of brokenness in my home growing up. My parents divorced when I was 4 1/2 and my father remarried and raised us four kids. We moved around a lot but I do remember when we lived in this little house and a lady Mrs. Harris lived across the street from us with her husband that had Parkinson's disease. She would take us kids to church and later my sister and me to Pioneer Girls Club. This is where I became a believer at the very young age of seven.

Throughout the years time went on moving from place to place not having a good church foundation or Christian friends to help me grow in my faith and hold me accountable but I always knew I was a believer, I would read the Bibles that they would give out at school and we would pray the Lord's Prayer and sing O Canada before school started that was a thing back in the day. I met my husband in high school. We both have been believers but with our struggles. I did identify as a Christian back then but not really having any understanding what it means to be a Christian. Throughout my life there has been a lot of brokenness and sadness that continued through into my adult years. I may not have always been on the right path but through it all I see now, how Jesus was working and looking after me and my family the whole time. Fast forward to the last five years at Northview, by attending church and going to Bible study regularly has helped me work through some of the stumbling blocks I had put in place to protect myself. I'm listening and trusting in the word of God more in my life. I know I will struggle with trust and fears but I know now Jesus will never leave me alone to face these struggles on my own and has never in the past.

I want to be baptized to show my obedience to God and to openly announce to the church that I'm a believer and follower of Jesus Christ to show my Father how much I love and am thankful for all He has done in my life and I want to serve only Him for my remaining days.





James Sanna

I first learned about God in my family setting. I grew up in a Christian home, both my parents were preachers and I went to Christian private schools. After my dad died when he was 35 and I was 11, I was very angry at God for a long time. I also lost my mom at a young age as well. I was 27. When I was 35 I wasn't being the Christian I thought I was and should be, when I turned 40 through my wife and daughter and regularly attending church again I learned that God gives us grace and mercy every day and each day is a new day. I have learned a lot from going to Bible study, getting a more in depth look at the Bible and learning the gospel from the Bible studies at Northview. I pray a lot more and openly talk about church and the Bible to others.

I am trusting in Jesus, that He is always there for me and will get me through my bad days no matter how hard they are.

I would like to be baptized to affirm my belief and trust in Jesus and continue the rest of my life as a Christian, trying to be more like Him and to continue learning more in depth of the Bible.





Kevin Munday

When I was 21 years old, I was Baptised in the Catholic Church. I did this so that I was allowed to marry my former wife. She was from a strong Catholic background and would not marry a non-Catholic. After getting married we had two children. They became the focus and purpose of our marriage. I tried to make God and Jesus part of my focus, but it just was not happening. I asked lots of questions and got few answers. Eventually I stopped going to Mass with my wife as did the kids in their teen years. Our marriage became one of coexistence and stagnation. God seemed so far away at this point, and I began to question if he really existed.

During this time, I went back to school and became a Paramedic. I traveled from Osoyoos to Vancouver every four days to work. This became my new focus and purpose. I saved a few lives and helplessly watched many more people die. I watched people suffer and grieve. The world seemed like such a cruel place. God and Jesus were nowhere to be found in my life.

When I was fifty, my wife and I divorced. Our marriage had been dead for years. Outwardly people thought we "had made it". We had the fancy house, the boat, the cars, and a cabin at the lake. Our divorce ended all that. Bankruptcy happened. When I was fifty-five I re married to my now wife Wendi. She was and still is the love of my life, my soul mate as they say. Even though we were flat broke, we were happy. Happy but something seemed to be missing. We called it our "Spiritual Circle". This was the same year I left being a paramedic. The constant exposure to death, suffering and grief had taken its toll on me. We moved to the lower mainland, and I went to work in the corporate world and started climbing the ladder of success again, or so I thought. Making money was again the focus.

Three years ago, my bone and joint health began to fail, and I was forced to stop working. I had no more focus or purpose. I spent many long days wondering why life is this way. It seemed so unfair. My spiritual circle was palpably empty. Then we met our neighbours. They seemed different. There was a goodness and peace about them. Months went by with over the fence conversations, and we learned they were devout Christians. Last December they invited us to Christmas eve church service at Northview. We went and thoroughly enjoyed it. Several weeks later they invited us again to Sunday service and lunch afterwards. We did this for several weeks and asked lots of questions about the Bible. The Bible and Jesus' story began to dominate my thoughts. Church and Jesus were becoming my new focus and purpose and I was beginning to understand the "Why". "Did God Really Say"? I believe God really did say and what he said is written in the Bible. And the Bible says Get Baptised, partake in Communion and walk in the shoes of Jesus so that others may see and believe, so this is what I am going to do. It took forty years for me to accept Jesus as my saviour and Lord but was worth the wait. I am now 61 and have my final purpose and understand my "Why". To help others come to know and accept Jesus.





Kaitlyn Friesen

I was born and raised in a Christian home. My parents were both heavily involved in volunteering at our church, and once I was old enough to, I did as well. I accepted Jesus when I was 5 or 6 years old, but didn't truly understand what it meant and had many unanswered questions.

When I started middle school, there was a lot of change for me both academically and socially. I started to base my worth on schoolwork and that was really negative. I also had some mental health issues and started dealing with a lot of anxiety. By the end of grade 7 I was openly renouncing my faith and refused to even accept the idea that there might be a God, let alone believe and trust in Him. That continued to the start of grade 9, when I started at MEI. Thankfully, with the combination of high school youth at Northview and devotions in one of my classes, people started challenging what I believed, and that forced me to think about what I truly believe and was willing to put my faith in. I started becoming more open to the idea of Christianity and started paying attention in church, chapel, and youth again.

The final straw happened during the spring of 2022. I became sick for two months and at the time we didn't know what it was or what had caused it. It was really scary, and it was a really challenging time for me, because my grades, which I had previously placed all my worth in, were dropping as a result. I accepted Christ as my Lord and savior during that time because I was hopeless and didn't know where else to turn. That has proven to be the best choice I have ever made. Since then, I have gotten involved in youth and children's ministry here at Northview which is continuing to help me grow in my faith.

I'm getting baptized because I want to publicly say that I am a Christian and that I am putting my faith in Christ, and nothing else.



If you or someone you know is interested in getting baptized,
visit northview.org/baptism for more information.

Northview Community Church

