

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

Welcome to Northview Community Church!

We're so glad that you have joined us for our Baptism service.

What Do We Believe at Northview?

Four words can be used to describe how Christians view the world:



Creation: Our world was created good by God, and people were created in God's image to care for our world and its inhabitants.

Rebellion: People chose instead to rebel (sin) against their creator and consequently experience death, disease and disorder.

Redemption: God set in motion a rescue plan to redeem (regain) people through faith. It began with a man named Abraham and climaxed with Jesus (God's son) coming to earth. Jesus lived a perfect sinless life and died to pay the penalty for our rebellion. After three days, God raised Jesus from death, and now offers abundant and everlasting life to those who have faith; believe that Jesus is the son of God and follow him.

Re-creation: Jesus will one day return to judge the living and the dead and to re-create heaven and earth. Christians live today in faith and hope: following in the footsteps of Jesus as we represent God in the world, and anticipating the day when the world will be re-created: freed from death, disease and disorder.

Why Do We Baptize People at Northview?

Jesus Christ was baptized and he commanded his followers to be baptized. Going under the water symbolizes a person's willingness to identify with Jesus' physical death and die to themselves: recognize and turn from their rebellion against God. Coming up from the water symbolizes a person's redemption and re-creation. They respond to God in faith, their sin is washed away, their relationship with God is restored, and they live as followers of Jesus now, and eternally.



"Christ" means anointed one, or King. When Christians say "Jesus Christ", we recognize that Jesus is our King.

TESTIMONIES

Saturday

5:30PM

Renee Bourget

Sara Dyck

Kolette Ofenboeck

Jayden Watrin

Kim Wannamaker

Emme Hung

Ana Lint

Faith Greenway

Benard Bjorndal

Quinlan Bjorndal

Annette Koekman

Sunday

9AM

Allyssa Argueta

Scott Woldanski

Ginger Dahl

Elijah Goerzen

Dorienne Devlin

Danae Parr

Sarah Froese

Jolene Bitter

Josh Siemens

Justin Longpre

11AM

James Bergen

Mila (MJ) Lamboo

Priscila Neudorf

Jade Brandsma

Jonathan Krahn

Daniel Willems

James Njeru

Jael Okoti

Caleb Okoti

Nolan Wall

Lily Chen

Liam Sparrow

Evangelia Shieh

Olivia Redekop

S A T U R D A Y



Renee Bourget

I was raised by a Christian mom with other Christian family members and when I was around 9 years old I did a prayer with my mom to accept Jesus into my heart.

As I got older I drifted off onto my own path. It started with a few self help books that started mentioning meditation. Which then snowballed into all these other modalities and New Age things. Before I knew it I was doing Yoga, tarot card and astrology readings almost daily, putting my faith into crystals and getting into Wicca and spells. But somehow I just kept feeling worse and worse and no matter how much knowledge I felt I gained, I felt stuck. At one point I took a Reiki masters course as my last grasp at having purpose. This all came to a peak where I felt completely detached from reality, and was filled with so many fearful thoughts that I knew weren't my own.

One day when I was at home by myself I decided to go onto YouTube to distract myself from this dark place I had gotten myself into. I was scrolling on my feed passing though horoscopes and tarot readings of the day and then came across this one video that was titled "New Age to Christianity". I remember laughing and thinking I'll give this silly video a watch. To my surprise everything this girl was talking about was the exact same thing I was going through, I was crying so hard, and almost instantly the scales on my eyes fell off and I realized everything I had been doing was wrong. I had been so terribly deceived. After finishing that video I ran around my house searching for a Bible. Finally finding one I opened it to a random page and the first verse I ever read was Isaiah 38:7 "This is a sign from the LORD to show you that he will do what he says." My mouth dropped and I started to pray and ask for forgiveness.

My life wasn't magically turned upside down from there, I had and still do put in the work daily but my life has transformed in ways I didn't know that I needed. I am forever thankful.

I'm deciding to get baptised because I want to proclaim my love for Jesus publicly, and after seeing my friend Sabrina get baptised in April I felt very moved and inspired to finally do it myself.





Sara Dyck

I was born and raised in a Christian home. I love to take care of my pets, play sports, and I am also in dance.

I first learned about what it meant to become a Christian and that we all sin and how Jesus died on the cross for all our sins from my mom when I was four years old. My church has also guided me down the path to becoming a Christian. I gave my life to God on Easter Sunday.

In my family we have been going through something hard in our lives and I find that reading the Bible, praying, and going to church have been helping me get through this challenging time. One verse that has been helping me is John 3:16, 'For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.' This verse has helped me because it tells me that God loves us so much, He would do anything for us, and He paid the ultimate price for us so we can be with Him forever. I believe this with my whole heart.

I have felt God prompting me to become baptized for over two years, but I did not have the courage to do it. Now I am ready. I want to be baptised to publicly declare to the church and to the world that I believe in God and that He died on the cross for my sins.





Kolette Ofenboeck

I have grown up in a Christian home and learned about God from my parents and from church. I thought I was already a Christian because I read my Bible and prayed. I asked my mom about it and she explained that I needed to ask Jesus into my heart to become a Christian. After I thought about it, I asked Jesus into my heart with my parents when I was 7. I felt really close to God.

I went to a public school from grades K-3. Being in a non-Christian environment was difficult. I was around kids who said bad words and I was not allowed to talk about God at my school. When I came to Christian school, my life changed. I was introduced to a whole new world of freedom to talk about my faith. We would pray during school and do devotions in the morning. Bible became a subject in school. From then on, I felt my faith was rooted with God and growing stronger.

This past year I have enjoyed reading my Bible more, doing devotions and going to youth. I had not thought about baptism for myself until my mom got baptised in November 2022. It got me thinking about what baptism would look like for my faith. When I watched the baptisms in April, I decided I was ready to grow in my faith and get baptised. I am getting baptised because I am ready to take the next step in my faith with God. I have grown in my faith over the past few years and the Bible says to get baptised. I do not want to wait any longer.





