



TESTIMONIES

SPRING 2024



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. The Story 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 full and meaningful life now and eternally to those who have faith, (believe that Jesus is the son of God) and who 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; recognizing and turning 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.

DOWNES ROAD LOCATION

Testimonies

Saturday

4 PM	Amanda Hintz-Marins	6 PM	Sarah Rankin
	Todd Cawley		Harley Johnston
	Olen Warkentin		Liliana Kroeker
	Josh Toews		Kenley Goertz
	Mason Toews		

Sunday

9AM	Devin Block	11AM	Nathan Brown
	Mikaela Block		Haru Shono
	Kiersten Klassen		Jasmine Samuel
	Luke Brown		Sienna Samuel
	Dion Wiebe		Brooklyn Ferarrio
	Oliver Wiebe		Cassidy Johnstone
	Connor Pruim		Cara Heule
	Alec Huisamen		Hubert Heule
	Seth Harder		Huxley Freund
	Katherine Richardson		Eden Laspa
	Kaden Grafstrom		Jessica Bruzzese
	Carter Thiessen		Evan Fincaryk
	Nevana Thiessen		

Saturday • 4PM

Downes Road Location



AMANDA HINTZ-MARINS

Baptized By: Danae Friesen (Personal Friend)

I first learned about God from my family and my church. I grew up in a Christian home and accepted Jesus into my heart as a child. I think I would've said ever since I was a child that I was a sinner and that I needed Jesus as my Saviour. I started struggling in my faith around the age of 11 or 12 and started to feel anxious about sin and wondered if I was saved or not.

As a young adult, I stopped attending church, and felt quite alone for years and a very desperate desire to be loved. But a couple years ago, I started to desire to go back to church and I felt God working in my life and I think it was around this time that I started to feel committed to following Christ.

Something God has been teaching me recently is to pray more and I've learned to ask God for help a lot more and to pray about things I'm worried about or thankful for. I've realized that I can pray about anything and be open in my prayers. I've been seeing more now how God loves me and sees me and how God is a comfort to me.

Baptism has been on my mind for a while and I want to be baptised to publicly declare my faith in Christ as my Saviour.





TODD CAWLEY

Baptized By: Glenn Sprat (Personal Friend)

My childhood was fairly normal. I lived in a middle class home in Toronto with a loving family. My mother was a Christian and my father was an agnostic. I was the middle sibling between my sister and brother.

I'm a man with a past of doing the wrong things. After entering the Federal Penitentiary system, I knew I couldn't live like this anymore. I was physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually bankrupt. After my brother and my son's death, I wanted to end mine, but Jesus had a different idea about my life and what He wanted me to do. Things slowly started to happen. God opened doors that no one else could. When Jesus enters your life, He puts you on the right road, the road you were intended to be on. I was blessed with all the people that God put in my life.

Today I let the Holy Spirit guide me in situations. The Lord gave me peace and a way to give back to the community and society. Now, I have a great job. I'm working in the community and in the Federal Penitentiary System with Better Life Integration & Support and helping men find what I found in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

I want to declare my faith in my Lord Jesus Christ. I renounce service to sin and give my loyalty and service to Christ. The last thing I want to say is, before I was saved by the grace of God I lived in fear of almost everything. Today I walk in faith not fear. Isaiah 41:10 says "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed for I am your God; I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my righteous hand." Everyone remember, God is in control of everything that's happening in the world.





OLEN WARKENTIN

Baptized By : Emerson Warkentin (Dad)

I grew up in a Christian home and was taught about Jesus from an early age. My parents took me to church where I attended Sunday school. I asked Jesus into my heart with my parents when I was 4 years old.

I understand that I need a saviour and that Jesus is the only one who can save me. I'm growing in my faith by doing devotions by myself and with my family. Jesus is always teaching me new things and showing me how to be more like Him.

I want to be baptized because I want to publicly declare Jesus as my saviour. I understand that I'm a sinner and Jesus died on the cross for my sins. A verse I like that helps me is Isaiah 40:31 which says: "For those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."





JOSH TOEWS

Baptized by: Pastor Jesse Wilson

I have grown up in a great christian home, my parents have loved, supported and taught me everything I needed to succeed at life and yet I was always the one to learn things the hard way, had to figure things out on my own.

After highschool I found myself making poor decisions choosing wrong friend groups and maintaining a party lifestyle. Throughout all of those years I did hold God in my heart and He still influenced some of the decisions that I was making, you could say it was a lingering strong foundation I was brought up in that kept me just on the right side of life-changing trouble. I slowly realized that this lifestyle was not the direction I wanted to go or the person I or God intended me to be.

Next, I made the most beautiful accidental surprise that changed my life forever. I ended up getting a girl pregnant and with my integrity chomping at the bit I decided to carry forward and support this child and become a family. This was a difficult learning process as I was not prepared to be a father but I learned quickly.

9 months later Mason Toews was born, he was such a joy, a beautiful child. Being myself and having to learn things the hard way 11 months and 29 days later Mason's sister Scarlett was born, just as beautiful and full of joy. The next thing you know there's another beautiful baby on the way, Carver.

The next thing that happened changed every aspect of my life forever, my daughter Scarlett caught pneumonia and was airlifted to Children's Hospital, where she passed away. I had to say goodbye to my little girl. After her passing everything seemed surreal and dull. My marriage ended and I pressed on raising my boys with support from my parents.

The brightest part of my life came next when I met my wife Anastasia. She showed integrity and had a love for God that amazed me and rekindled my faith. Anastasia is everything I could ask for in a mother and she quickly became mom to our two boys. I saw how the kids loved her and learned from her, she was teaching them good biblical morals and values that aligned with what I believed. Anastasia was instilling in me to become a better father and man of God.

I have seen many difficult and testing years in life but God has always been right there by my side every step of the way. I am committed to serving God in whatever he has planned for me. I also have the privilege to be able to baptize my oldest son Mason today as well. I am absolutely thrilled to take this next step forward in my faith and to see my son running for God as well.





MASON TOEWS

Baptized by: Josh Toews (Dad)

Before I became a Christian, I didn't know anything about Jesus. I was around 6 years old the first time I remember hearing about Jesus. I was in the car with mom and my brother and I prayed to accept Jesus and asked him to be in the Book of Life. I felt good when I prayed because I knew I was now a son of God. He changed me by helping me be more kind.

A couple of years ago, my brother and I were watching a show on tv and the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart and said do not watch this and so I turned it off. I was listening to the Holy Spirit. The thing I believe now and that I didn't know before was that Jesus is always with me and there for me. I recognize the feeling of Jesus and hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. When the devil tries to get to me, I say no, I know who you are and I rebuke you.

My favorite Bible verse is Joshua 1:9, "Be strong and courageous, For the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

I have told you about Jesus changing my life and I love Him no matter the cost!



Saturday • 6PM

Downes Road Location



SARAH RANKIN

Baptized By: Kara Wutzke (Community Group Leader)

I have been a follower my whole life – I accepted Jesus into my heart at a very young age and went to church and Christian school all my life. I followed God and the path He laid out for me including a mission trip which led me to my now husband.

Specifically within these last few years, my family and I have faced many trials and hardships. Time and time again with persistent prayer, He has so clearly answered every question and shown us which path to take. In the moment it feels so hard but now when I look back, it's incredible to see how everything was laid out for us. A verse that's so prevalent in my life right now is 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

These challenging times have only strengthened my relationship with God. Moving forward, I want to make more time for His Word. I want to not get too caught up in this busy season of life, reading and studying scripture more than ever.

The anxieties of life, health, relationship and parenting struggles are all so challenging. But knowing that Jesus gave up His life for me, I want to give up my life for Him. Now being a mom to two young kids, I want to be the best example to them. I've put baptism off for too many years– now is the time!





HARLEY JOHNSON

Baptized by: Pastor Fredy Orozco

I grew up in a Roman Catholic church and household and came to realize it was not a real faith to me. My grandma was committed to her faith, but my mother and father were picking and choosing what they believed out of the Bible, I did grow up with them praying for me.

I lost my dad at the age of 17 which spiraled me down a bad path. I was hanging around with people who had a bad influence on me, living a bad lifestyle and making sinful decisions. I met a friend while working in the oilfield who shared the Gospel and Bible with me. This led me to learning about sin and our sinful nature and becoming a Christian. My life turned around and now I have a wife and son. I am growing in my faith and learning to be an obedient Christian.

I want to be baptized to declare my faith in Christ Jesus and keep pursuing an obedient life in Him.





LILIANA KROEKER

Baptized By: Danae Friesen (Youth Leader)

God has always been in my life. Through every high and every low He has been there. I grew up going to church with my mom and aunt, and there have been many other strong believers who have impacted my faith journey: my grandparents, friends and many other family members and close family friends.

I love to read and when I was around 8 I read a book series about a girl who went around sharing the gospel. This book was a pivotal point in my faith and inspired me to want to make my faith my own. I accepted Jesus into my heart and from then on I watched as He radically changed me from the inside out. As time passed I grew in my faith by going to church and youth group, where I was able to learn what it means to be a Christian. I have many family members and friends who know who Jesus is but don't believe in what He did. This is something that has shifted my perspective on what it means to be a Christian. Sometimes we think it just means we need to read our Bible more, or pray more, or be better. However, no matter how hard we try, these things are just things. Without asking for help and admitting we need Jesus we will fail. At the root of it we are called to be image bearers and messengers of the faith and through my baptism I hope it inspires others to want to know what it means to make your faith real.

I want to publicly declare that Jesus is my Saviour and without Him I can do nothing. Despite the challenges I may face and struggles I endure, Jesus will be there. I want everyone to know that being a Christian isn't a momentary thing. It's not a club. It's not a religion. It's a faith that is real and something I want for the rest of my life. I am getting baptized today to show that I am all in and want to follow Jesus for the rest of my life.





KENLEY GOERTZ

Baptized By: Brooklyn Elford (Personal Friend)

I first learned about God from my family. I have been a Christian my whole life and have continued to grow in my understanding of the gospel. I encountered the Holy Spirit in a very real way when I was six years old. I was in the car listening to Christian music and I really felt God's love for the first time in a big way. I felt happy and sad all at the same time and it was amazing. I continued to learn about how God's love can transform my heart when attending Sunday school at Northview. I learned how to put this feeling of love into practice.

I really felt Jesus in the car that day, but I learned that I needed to keep choosing Him after that. Even when it's hard, I have to keep choosing Him. After that day, God kept telling me when I needed forgiveness. There are so many things that I feel like I need saving from; things like selfishness, stubbornness, and thinking too hard (my anxiety & worry).

God has encouraged me at school this year. I was really worried starting a new school. My family told me that things would be ok, and that God would go before me and take care of me, but I was not so sure. Then the first day of school came and I felt that God was there with me. He showed me that His plans are better than my own. I have felt so encouraged by my new friends and teachers.