Jayden Watrin

As I sit down to write my testimony, I can't help but reflect on my life and all the blessings that I have received from the Lord. I was introduced to Jesus at a young age when my parents asked me if I wanted Jesus to come into my heart. I was only 5 or 6 years old, but I remember feeling a sense of peace and comfort knowing that Jesus would be with me forever.

Growing up, my parents were always strong believers in Jesus and they instilled that same faith in me. I can honestly say that without their guidance and teachings, I may not have God in my life today. Their love for the Lord and their dedication to serving Him has been an inspiration to me throughout my life.

One of the most significant influences in my life has been my care group of Christian families. We have been friends since we were babies and our families have grown up together. The bond that we share is something that cannot be put into words. They have been my support system through the ups and downs of life and I am grateful for them.

As I reflect on all these things, I know that it is time for me to take the next step in my faith journey. I want to get baptised. I believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins so that we may have eternal life and I want to publicly declare my faith in Him. I want to have Jesus in my life forever and be a living testimony to his love and grace.

I am grateful for the love and guidance that I have received from my parents, my care group, and my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. I am excited to take this next step in my faith journey and to continue to grow in my relationship with Him.





Kim Wannamaker

I first learned about the Lord in school. My aunt is the only Christian in our family so I would go to her with my questions. When my parents ended their marriage, my father would take us to church on weekends until he became discouraged in his walk with God and we stopped going.

Later when I had my own child, we attended church with my aunt. I was always very moved by the hymns we sang and the words that the pastor gave us. One day my daughter came home crying on a Sunday. One of the women at church told her that I was going to hell for having children out of wedlock.

I knew I had sinned and feared I was unredeemable. I felt unworthy of God's love and forgiveness because of my sins. I was angry and turned away from God in bitterness. Because I felt unworthy of love and respect, I allowed people to mistreat me.

Almost six years ago after moving to BC, I began to work for a company called Alliance Door Products. It's thanks to my supervisor Al Peters and his family that I again developed a curiosity about God. Al told me God forgives everyone who loves Him and accepts Him as their Saviour. God was calling to me and I just needed to let Him in. However, I still couldn't believe I was worthy.

It wasn't until about a year ago when I began working with Niki Bowen that things changed for me and my relationship with God. I had ended another relationship in a long history of harmful relationships that were not honouring God. I felt like a failure, alone, broken and unworthy of love. Nikki kept at me, telling me how Jesus loves all sinners because of their faith in Him and that by faith we are redeemed by His sacrifice. I began reading my Bible and accepted Jesus as my Saviour and I began attending Services at Northview with the Peters family.

Since accepting Jesus as my Saviour, I feel like I've been reassembled. Built back up by His grace and His people. Reconstructed by His Light. Comforted by His love and forgiveness. I know now that through faith I stand righteous before the Father. Nothing can take my faith or my eternal life. I am committed to honouring Him and spreading His light.





Emme Hung

I first learned about God, from my parents and by going to Sunday school. My parents would read Bible stories to me and I would go to Sunday school where I also listened to Bible stories and learned about Jesus. When I was about the age of 6, I prayed with my mom and accepted Jesus into my heart. Looking back at it now, I don't think I fully understood what it meant to be a Christian and how I could live for Christ. I have grown a lot in my faith since that day, and I now understand what it means to be a Christian and what it looks like to live a life for Christ.

These last few years, I have struggled with making friends. I saw everyone else with all their friends and I was by myself...or at least it felt like that. Through that time I stopped reading my devotional and stopped praying at night. One morning, I decided to open up my Bible and I read about how Jesus is our best friend and how He is always watching over us. I realized the quantity of friends is not nearly as important as the quality of friends. That was a time when my faith hit a low spot and I am grateful that God gave me great friends, even though I don't have a large number. I know that Jesus is always going to be my friend no matter what.

This year I went to the Good Friday service, and that is where I really realized that I was a sinner and that I need Christ in my life. I don't think I ever really thought about what Christ did for me by dying on the cross until I went to that service.

Right now, I am growing in my faith by going to youth group, church, and Bible study. I have been learning how I can live out my faith towards others.

I want to be baptised as a public display of my commitment to faith in Christ, and because I truly believe that He is my Lord and Saviour and that He is always with me.

One of my favourite Bible verses is Deuteronomy 31:8 - "The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."





Ana Lint

I grew up in a Christian home and gave my life to Christ at a very young age. I have been surrounded by a God fearing, supportive dad and faithful loving mom my whole life, who really helped me keep strong in my faith.

I went through this period of time where I was dealing with this fear that was really eating away at me, I would stay up all night thinking about it and it got to the point where I would have panic attacks in the middle of the night and I would have to try and calm myself down. I kept my fear really private, I prayed about it all the time, and the only person I told about it was my mom. I was praying about this fear for months and months on end. It got to the point that I was getting frustrated with God because I felt like He wasn't answering my prayer. I went to my grandparents house one day and my grandma gave me a letter, my grandparents would often give me handwritten letters about prayers they were praying over me and such. She said open this when you get home and read it. So when I got home I opened it, it was a 5 page, double sided handwritten letter. The whole letter was about that fear, and to not worry, she connected it to scripture and everything. I was sitting there literally bawling my eyes out and by the time I was done I was a mess. I went to my mom and I asked her, "mom did you tell grandma about this fear?" she said "no, I haven't told anyone." That's when I thought, wow God is really real and His timing is perfect. I think I sat there for a while longer and just cried, saying thank you to God.