I am doing my best to encourage others. At home I try to be helpful and kind because that's what God teaches me to do. Sometimes I bring non-Christian friends to youth so they can learn more about God too. This makes me feel so happy. I know that I need God. I need Him to save me from my sins. I need His forgiveness each day, as I focus on His mercy and love.



Sunday • 9AM

Downes Road Location



DEVIN BLOCK

Baptized By: Ron Friesen (Personal Friend)

I grew up in a Christian home, so I learned about God at a young age. I asked God into my heart when I was 6 years old after Sunday night service. I remember talking to my mom about it as I was going to bed and then praying with her. It wasn't till later in life that I really realized that I needed God in my life.

As I got into my later teens I was straying away from God and was not following Him how I was brought up to. When I was 16, I went to Mexico with my school and when I got back, my life had a new meaning and I had a new urge to be a better Christian and I was happy.

Once I got into my 20's I strayed away but there was always something in the back of my mind telling me that this is not the way. I kept ignoring it and pushing Him away for some reason. It's like God was letting me figure it out on my own and giving me subtle warnings. Always letting me know He is always there.

I've always believed in God and knew my morals, but I was just straying away from Him thinking I didn't need Him to make it through life. When I met my now to be wife, I knew it was God giving me this chance to leave behind the life I was living and get to know this woman that He has brought into my life. Meeting her brought me back into a Christian lifestyle and her willingness to go to church gave me the motivation to get back to following God.

I am following God more now than I ever have. I know that I need Him in every aspect of my life, I need Him to help me through everything. I've been wanting to get baptized for a while as I knew that it was the next step in my faith, and I am so excited to be able to be doing this together with my wife.





MIKAELA BLOCK

Baptized By: Norm Wiebe (Father)

I grew up in a Christian home and became a Christian when I was 5 years old. I have gone to church my whole life, and after high school, I went to bible school. When I came back, I continued working and meeting new people. I kept going to church, but there were times when I was lazy and didn't go. As I got older, I started to think more about my life, what I wanted, and I took a step back from some of the people I was hanging out with. I never stopped believing in Jesus, but I think I just put him in the back seat for a while, thinking that it's all good I've got Jesus. But what did that really mean for me? I started dating my husband 11 years ago, and we started going to church together. We were married a year later, and a year after that I had my first child. When he was a year old a good friend of mine asked if I wanted to come to women's Bible study. I was nervous to go because I felt I didn't know enough about the Bible. But I went, and I realized that it's ok if I don't know everything. The whole point of being there is to learn.

This year I decided to try Precept and joined a group that 2 of my friends are leading. Turns out I know half of the group, and it has been such an amazing time so far. I have been learning so much about who God is, and how I need to reflect that in my life. There are choices I have made in life that I am not proud of. I know I'm never going to be perfect, I'm always going to make mistakes. But I know that Jesus is the son of God. He came, He died, and He rose again, to save me from my sin, and when I die, I'm going to live with Him forever.

I feel that God has been calling me to be baptized for some time now. There is a song by Lauren Daigle that says "I don't know who I'd be if I didn't know you, I'd probably fall off the edge. I don't know where I'd go if you ever let go, so keep me held in your hands", I truly believe that through my life, God was holding me, and He will never let go until the end.





KIERSTEN KLASSEN

Baptized By: Bella Potter (Community Group Leader)

Growing up, I have always called myself Christian and went to church, but I did not know God. I just knew of Him. I always wanted confirmation that He was real, present, and listening, but thought that only came through “feeling” His presence. When those feelings came and went, I figured He just didn’t listen to me and possibly didn’t exist at all.

As a result, I never gave Him much thought and just attended church because my family did, continuing to hope that I would somehow “feel” His presence. But as I entered high school, and struggled with anxiety and depression, I soon stopped going to church at all. One day my siblings and I went on a hike, and they suggested I try again to attend Capernwray, after it was cancelled for 2 years due to COVID. I decided to go in the spring of 2022, as I thought this was perhaps a good way to try and understand His word in a different setting. There has always been something in me that still thirsted for a relationship with God. For the first time I went into depth in the Bible, and it helped me build a foundation in God and His Word beyond just feelings. During one lecture about Deuteronomy, one verse really stuck out to me and that was Deuteronomy 31:6 where God is making a promise to the people of Israel, “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.” This helped me realize that I do not need that amazing moment where you feel God’s presence, as God is present with me whether I feel Him or not and He will never leave me even when I don’t feel He is there.

When I got home, I actually liked going to church but my faith mostly plateaued until October of 2023 when my dad was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. I thought I would have been angrier at God for letting this happen to my dad, but instead, it tested me to trust God and obey Him. He has taught me patience even when it is difficult and that He has a plan for my life, to be strong and courageous as He will never leave me and that I can find comfort in Him in happiness and hardship.

I want to get baptised to show I believe I am a child of God and a sinner in need of saving and that I will trust His plan in my life. A verse that has been a comfort to me in this season is: “Trust in the Lord always, for the Lord God is the eternal Rock.” Isaiah 26:4





LUKE BROWN

Baptized By: Steven Brown (Dad)

I am choosing to be baptized because I have come to know that Jesus is the truth, the way, and the life. I believe that He desires a relationship with me and calls me to represent Him in this world.

God has always been a significant presence in my life since the very beginning. My parents have done an incredible job of showing me what a good Christian family looks like and demonstrating God's love for us.

In 2023, I faced a series of challenging situations and received difficult news that brought me to a place of pain and suffering. Through it all, I realized that I cannot navigate this journey alone and that I need help. God has been by my side every step of the way, guiding me, protecting me, and giving me the courage and strength to persevere.

The Bible teaches us that we are all filled with sin, and in John 14:6, Jesus declares, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." While I have heard this message throughout my life and strived to be a good Christian, it was in late 2023 that I truly understood my need for Him. Romans 6:23 reminds us that "the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

I am choosing baptism as a public declaration of my faith in Jesus Christ and my commitment to following Him wholeheartedly. I want to symbolize my new life in Him and my desire to walk in His ways.





DION WIEBE

Baptized By: Pastor David Adkins

I learned about God at a very young age. I grew up in a very supportive Christian home. My family was very supportive of all my activities, and I loved to play sports growing up. I attended an AIA hockey camp and at that camp I asked Jesus into my life. While growing up my faith was challenged when my parents divorced but I did not give up hope and I put my trust in Him.

Today I have an amazing wife of 28 years, Julie, and three adult children Jada, Oliver and Reagan who support me in every way. I am so proud of my family and their commitment to walk with Jesus.

Life has its challenges but putting my trust in Him is helping me get through the journey of life. There are lots of distractions in my life that can take away my focus from growing in my faith, so my daily devotional and talking to Jesus has given me hope and trust in Him. If I am not growing in my faith I feel my trust in Him will dwindle. I want to be baptized because it is part of my journey and growth in my Christian faith to publicly state my commitment to follow Jesus.

In Acts 2:38 And Peter said to them, "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."





OLIVER WIEBE

Baptized By: Pastor Fredy Orozco

I have grown up in Chistian family and throughout my life, I have always been taught that Jesus came to earth, died and rose again to take away my sins. To this day, I have continued to believe that Jesus is God and my Savior. I have read, witnessed, and felt the Spirit work in my life.

Although I was brought up in a private school, I do believe I was able to experience others' cultural lifestyles through hockey. I have always felt that God has provided perspective and wisdom for me to keep following Him. Other experiences that I have had that have developed my connection includes Bible studies, missions' trips, volunteering with Mission SAR and strong friends/family.

I have not doubted that God is the Lord of my life. Although I do not have a unique story, I have felt God's presence and have known that He exists in my life since a younger age. For someone who enjoys the outdoors, creation has been a place where I have been able to grow closer to Him.

Overall, I do not have a reason for not being baptised earlier other than the small excuses I have created myself. I am wanting to start this new chapter of my life by being baptized. As I prepare to get married, I want God to be the center of our relationship. I want to be publicly baptized and pursue growth through God.





CONNOR PRUIM

Baptized By: Pastor Fredy Orozco

I was born and raised in a wonderful, family that prioritizes God first. I grew up studying God in church, catechism classes, and the Christian schools I attended. This has provided me a solid base of logically understanding the Christian faith.

Unfortunately this logical understanding was the extent of my faith for a long time, and I felt like I was a Christian out of obligation rather than true thankfulness. This eventually became evident through my actions, as I spent a lot of my early twenties doing whatever I wanted and really living in sin.

I'd say it really hit me about 3 years ago the way that I had been acting, and I slowly started spending more time in prayer and reading God's word. This was around the same time that I met my wife, and she has been instrumental in my confession and pursuit of a deeper relationship with God.

I want to be baptized today as an act of obedience to Acts 2:38 where Peter calls us to repent and be baptized. I'm excited to truly follow and be in relationship with Jesus.





ALEC HUISAMEN

Baptized By: Pastor Fredy Orozco

I was raised in a Christian home, so I was taught the teachings of Christ and went to church for as long as I can remember. I always knew I wanted Him to be a part of my life, but I never felt quite satisfied with my faith. Something was missing, and I found out what that was during a leadership retreat in 2017. What I failed to understand was the true love God has for His children and the strong relationship He desires to have with us.

Ever since knowing that it's not a religion but a relationship that we are called to have with the Father, my view of what it means to be a Christian and a follower of Christ has changed and left me wanting so much more of what He has to offer. Getting into the word and engaging in daily prayer has brought so much joy and fruitfulness to my life. The biggest thing I have learned lately is that we are not alone in our battles. The Lord is with us and will fight for us; all we ought to do is trust and lean into His understanding.

I was baptized as a child and always thought that was enough. However, recently, I have felt as though God has been calling me to make that decision for myself. Having spoken it over with my family, friends, and pastor, I believe there is no better time than now to follow through with the will of my Father in Heaven and make a public declaration of my faith.





SETH HARDER

Baptized By: Pastor Fredy Orozco

I have grown up in a loving Christian home, and was first taught about the love of Jesus from my parents, but the gravity of that belief didn't fully set in until the later years in Sunday school.

Somewhere in high school I started to drift away from God. I still believed, but I put Him on the back burner and He wasn't a priority. But this past year I've felt God calling me to turn back to Him.

I am responding to this call by getting into His Word. I recognize now how surface level my relationship with God was and I'm done with that. I have a new flame under me and I am yearning to have a personal relationship with my Creator. But with the desire to be near to God and obey Him comes the challenge of giving up control of your wants and desires so that He can lead you to where He needs you to be.

By no metric am I deserving of God's grace, but He met me where I was at and saved me from my sin. I have a long way to go in my faith but baptism is the next step in my journey. Here in these waters of baptism, I confess that Jesus is my Lord and Saviour. I am done sitting on the fence about my faith, I want to go ALL IN!





KATHERINE RICHARDSON

Baptized By: Michala Los (Personal Friend)

I grew up in a Christian household and from an early age I was taught about who God is and what Jesus did for me. My parents demonstrated what a life devoted to following Jesus looked like and I accepted Jesus into my heart at 5 years old. I attended church with my family and as I got older, I began to volunteer in Sunday school and attend youth group weekly. Though I had believed in Jesus from a young age and was living as a Christian, my walk with Jesus was mostly tied to my family.