Since then, I've taken prayer a lot more seriously than I had in the past. Prayer isn't just something I said before a meal or before I went to sleep. Prayer is something I could do when I was happy and when I was heartbroken. When my papa was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer I went into prayer. When I have a really good day I pray, when I have a really terrible day I pray. Something I think everyone needs to know is that you should go into prayer as much when you are heartbroken as when you are filled with so much joy. Thank God in the mundane of things. Surround yourself with God loving people. Trust God always, even when it hurts and it's hard. He hasn't gone anywhere, even if it feels like it, He hasn't I promise, and He's not going to.





Faith Greenway

I am 10 years old and just finished grade 5. God has been a big part of my life since before I was even born. God even helped name me by confirming my name through my Gramma. Before I was born and my gender was not even known, He gave the name to her while she was praying for me as her future grandchild. It was already on the top of my parent's name choices for a girl which my Gramma didn't even know about.

My parents have been taking me to church since I was a newborn and I have attended a Christian school, since I was in kindergarten. My parents have always prayed with me every night and we always listen to Christian music in the car. I have always loved God and accepted Christ when I was 3 years old. He's never not been a part of my life, but it wasn't until last year, in grade 4, when something happened that made me want to be baptized. My teacher Ms. Penninga was talking about the Bible story where Jesus washed the disciples' feet and did something that was shocking to me. She wanted to wash all of our feet!! It was hard to let her, but she insisted. While she washed my feet it really made me think of how God laid down his life and does so much for us. He is doing this for us so that we can live a happy life. It was this act of love and my teacher humbling herself to us, that really showed me what Jesus did. So today I choose to serve God for the rest of my life and want to be baptised to tell my family, friends and the world that God is the one true God and I choose to serve Him.





Benard Bjorndal

Growing up my family always went to church, but the first time that I actually realised what was going on and who we were talking about was before elementary school. This was when I said that Jesus was real, though at the time I did not really understand why.

Near the end of middle school I had a clear enough mind to recognise and understand that I wasn't a sinless person. This helped me recognise that I needed a saviour, and that I should put more trust in Jesus.

At this point I am nearly half way through high school and I am trying to focus more of my life outside of church towards him and learning more about his teachings. In my life God has used struggles to help me better understand and help others. I try to set aside time to read the Word and pray, but I still find it too easy to just say "I can do it later" or "missing it once won't hurt".

I want to get baptised because I have come to realise that I don't need to get to some specific point in my walk with God besides professing my faith and staying as true to His Word as I can. I don't have to be perfect, I just need to be obedient.





Quinlan Bjorndal

I first learned about Jesus when I was six or seven. It was after a sermon and I was confused. I didn't know who this Jesus guy that was mentioned was. I asked my mom and I don't remember the exact words. It was something along the lines of "he is our Christ" or something like that. That's when I started to believe in Jesus and God.

I realised I was a sinner in need of Christ soon after I first learned about Jesus. It was in Sunday school. I became a Christian not long after that. I am striving to be more like Jesus every day.

I am being tested and challenged in school with other kids and their foul language and other things they say and do, but I am also learning and drawing near to Christ. I am trying to read my Bible more. I don't go along when kids are doing stupid things.

I want to be baptised because I want to take my next steps in Christ Jesus. I want to start helping in the church such as with the elementary Sunday school.





Annette Koekman

I was lost in the world of new age occult, I worshiped myself and not God. I was deep in that world always looking for answers, never finding any, always looking for the next thing.

One night, I heard a voice in my head telling me to read the Bible. I heard that voice two times, you need to read the Bible, the answers are in the Bible. That was in October last year, that night I downloaded the Bible app, and the next day I ordered a Bible on Amazon. When I received it I opened it to a random page and it gave me the answers I had been looking for for months! That book is alive! I started out wanting to read it front to back. I got through the first 12 books and started to fall in love with Jesus, so I jumped to the Gospels. I wanted to know more about Him and grow close to Him.

I am a full time student at BCIT getting my motorcycle technician certificate to start an apprenticeship in the trades. One of my biggest prayers is that I am being called to this for the glory of God. I am doing this for Him, not for me. I could never do this without Him! He has blessed me by getting a full sponsorship through Work BC so I can focus on study and not have work.

I am so sorry for all my sins I committed, and I thank God for forgiving my sins through Jesus Christ, He is my Lord and Saviour! I know this is the truth! Jesus died and rose again so I can have eternal life. I will give anything for Him! I want to be baptised because I want my outside to reflect my inside. I want to walk my life with Jesus and I want everyone to know that I follow Him and He means everything to me! I can't imagine life without Him!



SUNDAY 9AM



Allyssa Argueta

Being born and raised in a Christian home, I never doubted the existence of the Lord. I cannot remember the first time I heard about God, but I do know that growing up three things stood with me: one that Jesus loved me, two that I was to believe in God, and three that although I could not see Him, God was always with me.

I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour at eight years old and began my journey of faith, now, exactly a decade later I realize that believing in Him is more than just going to Sunday school when my parents take me. I am consciously choosing to declare my love for the Lord and pursuing a relationship with Him through my own desires. I am choosing to truly let Him into my heart and submerge my life with His presence.

Growing up in the church I always heard the words "I'm a sinner in need of repentance", however, it never resonated within me until a few years ago. For a long time, I thought if I do my best to be a good person then I'm not a big sinner, not processing that all sins are equal and whether big or small, I sinned in my daily life and needed a Saviour.

At this time in my life, I have learnt that I am a creature of sinful nature and that a path without Christ only leads to destruction. I've learnt through trial and error that I was not created to be like the world, but rather I was meant to stand out, glorifying and honouring the Father with my daily life, through all I do. Matthew 10:32-33 "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven."





Scott Woldnaski

I was born in a Christian family and asked Jesus into my heart at a young age. My youngest memories were going to church with my grandparents and also going to Sunday school. I will never forget those moments. All the times I went with my Nana to help out at the church I remember as some of my best moments.

Around grade 5, I stopped going to church as much. I felt like I wasn't actually going to church for myself. So I filled my schedule with other commitments and didn't prioritize church. But as I grew away from God I realized how much He helped me in life. After going through some rough times through Covid, the only thing I could think to do was turn to God. Then God put someone in my life that brought me closer to Him than ever before. I had never felt so blessed in my life. I realized that I could finally love and worship God for myself and that by getting baptized I want to confess my sins and start a new chapter in life of making sure I worship God.

I want to be able to spread His powerful Word. Through all the worship songs, sermons, and prayer He has blessed me and I want to commit my life to Him. This is a step in my faith that I want to do for myself and to strengthen my relationship with Him. He is always there no matter what is going on in my life and I believe that He has a plan for me and I want to fulfill that plan in His name.





Ginger Dahl

At the age of 4 I accepted Christ into my heart right after my great grandma died. During my elementary years I had a strong belief in God and never questioned anything. Middle school came and I was starting to wonder how I could trust God or know that He was real. This led to me being anxious but ultimately, I leaned on God in those hard times. As I look back I can see how God used those hard times to bring me closer to Him.

I think that is how I now have a firm trust in God. I can see how He has worked and continues to work in our lives to do things that go beyond our knowledge. I hope that for the rest of my life I can watch God work in my life and in others. Another thing that connects to that is I see how God loves everyone. Recently I went on a service trip and I was able to see that no matter what people looked like or did, God still loves them. I can see how God is making me see things that way too.

When I knew for sure I wanted to be baptised, I was reading about Saul and how he was walking down the road and the Lord appeared to him and told him to be baptized right away. He didn't say become a perfect Christian and then get baptized; it was to signal the start of the journey not the perfection.

I want to be baptised because I want to follow Jesus for the rest of my days and I know I am a sinner and cannot live this life alone without God.





Elijah Goerzen

I live in a Christian home so ever since I can remember God has been an important aspect of my life. Throughout my childhood I never really questioned my faith, I just took it as a reality because my parents were so confident in their faith.

During a Bible study I attended when I was 8 I accepted Jesus into my heart. We were studying the story of Daniel and I thought that it was so overwhelmingly cool that God could save Daniel from the lions. I asked my mum if she would pray with me and I accepted Jesus to come live in my heart.

It wasn't until I was in my early teenage years that I questioned my faith. I began to struggle with religion and through a difficult series of events, I gave up on my faith and resented my parents for quite some time.

After many prayers, God worked His way back into my life and I was able to mend the broken relationship I had with my parents. After surrounding myself with great friends and people who support me in my faith, I have been able to grow into a fully devoted Christian and I am ready to take the next step in my faith.





Dorienne Devlin

I grew up in a Christian household and attended church almost every Sunday. Growing up, I saw God as an authority figure but never really understood the concept of a close, intimate relationship with Him. I saw God as someone to be afraid of and feared doing anything wrong. He was there to answer prayers and do miracles, but not to have a friendship with or to approach as a Father. In high school, I put Jesus on the back burner. He was someone I would tell my friends I believed in, but my actions spoke louder than my words. Once I started university, I stopped attending church regularly. I blamed it on just being busy, but I wanted to be in control of my own life and thought I knew better than the One who created me. In the summer of 2021, I was going through a really difficult time. I was feeling stagnant and wasn't feeling fulfilled in life. I was seeking out any reason not to surrender my life to Jesus. I would put on the good Christian front to friends and family, yet I was actively living in sin on the daily. During this season, God really revealed to me many idols I held above Him and where I placed my identity. My identity was in going to university, having material possessions, being a girlfriend, my future career, and being in control of situations that were out of my control. My identity was in anything but Christ. Everything that I held so much value in began to crumble before me. I will never forget the feeling of helplessness and uncertainty. As the ground gave out from under me, Jesus caught me in His arms. I remember having to make a decision, continue with a life that is empty and never satisfying or fully surrender to the only One who can satisfy. He pulled me out of the mess that I created in my life and gave me a firm foundation to be built upon. Jesus has shown me what true freedom is. My identity is no longer anything of this world, it is hidden in Christ and it is in being a daughter of the Most High. Jesus comes at the right time, when you least expect it, but you need Him the most. There is simple freedom that we receive when we walk hand in hand with Jesus and let Him be in control to shine His light into every crevice of our lives. I now have such joy and peace in life and I rely on the promise that He goes before me and makes a way. In the last few years, I have really met Jesus as Jehovah Jireh, my Provider. He has, time and time again, provided faithfully for me and my family. Whether that is financially, emotionally, spiritually, and even physically. I now confidently await and long for the bride and the Son to become one. I want to be baptised to declare that my eyes are locked on the King and declare Him as my Lord and Saviour.





Danae Parr

I remember being very young, maybe 5 or 6 years old when my grandma (who is one of the best examples of a person who loved God and lived her entire life in such an inspiring and faithful way) told me about the story of Jesus and explained to me in simple terms why it was so important to ask God into our hearts, and to be a part of our lives forever. I remember praying with her that day and asking God into my heart.

I grew up in a Christian family and followed Christ all through my growing up years. Going to MEI was a very influential and important time in my life and it was during this time that I realized that God was the only One who could save me from my sins.

Right now, I am responding to God by attending church and through reflection and prayer trying to live my life in a way that honours Him. Having young kids constantly pushes and challenges me, and teaches me things about life that I can't control and that I have to rely on God and trust in Him.

I want to be baptised because I want to publicly demonstrate my faith and belief in God to the church as well as my friends and family. I am ready to make this commitment to God and I want to live out my faith in a way that (like my grandma) will be an inspiration to others!





Sarah Froese

When I was 3 years old I became a Christian. I remember at bedtime my mom would read to me from a children's Bible and tell me about God. One night, I asked my mom how I could become a Christian and she explained it and then prayed with me. My mom told me how after I had prayed with her I immediately started jumping up and down excitedly and telling others that I had become a Christian.