As I became a young adult, I knew I wanted to become more intentional with my faith. It wasn't enough to say I was a Christian, I needed to live out my faith and pursue a personal relationship with Jesus, but I still struggled to feel like Jesus was real in my life. At my lowest point, Jesus rescued me from an unsafe relationship and carried me through a journey of healing that made His love and presence so prominent in my life, that there was no question that He was real. After this, I began to take steps toward putting Christ first in all areas of my life. I found a community here at Northview, I started to read my Bible daily and became a teacher at a Christian school. I am talking to Jesus daily, knowing that if I want to be closer to Him, I need to know Him like He knows me.

Today I want to get baptized to make a public profession of my faith in Jesus Christ. I acknowledge that I am a sinner who needs a Lord and Saviour and I want to declare my desire to live intentionally for God all my life. I want to fully surrender my life to God's plan and follow His ways, striving to be more like Jesus.





KADEN GRAFSTROM

Baptized By: Aaron Grafstrom (Dad)

I have heard about God my whole life and it was at the young age of 5 that I made the life changing decision to accept Jesus into my heart. I was sitting on my front lawn during summer one day, and I asked my mom if I could, like her and my dad, become a Christian. She prayed with me and ever since that day I have done my best to follow Christ Jesus my Lord and Saviour. Never once have I regretted or looked back on the decision I have made, to follow Jesus.

Something that I think and feel that God has been trying to teach me recently is to be more kind, generous, and loving to those around me. It can be challenging sometimes, for me to not lose my cool and get angry but when I feel angry I ask God to calm me down and help me to make good decisions. He always helps me and every time I don't get angry I am strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

I want to be baptized because God tells us in Matthew 3:6 that by being baptized we are repenting of our sins. I want to step out of my old life and into a new life of following Jesus, loving others and above all else to glorify God's name. After I have been baptized I will follow what the Bible says in the end of Matthew "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."





CARTER THIESSEN

Baptized by: John Thiessen (Dad)

Like many people I first learned about God through my parents. They brought me to church on Sunday and helped me in my walk to learn about and understand Bible Stories and what we learned about at Sunday School and in the Services. My parents always push my understanding and challenge me to be a better follower of God.

Early into my teenage years I realized truly that no one is perfect through God's eyes. I understood that Jesus was the one and only way to God, that He lived a perfect life and died for my sins. I believe that as I seek Jesus, He is seeking me. I am responding to His love by recognizing His love and sacrifice. I have learnt of His graciousness and of the journey I have ahead of me to reach the Father through Him. I am being challenged everyday by temptation in my speech and my actions among many other things. I pray to overcome my sins although I do understand it is a process to become like Jesus.

I want to be baptized because I understand that it is an important act to publicly profess your dedication to faith by symbolically dying to yourself and being resurrected to a new life as a disciple of Jesus.





NEVANA THIESSEN

Baptized by: John Thiessen (Dad)

I am 15 years old and attend MEI Secondary school. I was born into a Christian home and have been Christian my whole life. I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior at the age of 5. For all elementary school I was at a public school and had lots of Christian friends and teachers and even if the teachers couldn't teach about Christianity, they still had a significant impact on my life and faith as a young kid.

When I started MEI in grade 6 I only knew a few people in my classes but quickly made lots of friends. A year later in grade 7 a lot had been going on in my life with friend drama and it was a challenging time in my life where I really needed Jesus but didn't really ask Him for help or go to Him with my struggling. But around February of grade 7 I started attending youth group at south Abbotsford church because I had been invited there by a friend. Youth is where my love for God re-kindled in me, and I really learned to trust Him and go to Him for help through the help of all my amazing youth leaders and all the friends I made at youth.

This fall I attended my youth groups youth retreat where on the last night the youth pastor was talking about the Holy Spirit and how he wants us to be filled with the Holy Spirit and grow in our faith. That night after the sermon I gave forgiveness to all those people from grade 7 and 8 who had hurt me and I felt like this weight had been lifted off me and I felt so much freer knowing that God had helped me move past that and forgive people, so I could live my life without having anything against these people.

I want to be baptized because after that night I have really grown in my faith and I know that being baptized will help me take that next step into being a disciple of God and I can live my life for Him.



Sunday • 11AM

Downes Road Location



NATHAN BROWN

Baptized by: Ryan Van Herk (Youth Leader)

I have followed Jesus for as long as I can remember. Church has been a part of my week since I was born and I attend youth on Thursdays.

I believe that Jesus paid for my sin by dying and rising again, and that no matter how much I mess up I am loved by Him. I have called myself Christian for years, but I was hesitant to get baptized. It was probably because of a fear of getting up in front of people, but after reading through the gospels recently I have decided to take the plunge. Hearing of how quickly the early church was baptized woke me up to how I was just putting it off for no good reason. If I'm going to be following Jesus, I should be doing what He said and did, and I've come to learn that baptism is an important part of declaring faith.

I don't see how I can be a Christian and not be willing to step up and proclaim my faith, so I'm finally doing it. I have been given many opportunities to explore Christianity in the next year, and I look forward to my walk with Jesus and seeing what He does through and around me.





HARU SHONO

Baptized by: Valerie Hiebert (Canadian Mom)

I am in grade 12 and have been going to Northview since grade 10. I am an exchange student so I am lucky enough to have two families. One in Japan and one here in Canada.