Although I have grown up in a Christian home, there's always been a sense of it not only being my parents faith but mine as well. I know that becoming a Christian at a young age has probably shielded me from a lot of evil things in life. Right now, God and I have a good relationship. I often find myself talking to Him and asking Him questions. From reading the Bible, to talking to Him personally, I find myself loving God more and more everyday.

One of my favourite verses that I have memorized is, John 3:16 " For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

I am choosing to be baptised today because I believe that God is calling me to take this step in my faith. I strongly believe that God is the one and only true God and I am one of His children. I am so thankful that He has saved me and died for my sins on a cross. I want to publicly show my commitment towards Him by getting baptized and living my life for Him.





Jolene Bitter

If this past year has taught me anything it is that everything happens for a reason and that reason is only a snippet of God's greater plan. I know this sounds super cliché and if you told me this a year ago I would shrug it off but for the first time in my life, I can say that and it really does mean something.

Growing up in a Christian home I celebrated Christmas and Easter. We went to church and I had the privilege of a Christian education. I understood the basic significance of all these events but I never felt I had a personal connection to Jesus. Four years ago, I started to feel distant from the people I was hanging around with. There always seemed to be jealousy, distrust, gossip and lots of drama amongst everyone. I found myself irritated and paranoid after being with them and naturally felt this pull to get away. Not long after, I was invited to youth group by a friend. I declined at first but she was persistent and I finally agreed to go. One time turned into two, then three and before I knew it I was going frequently. Being involved in youth showed me how far I strayed from God, but most importantly how desperately I wanted and needed a relationship with Him. I saw how empty the world had left me and I knew Jesus was the pull to get away from where I was. At youth I was able to form and strengthen what are now some of my most valued friendships and being surrounded by Christ-like, God-fearing people changed my outlook and inspired me to do the same.

In this past year, I have never felt closer with Jesus despite what seems like endless events of hardships. I have experienced incredible highs and incredible lows in the past year. But through this all I have learned to truly trust God and let Him work things out in the way He has planned. I have learned to be at peace with God's plan even when it may not feel right to me at the time.

God has blessed me with a loving family who support each other through hardships and help celebrate achievements. He has given me friends who I can rely on for advice and encouragement through my hardships. Everything I have ever done has led me up to this point and I am beyond excited to finally get baptised and take the next step in my journey with Christ.





Josh Siemens

I grew up in a Christian household with parents strong in faith themselves. They took me to church every week, telling me about Christ and faith in Him regularly, and I dedicated my life to Christ at around 5 years old.

Although I was a Christian from then on, I lacked the understanding of what it meant to be a sinner in desperate need of Christ's forgiveness. As I grew up, I dedicated myself to growing in my faith. I learned how sinful I really was as I became more familiar with the Bible and Christ's love.

I played high level baseball much of my life, and although I surrounded myself with friends and family outside of baseball that helped me grow in my faith, I found my commitment to be invested in baseball. I would play baseball every day including Sundays during the season, making it difficult to attend church. I accomplished my goal of playing baseball at a US Christian college in hopes of growing in my faith there but struggled with my priorities being away from home. I have quit baseball since starting school and have found myself more dedicated to walking closer with Christ. I became committed to a local church at school and am involved in a young adults group that has helped keep me accountable in my faith journey. Although I sway in my walk with Christ, I come back and seek His will in my life as I continue to put aside other passions.

Now, I want to proclaim publicly that I love Christ and am dedicated to a life of faith in Him. I want everyone to know that, although I am a sinner, I understand that on the cross Christ cleansed me of every wrong and I am committed to serving Him with my life.





Justin Longpre

I was born and raised into a Christian family. We always attended church and I remember growing a love for Jesus in Sunday school. At the age of three, I made the decision that I wanted to be a disciple of Christ. I then said a prayer, asking Jesus to come into my heart.

When I was in middle school, I attended youth, but my church at the time was very small and had nearly no one in my age group except for me and I didn't feel connected. This made it very hard for me to be motivated and eager to go, so I slowly started going less until I stopped attending. My parents were pushing me to try out youth groups at other churches, but I always pushed it aside and insisted not to go. Throughout this period, my enjoyment and drive to be involved with community went down. During high school, I didn't attend youth. I went to church every Sunday and helped out in kids ministry but that was just through routine. I pushed God to the side and didn't make any efforts to be involved with other Christians. I was really being convicted of my disobedience to Christ throughout this period, but I just ignored it.

It wasn't until last summer that I attended a Bible study through the Gospel of Mark. Every week that I went to the study, I came away feeling so convicted and a tug on my heart. There was a real change in my inward posture towards Jesus. I really started to understand the amazing characteristics and beauty in Jesus. God was really doing work in my heart. He was giving me true fulfillment and joy that I couldn't receive from anything else. I realized internally that I am a sinner and have been pushing away my Saviour. I am not perfect but God loves me despite my flaws and imperfections. I am so happy that God drew me close to Him. Being baptised is my outward declaration that Jesus Christ is my Saviour and the foundation that I want to build my life on.



SUNDAY 11AM



James Bergen

I first learned about God from my parents and other family members. I learned about God from going to church and from my family and pastors at my church. My dad stopped taking me to church when my parents divorced, but my mom continued to take me.

The more I went to church, the more I learned about sinning and how we do it all the time. I knew I needed a Saviour. I need Jesus to protect me from my corrupted decisions and guide me through my life and lead me to the right path.

Right now I'm learning God's word through my family and my church. The thing I am struggling with in following God is middle school. The influences there are not what I want for my life.

I want to be baptised because baptism means showing my dedication towards God publicly. I want to take that step because I am a sinner and I always will be, but we have a chance to live with God forever and I want to take that blessing!





Mila (MJ) Lamboo

I grew up in a Christian family and have always heard about God, and have been encouraged to pursue a relationship with Him. I didn't fully comprehend that I always had someone that was looking out for me and someone that loved me no matter what I did. I took this for granted.

As I went into middle school and on into high school, I found that it was so easy to live in and be in sin, but it never really phased me, and I never fully realized it until this past summer. I volunteered at Northview day camps and met so many people that encouraged me in my faith. That was when I realized just how much I had been living in sin. After that summer I knew that I loved God and I wanted to do something about it, but I held off on being baptized.

Throughout the school year, I grew closer to my friends in the church. I found that many of my friends from school encouraged me to sin in small ways and I began to draw away from them. It only really hit me that I needed to be baptized at the last baptism service, while watching one of my friend's testimonies, he mentioned Acts 22:16 "And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptised, and wash your sins away". I want to be baptized because I know that I want to dedicate my life to God and follow Him in all ways.





Priscila Neudorf

I was born and raised into a Christian family, accepting Jesus as my Saviour at a very young age. Growing up I attended Sunday school, youth, summer camp and a Christian School; I didn't know anything different. My siblings and friends all attended the same school, church, or events, which is why I never really questioned God or my faith.

Growing up, I was slightly different than the rest of the kids my age, due to a serious brain injury I suffered when I was about two years old. All my life I was told that I was a miracle child, which made me never doubt or question whether God was real or not. Since many things were hard for me, I learned from an early age to lean into Him, whether I was struggling or not, it came very easy to hear His voice and to trust His ways. He was my steady and I looked to Him for everything. I was in my early 20s when I really started thinking about what it meant to follow God and started questioning what I believed, and why I believed it. I began to struggle with my faith and hearing Him speak became difficult. This was also around the time that I was diagnosed with anxiety and depression, which made me wonder why a loving God would put this suffering on me. From then on, I questioned my faith and purpose, quietly drifting away from God. However, I struggled on my own, thinking that if I kept acting like a Christian, no one would know that I was seriously struggling with what I believed in.

I have always kind of known that I am a sinner, and that my soul needs saving, but only this year have I become fully convicted of my sin and my need of Jesus' saving grace. I fully realize that I need to openly proclaim my faith and take this step of obedience; I know this is what God is calling me to do. I know that my struggles will not magically disappear, but I know that God is at my side, and will be there to help me through my pain and suffering. I am learning to trust His timing and plan for my life again, like I did when I was a child. I am learning to hear His voice again, pick up my cross and truly follow Him, as it says in Matthew 16:24.

Taking this step of obedience in getting baptised is a great challenge for me. I would much rather continue following Christ and his Word, without making it public. I don't like the spotlight as it makes me very self-conscious and anxious, but I know I have to do it, and He will never forsake me.

I have thought of getting baptized for quite a while, but never really thought it was that necessary and important, I thought it was good enough if I knew in my heart that I was saved. However, His spirit has convicted me that this is a step of obedience, and I am following His leading.





Jade Brandsma

I like to think of my testimony as how God has been faithful to me my whole life. There have been no big life-changing events or many major struggles, causing some to think of it as boring...but I wouldn't want it any other way! For most of my life I was used to being dragged to church and praying before dinner and all in all, "knowing" God, but I never knew what it meant to actually love God and accept Him. When I was in grade 7, my teacher gave us a booklet and it was all about our faith journey and when we accepted God, and if we had a testimony. At first, I was annoyed we had to do this, and I made excuses that I was too young to know any of this stuff.... but then, I started to question and wonder what accepting God into my life was all about. I asked my teacher privately and all I had to do was ask Him, tell Him I loved Jesus! So that night before I went to bed I prayed to God and I told Him, I accept You into my life. Not too long ago, I watched the Jesus movie, and, in the movie, there are people who say yes to Jesus right then and there and get baptised in the lake. It baffled me that they felt ready to just go for it because they never knew about Jesus before. Seeing this, I decided that if people back then could just "go for it" and get baptised, then I can too!! While watching the recent April baptisms, I almost cried for literally all of them, and I didn't know more than half of the people getting baptised. It was just another spark inside of me that told me, "I need what those people have" and I need to get baptised and follow Jesus. What brought me wanting to get baptised here today is that I have amazing people in my life. I have youth friends that are so encouraging to me, it warms my heart to see someone else wanting so much for me! I have friends who keep me accountable for things I say and do and remind me that everything is for God. Lastly, I have an amazing dad, who helps me through my struggles and listens to everything. He will encourage me to think of others perspectives and put me in their shoes to understand how they feel. He is a very good listener and helps me think brighter on the future with the Lord. When I think of baptism, I think of people being completely ready to handle anything in this world and being "perfect" Christians. Things like going to church every single Sunday, reading their devotions every single day, and never forgetting to pray. I have realized that I do not have to be a "perfect" Christian. I've realized I just need to commit to growing in my relationship with Jesus and be the best person I can be for Him. With that, I am publicly saying that I follow Christ and believe in His death and resurrection!





Jonathan Krahn

Being raised in a Christian home, talks of God and Christianity were common in my home from an early age. Attending Sunday school and going to a Christian school further developed my faith. From a young age I always knew I was a sinner and needed a Saviour, but I never took this knowledge seriously. Despite growing up in an environment where Christianity was very common and hearing the Gospel proclaimed on a regular basis, I still didn't truly respond to this message.

Moving away from home at 17 to play junior hockey really challenged me in my faith. It was a time of a lot of figuring out. As you might imagine, when you have the freedom to do whatever you want with basically no parental guidance and the influences of the junior hockey lifestyle, it made it extremely hard to stay true to my faith. Being in high school and wanting to fit in among my team, my decisions didn't always align with who I was claiming to be. It wasn't until I was 19 that I truly took my faith into my own hands and chose to wholeheartedly follow Christ. At this time, I came to realize how empty the world can leave you, and how unfulfilling the ways of the world are. I was living a double-sided life, where I wanted to fit in with the cool crowd and fit the stereotype of a hockey player, yet still claim to be a follower of Christ. I came to learn that if anything is not done for the glory of Christ, it is completely meaningless and leaves you so empty.