I got to learn about Christianity because I was able to spend the last four years with my Christian family and friends from High School and youth. I am surrounded by so many people who are willing to encourage and support me and I am so grateful for that!

I just gave my life to Jesus a couple of weeks ago! I was at church when my pastor asked if there was anyone who wanted to give their life to Jesus today, right now. I raised my hand and a lot of people came up to me and prayed for me. I said "I want to give my life to Jesus." Before that, I felt something in my heart telling me to follow Him. When I told this to my Canadian mom she said it's the Holy Spirit working on your heart. I felt so grateful and thankful to be a part of this family!

I always knew that I was a sinner, but I wasn't able to take that big step to be a Christian for a long time, but the Holy Spirit was really working in my heart and it felt like Jesus was reaching out to me to be a part of His family.

Because I have accepted Jesus in my heart and life I want to get baptized to start my life new! I want to say thank you to Jesus for reaching out to me, I really needed you!





JASMINE SAMUEL

Baptized by: Pastor Fredy Orozco

I was born into a Christian home and went to church all the time as a kid. My mom was part of the choir so we'd be at church at least two out of three services every week and I'd go to her midweek choir practices whenever I could. I remember going to church because I love the music and I enjoyed the youth programs.

I was taught I'm a sinner at Sunday school but didn't really grasp it until my mom explained it to me. When I was 7 I was under spiritual attack and she said God could save and protect me from that, all I had to do was ask. She told me about God's creation, Satan's fall, sin, Jesus' sacrifice, then asked me if I believed what she said was true and if I wanted to accept Jesus into my heart; I said yes and she led me through the sinner's prayer. I stopped hearing and seeing things but continued to have nightmares into adulthood. It's important that I make clear my life hasn't been sunshine and rainbows since I accepted Jesus into it. My home was turbulent, I was a lonely depressed kid then teenager, and I was angry at God for my life being the way it was and about Him condemning humanity because of two people. As a teenager, I ran from God and church, and walked in sin with my eyes wide open. I was miserable. It felt like no matter how hard I tried nothing would work out. In 2021, I was watching Kitchen Nightmares with my sister and Gordon Ramsey was yelling at his clients as usual but I saw myself in them. In that moment I said to God "I'm sick of sitting in this sad puddle, I don't want to be here anymore, I can't do this, please take control of my life and show me the way.

How am I responding to Jesus now? I'm throwing myself into Bible study, fellowship, service at Northview, and just following God's lead. I'm learning that having faith doesn't guarantee we won't suffer, that it means quite the opposite, that God's kingdom coming is what makes it all worth it, and I'm being challenged to take that to heart.

I want to publicly declare my faith in Christ. I've been attending Northview for 5 years with my mom and sister and feeling pulled to get baptized these past two, but I struggle with a lot of shame and felt I didn't deserve to be baptized. I'm still struggling but it's time.





SIENNA SAMUEL

Baptized by: Pastor Fredy Orozco

I was born into the church, raised in a christian home. My mom was pregnant with me while she sang in the choir! I spent lots of time in fellowship, worshiping in song and attending Bible study. I stopped going to church as much when I was 13. My parents separated and I was struggling mentally and physically from a sports injury. I turned to unhealthy places seeking relief.

I attended Northview periodically when I was 16, after my cousins invited us. I wanted to know what the Bible said. I'd never read it cover to cover and I wanted life advice from the One who created life itself. I tried to pick up my Bible more, or listen to it before bed. I was making prayer and meditation more of a habit, asking that I may feel the Lord's presence. After lockdown I began yearning for Sunday morning, and scripture became easier to read. I was hungry for the Word of God.

I started attending regularly again for the first time in years, stumbling along every day in my obedience. This last year I've been praying Thy Will be Done, and answering the call to live a better life and bear fruit in the community and in the body of Christ. I'm getting baptized because I'm not who I once was, I'm a disciple of Jesus and I believe HE IS RISEN!





BROOKLYN FERRARIO

Baptized by: Kyra Loewen (Youth Leader)

I was born into a Christian family and accepted God into my heart when I was little. I got introduced to the power of following Jesus, as He showed up for me when I was young. But when harder challenges started to approach me, especially in these last couple of years, I found it hard to stay faithful.

I followed my flesh instead of God in a lot of moments and I forgot about His love and forgiveness. From a young age, it was easy for me to get caught up in what others said about me instead of what God says about me. So I questioned God, why He made me the way I am. I felt extremely insecure, anxious, and alone.

When things felt like they were starting to get better, I lost someone really special to me. In my insecurities, loneliness, and sadness, God always shows up in different ways and has always remained faithful. He saved me at some of my darkest moments. He showed me that He saves, He loves, and He has given us a gift that we should never take for granted.

I want to get baptized because I want to take the next step in my faith journey. I want to continue to follow Him and share His love with all those around me.





CASSIDY JOHNSTONE

Baptized by: Dave Johnstone (Dad)

I learned about God from a very young age as I was born into a Christian home, and we regularly attended church. I thought I was a Christian for these things in my life as I grew up, but my heart wasn't for the Lord. I went on with my life for years believing there was a God and doing the "Christian things" because that's what my family had done but I hadn't given Him my heart. I quickly fell into the trap of living for this world. This destroyed me, it was a constant failing battle. I was looking for an answer to my problems that was not Christ.

Nearly 3 years ago I made new friends who loved the Lord and majorly influenced my life. I saw their faith through the way they treated others and me. One night one of them invited me to youth, although I was hesitant, I went. That night I was reminded of God's unconditional love for me even as a broken sinner who was living for the world. That night I had asked the Lord into my heart.

I have been faced with hard times during my life, but God has always protected me, He has always been there for me even when I have walked away from Him. He has called me and kept me safe, not once has He left me. Looking back at all God has done in my life it made me realize my life is not my own.

I want to be baptized to proclaim my love and faith for the Lord my Savior, a physical declaration that my life is not my own, but it is Christ's who lives in me.





CARA HEULE

Baptized by: Stephanie Gosselin (Personal Friend)

I first learned a little bit about God as a child when I attended church with my grandparents occasionally. I remember really loving to go to church but after that time never attended church or sought the Lord.

I realized last year that I couldn't possibly do it all on my own and I needed God and I needed to trust in His perfect timing and His plan for me.

I began to feel drawn to attend church but didn't know where to start. Right in that same time period our neighbors invited us to attend Alpha at Northview last January. It was through the Alpha classes that I really learned about God. Over the last year of attending services and spending time reading and praying I have grown in Christ and am happy to say have become Christian.

I am growing in my relationship with God and am actively seeking him everyday. I find it challenging sometimes to trust His timing and His plan in the face of stress and trials. I have to remind myself that I am not alone and I can lean on Him. I am learning to trust in Jesus and to bring my problems to Him first and am so happy to know that everything in this earthly life is in His hands.

I want to be baptized to proclaim to everyone that I am a follower of Jesus Christ, and tell them that I believe in the creation, rebellion, redemption and re-creation story of the Bible.





HUBERT HEULE

Baptized by: Luc Gosselin (Personal Friend)

I first learned about God as a child. I grew up in a Christian family and attended Christian schools.

When our family moved to Canada at the end of Covid, our lives were complicated. Moving a young family across North America into a Covid shut down Canada with limited resources had its challenges and was very stress-full on myself as well as my family. In October of 2022, when I was driving home from a horse show which wasn't very successful, for some reason I remember telling myself that something was missing in our lives and that it was time to start going back to church. A few weeks later we were invited by our neighbors to Alpha at Northview. Ever since, we have started recognizing the work God has been doing in our lives and accepted Jesus as our savior.

Jesus has been helping us through our struggles and has made me aware of my sins. Daily He is reminding me of how sinful my life has been, but He is guiding me to be better. I find that on a daily basis, my relationship with God has helped me find confidence, peace and motivation in every aspect of my life.

I'm getting baptized today to support my wife and to publicly declare that I am a follower of Jesus.





HUXLEY FREUND

Baptized by: Dustin Freund (Dad)

I've been raised in a Christian home. There was never an exact moment I remember giving my life to Jesus, but I've always known He has been with me and His Holy Spirit guiding me.

When I was in elementary school, I was the only Christian boy in my grade. This was hard for me and challenged my faith. When I was in grade 5, I had a Christian teacher and he showed me how to be bold and how to stand up for what I believed in. He took the opportunity to use me as a light in my class and I would share a Christian's perspective of what Christmas and Easter meant to me. At first I was scared to share my perspective but with his encouragement, I did it and realized how good it felt.

In grade 6 I transferred over to MEI. Now my school feels like home to me because I feel the Spirit of God around me daily.

Right now in my life, I feel closer to God than ever before. I enjoy reading through my Bible and I truly hunger and thirst for His knowledge. I have a goal to read through the entire Bible so I can learn as much about God as possible.

I want to be baptised because I know I am a sinner, in need of a saviour and I want to declare my faith.





EDEN LASPA

Baptized by: Pastor Luke Friesen

I grew up in a Christian home and have attended Northview my entire life. Growing up, I learned about the Bible and the concept of the Gospel but to me, they were just stories. I struggled with believing in the Word and applying it to my life. Entering high school, I found myself drifting from having a personal relationship with God as my faith became centered around feelings of obligation.

In grade 10, a friend invited me to high school youth. This transformed the way that I saw the gospel. Being surrounded by people who were actively seeking God and living Christ-centered lives showed me how much I need the Lord. I am a sinner, but Jesus showed me grace and He took all my mistakes and flaws by dying for me.

I am learning to fully rely on the Lord, and He will provide everything that I need. In Jesus, I find peace and comfort that nothing else can give me. I am getting baptized because I want to take this next step in my faith. I believe that Jesus died for my sins and rose again to save me. I know that Jesus loves me unconditionally and I am ready to live my life devoted to Him.





JESSICA BRUZZESE

Baptized by: Pastor Dolly Oliech

I first learned about God through my family. We attended Church regularly when I was a teenager. I also attended youth when I was in early high school and learned a lot about God through youth. However, around the age of 16 I turned away from God, stopped attending church and stopped attending youth. At that time, I would say that although I was learning the basics about God and Christianity I was certainly not a Christian. I did not have a foundational relationship with God and had not yet been saved.

When I was 29, I was in a really low spot in my life. My career was incredibly stressful, I wasn't able to spend much time with family or friends and ultimately just had a darkness surrounding me at all times. I became a Christian in one of those weaker moments. I was driving to the airport and unnecessarily sad when I heard God's call. The following Sunday I attended church at Northview and have not looked back since. I've been reading my Bible, praying and attending Bible Study. All of these things helped me to realize that I am a sinner and I was allowing that to destroy my life. My life only began to change for the better when I accepted Jesus as my Lord and saviour and it is through my relationship that I have developed with Him that I have become a Christian and recognize that I need Him each and every single day.

I want to be baptized as a declaration of my love of Jesus. I can in no way repay Him for saving my soul but I can say thank-you and I see baptism as the ultimate thank you and declaration to the world that I am a Christian and always will be. I inherently understand my relationship with Jesus internally and I am ready to give my life to Jesus and be reborn for all the world to see.