In response to this realization, I am choosing to get baptized to solidify my desire to seek Jesus with my whole heart. These past few years have taught me that I will still make mistakes, but it is important to persevere. The hardest times where I feel weak in my faith and distant from God have been the most defining moments that have led to the most growth in my faith. I have learned that it is not about what you do when things are going good on the mountain top, but it is about what you choose to do in the valley when all hope seems to be lost.

I am getting baptized to fully commit my life to Christ and show the world that I am no longer living a double-sided life, but that I am committed to Christ for life. I want to dedicate my life to serve Christ, and I believe this is the next step in His plan over my life.





Daniel Willems

I grew up in a Christian family, so I have known about God my entire life. Through elementary and middle school, however, I didn't care much for Christianity. It never seemed important or fun to me, so I just put it to the side. I didn't start to really think critically about Christianity till grade 9, when I started to see how real and important it is. I realized I was a sinner, and I was trapped in my sin and the only way out was through putting my faith in Jesus. I truly accepted Christ as my Saviour when I was around 15 during a worship night at a camp I was attending. As my faith journey started, I saw more and more over the years that you can't escape sin no matter how hard I tried, it's always there and I could never wrap my head around how I can be forgiven for a lifetime of sin. There were always doubts in the back of my head about if I really was saved or if I really could be forgiven. High School was full of spiritual highs and lows and my faith never felt steady at all.

After I graduated from MEI last year, I attended Capernwray New Zealand and through the teachings there I quickly realized what was holding me back in my faith was complete trust in God. I was always trying to walk my own path and fix myself, when what I really needed to do was put my trust in God completely and let Him lead me and work on me. He is the only one that can make a difference. Since then, my faith and relationship with God has grown much deeper and hopefully it will just continue to grow as I move on through life on the path God leads me down.

I am choosing to be baptised to publicly declare my faith and trust in Jesus because He saved me from the death I very much deserve and forgave me for a lifetime of sins. He has shown me time and time again that He is above all things and that no matter how much we mess up, He will never stop loving us. Christianity is a journey, and this is a big step that I am really excited to take to show that I love and trust God and He is at the centre of my life.





James Njeru

The road to my salvation and consequent baptism was a long and challenging road. That is the way life is, there will be ups and downs, triumphs and tribulations. So far, I have lived in three different countries and each has come with new revelations and adaptations to different cultures and even different lifestyles.

Irrespective of where I lived, I remained a Christian and a regular church goer. Jesus was always my hope when I was ill, or going through mentally crippling processes like my divorce. Yet, I do realize that Jesus is always there, and I should not have to turn to Him only when I despair.

I want to accept Him as my Saviour and Redeemer, and always live with Him, and not turn to Him only when I feel I need his Help. That is therefore my path to salvation. I have seen His work in my life, and so I want to accept that He died for me as my Saviour. I have been praying and attending Church regularly, and that practice brings peace, calm and the right perspective to my life. Jesus HAS saved me in many ways and I accept that he died for my salvation and for my life in eternity.





Jael Okoti

I've been going to church for as long as I can remember. My family started attending Northview when I was about 3 years old, so I've grown up going to Sunday school and attending church day camp in the summer. My parents told me that I accepted Jesus into my heart when I was around 6 years old, so I don't think there was a specific point in my life when I "became" a Christian. It was more like I thought that because I was surrounded by them I must've been one too.

My dad's been a pastor all my life, but because of that I've always felt obligated to know the Bible inside out, have a great relationship with God and that I should be living the "perfect Christian life". It started getting to the point where I was going to church and reading my Bible because I felt like it was something the pastor's daughter should be doing, not because it was something that I really wanted to do in my heart. When I would come home from church or finish doing my devotions I would almost completely forget what I had read or heard, because they both turned into something that I did for the sake of being able to say that I did it.

Over the past few months, I started noticing that I was feeling more drawn to God, and that when I was reaching for my Bible it was because I wanted to, not because I felt like I was obligated to. I started praying more often, and noticed that I would reflect on the sermon or what I read in the Bible that day instead of forgetting about it right away.

In the Bible, it says that those who have turned away from their sins and put their faith in Jesus Christ should be baptized. I believe this, so there shouldn't be any reason for me not to declare my faith publicly.





Caleb Okoti

I come from a Christian home and was raised as a pastor's kid. My parents read me Bible stories growing up and I was fascinated by all the wonders of this mighty God and was thrilled to learn he was real. This led me to accepting Jesus into my heart when I was very young.

As a kid, I never fully understood the weight of the fact that I was a sinner and I needed forgiveness from the Lord. Around middle school is when reality started to set in and I realized I was hopeless without him. Even though I did good things, I couldn't stop doing bad things and that's when I really realized I needed constant forgiveness and I can't just earn my way into heaven. Now in high school, my faith has become even more personal as I had begun to have some doubts about it, so I looked into them. Coming out of that with an even stronger belief in the Lord I am eager to share this with my non-christian friends at school so that they can be saved too.

As much as I want to spread the news to my friends at school, it can also be challenging as in public school, things like drugs and sex are considered "cool", which makes you look like a weirdo for not wanting to participate in those. It can be difficult not to become an outcast or made fun of for sharing the gospel. Even given this challenge, God has given me opportunities to share the Gospel with others and those conversations almost always end very positively. I have been able to bring some of them to church, which is really cool.

I believe I am ready to dedicate my life to God and become baptized, I want to show the world the inward change God has done within my life and as part of my Christian walk I believe this is my next step.





Nolan Wall

Growing up in a Christian family I learned about Jesus, who He is, and what He has done for all of us. As I grew older I started to get a better understanding of the Christian faith, and how much impact I want it to have on my life. However, my faith wasn't always my main focus growing up.

From a young age, I decided to pursue sports, specifically competitive hockey. The hockey environment was very tough, the things I heard and saw did not align with the same beliefs as I had. When I was constantly surrounded by it, I felt trapped because it was unavoidable. I continued to do what I loved up until a few years ago. I was living in another city for hockey when everything changed. I started to go through depression and anxiety out of nowhere to a point where I couldn't continue. Being taken away from what I loved really made me question my faith; why did you take away hockey from me God?

Through this big change in life I struggled, but God brought some amazing mentors who helped me walk through the darkness that I was in. I started to feel so much more spiritually driven to pursue the faith and why it's so important to me. I now feel much closer to God and although I don't know where my future is going, I trust His plans are so much greater than mine. As I have been able to grow a greater relationship with Christ, He has shown me what this life is for, why we're here, and what our purpose is. Taking this step in my faith is a big decision for me. Being able to publicly declare Jesus Christ as my Saviour is one of the best choices I have made. We are all sinners in need of saving and by being baptised, I want to make it known that I believe Jesus Christ is the only way.





Lily Chen

I come from a family with 5 siblings including myself. I was raised in a Christian home and became a Christian when I was about 5 years old. I thought because I was raised in a Christian home, that made me a Christian. As I learned, it's a choice to be obedient to answer God's call.

I'm in high school now and feel that the next step God is calling me to is baptism. I have assurance that I'm a Christian because it says in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." I believe that Jesus died for my sins and that I am saved because I believe. In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus says, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." I want to be obedient to Him.

My parents, youth group, church and my friends have been a big part of encouraging me in my faith. I want to be obedient to Jesus and go where He asks me to go. As I continue to be obedient to Him, He helps me through daily choices that I face and will continue to face in life.





Liam Sparrow

I have grown up in a Christian family for all my life, so I've been a believer all my life. I basically grew up at Northview, going with my parents to the services, Sunday school, youth group, etc. So I've known about God and have been a Christian all my life.

I've been learning a lot about God recently: His unrelenting love for us, the amount of joy He brings to our lives, and how much He's done for us. He has put so many great Christian people in my life who are a huge part of my personal community and my walk with Jesus.

I feel like I've been growing a lot recently in my relationship with God and myself because for a lot of my life while I've been a Christian, I don't think I took it as seriously as I should have. The amount of comfort, love and peace that God gives us is endless, and I feel like I haven't acknowledged it as much as I should have. I've got to trust God through it all for as it says in Psalm 56:3-4 "When I am afraid I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid".

I want to get baptised to grow in my relationship with God, continue my walk with Him, give my life to Him and trust Him with whatever plan He has for me.





Evangelia Shieh

I grew up in a different living situation than most people. I was always jealous of the people I went to school with because they had happy and stable families. Not me. I lived part time with my grandparents, because my parents were busy with work and they wanted my sister and I to grow in relationship with my grandparents. I would get yelled at and threatened daily and was forced to raise my younger sister. Near the end of grade six my living arrangements changed and I started living full time with my parents. It was a struggle - God wasn't relevant in my life anymore and I held a grudge against God and my parents.

In grade seven I thought everything and everyone was against me. I was struggling to get used to my new lifestyle because I had been in survival mode for so long. I was constantly fighting with my parents because I wasn't used to their parenting.

At the beginning of grade eight, I started going down a really bad path. I was meeting people that were not good for me. I eventually got caught doing a bunch of things I shouldn't have been doing and all of a sudden I felt the weight of everything crashing down on me. In desperation I prayed to God because I felt ashamed and upset and I didn't know how to process it all.

One day my friend invited me to help out at day camp. I thought the whole thing was stupid but it was better than staying home. Being a day camp leader changed my life. I saw little kids getting changed by God and I saw how hopeful and faithful they were. I met a lot of new people that were good for me mentally and spiritually and they helped me with my faith in God. I finally had good examples to follow and to strive to be like.

I started attending youth weekly and the more I went the more curious I became about Christianity and God. Seeing other people my age worshiping God and talking about him made me realize I was a sinner and I wasn't going to end up anywhere if I kept living the way I was living. Ever since that summer my life has been miraculously changed. I want to get baptized because I want to grow in my faith and in my relationship with God, I understand that it will be hard but I am ready to take the next step.





Olivia Redekop

I grew up in a Christian home and accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour at the age of four. Of course, a four-year-old cannot fully comprehend this commitment, but where I did not understand, I had the faith to trust that God loved me and knew what was best for me. None of that has changed - the more I learn and grow in my faith, the more assured I am that my trust was not wrongly placed. Questions are not a reason to doubt God, but a reason to trust Him - I may not have all the answers, but He does.

That being said, I've often wrestled with a feeling of unworthiness. I did not feel deserving of the grace and love that God has given me. But God, in His grace and love, reminds me that sin isn't the end of the story. Yes, we as humans do carry the debt of sin, but Jesus paid it. He freely sacrificed himself for us, and through Him, we have been acquitted. I am worthy, not because of anything that I have done, but because of all that Jesus did.

These feelings of unworthiness previously held me back from baptism; I did not feel ready because I thought I needed to be a "better" Christian first. However, God has shown me that baptism is not the symbol that someone is a perfect Christian - it is the symbol of the commitment to being a Christian, the commitment to following Jesus and showing him to others. Baptism is not the end of the journey - rather, it is the beginning.

Baptism symbolizes the start of a lifelong journey, through highs and lows, mountains and valleys, and always leading toward the ultimate hope of heaven, which was bought with Jesus' blood. The prize has already been purchased; we simply must run the race.



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



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