EVAN FINCARYK

Baptized by: Quentin Fincaryk (Dad)

My name is Evan Fincaryk, I was born in Seoul, South Korea. My family was not a wealthy family, we lived poor and relied heavily on God for provision. We moved to Canada in 2014 and had to build our lives from the ground up once again.

I have seen God provide in my life so much, especially through my parents. I must constantly remind myself how lucky I am for all the opportunities and support my parents and I have received over the years.

I accepted Christ when I was 4 years old but did not really understand what it meant, because I was so young. It was not until about the end of middle school where I started to mature and develop in my thinking and leave my personal safety bubble. I started to hear my parents talk about their close friends and their kids who had completely rejected Christ for progressive beliefs. They were sometimes my friends too and I thought them to be strong Christians, I also thought to myself, if they rejected their faith this easily, how much easier would it be for me?

From then on I have been trying to get deeper roots within the Bible and Christian communities and have also learned that this path is hard and it is not easy to want to pursue God with my everything. I got lazy over time and became luke-warm. I want to rekindle the desire for God and knowing His word.

I want to be baptized because I want others to know that I am taking a big step in my faith journey and for others to keep me accountable for the covenant I will form with God.

I am excited to see what God has in store for me.

John 12:26 says "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, my servant also will be my Father will honor the one who serves me."



CENTRAL ABBOTSFORD LOCATION

Testimonies

Saturday

5:30PM Caleb Bench
 Sebastian Spindler
 Gianna Dyck

Saturday • 5:30 PM

Central Abbotsford Location



CALEB BENCH

Baptized by: Pastor Joshua Scott

Like many others who grew up in a Christian household, I first learned about Jesus from my family, specifically my parents. I attended services and Sunday school, learning the basics. I was in middle school when I asked Jesus to come into my life as my Lord and Savior.

The pivotal moment occurred when I started attending young adults, it was then I started to get an understanding of what a Christian life should be yet I was far from it. I have struggled many times in life with sin. Not knowing what sin truly was, sin has gotten hold of me many times, and sometimes to the breaking point. Jesus wasn't my number 1. It was only when I reflected on my life as Christian that I realized I can't live as a passive Christian, I need to be a true Christian. It was only then, I told Jesus, I can't do this journey alone as a Christian.

Knowing I have been a sinner, I should have been put to the cross many times over but Jesus put His life on the cross instead of mine. Jesus has shown me that life is far greater with Him than without Him.

I still struggle with leaving it all on Him, and trust that He has a road set for me. He is teaching me patience, as He has His own timing for everything in life. Seeing baptisms was hard for me, knowing that I am a sinner. I initially thought that being baptized was for the perfect, however, I've come to realize it's the start of a journey as a Christian. I no longer want to live life as a passive Christian but to proclaim that I am a follower of Jesus, as He has saved me from my sins.





SEBASTIAN SPINDLER

Baptized by: Philip Spindler (Dad)

My name is Sebastian and I am a 10 year old homeschooler from Abbotsford. I live with my parents and my sister. I love math and creating things.

My mom and dad have taught me about Jesus ever since I was born. We started going to Northview about 8 years ago when I was 5 years old. I realized I was a sinner when I would disobey my parents and then asked Jesus into my heart. My mom prayed with me.

I am getting closer to God through attending church, reading the Bible, praying, worshiping, Christian studies and being a part of Kids Serve team.

I am trusting God to help me with my Type 1 diabetes and Autism. He helps me with all my daily issues. I am excited to be baptized and I look forward to seeing what God's plans are for me!





GIANNA DYCK

Baptized by: Nikki Dyck (Mom)

I first learned about God from my family and church. I have been raised in a loving, Christian home and we attend Northview Central Abbotsford campus on Saturday nights. I have been attending church since I was born. I have come up through the Northview kids programs. I was dedicated at Northview as a baby and am now in the high school youth.

When I was about 6 years old, I attended a Northview Kids camp where the leader asked if anyone wanted to give their life to Christ. I was very excited. I said yes! I have assurance that I am a Christian because I love Jesus and have put my faith and trust in Him. I want to grow with Him and learn so much more!

I am growing in my faith by reading my Bible more and praying more often than just before school, dinner and bedtime. I am trusting that Jesus will give me the strength to do well in school and with my finals as I grow closer to Him

I have been feeling called to be baptised now and am very excited to take this next important step in my life and journey with Christ.



EAST ABBOTSFORD LOCATION

Testimonies

SUNDAY

9 AM Olivia Loewen

Sunday • 9 AM

East Abbotsford Location



OLIVIA LOEWEN

Baptized by: Madi Byers (Youth Leader)

Hi, my name is Olivia Loewen. I am 11 years old. I was born into a Christian family and go to MEI Middle School. I became a Christian when I was 4 years old after a chapel that I went to with my preschool. It was all about building your house on the solid ground and I wanted to do that too. I gave my heart and life to God that day in the back of my mom's car.

I talk to Him often and read His word to learn more about Him. I try to obey every rule, but nobody's perfect. I want to get baptized so I can show you all that I love God. I know He died on the cross for me and rose up again to save us from our sins.

I know that God is in my life because when I feel alone or like everybody is against me I know that God is on my side and never leaves me. When I face obstacles in my life, like friendship problems or when school gets too hard I know that I can lean on Him to get me through.

I want to get baptized because I have given Him my life and I want to spend the rest of my life knowing that God is real and will never fail me. I can trust that He is with me.



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



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