



# TESTIMONIES

SPRING 2025



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.

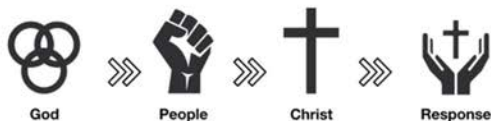
**Rebellion:** People chose instead to rebel (sin) against their creator and consequently experience death, disease and disorder.

**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

### Sunday

9AM Jerome Carretas  
Elijah Njuguna  
Luke Dyck  
Andy Dyck

11AM Summer Gibson  
Natalia Gubiotti  
Connor Evans  
Graeme Bisset  
Calvin Ducharme  
Gabrielle Drediger  
Matt Tilstra  
Meagan Tilstra  
Drew Odenwald  
Charlie Pennington

**March 30, 2025**

**Sunday • 9AM**

Downes Road Location



## Jerome Carretas

**Baptized By: Perry Klassen (Spiritual Mentor)**

Like many others, I grew up in a Christian, Filipino home on the east side of Abbotsford. Every Sunday as a kid, we would drive to Vancouver to visit our family church. I did everything from going to Camp Gwanoes and playing Bible games at church to being a part of Christmas plays.

It was only in the past year that I realized how deeply I needed Jesus in my heart. At the time, I was overwhelmed - struggling with challenges in my relationship, business, family and friendships. I found myself in situations where I genuinely didn't know what the right thing to do was. My mind often pulled me toward saying or doing things that didn't sit well in my heart, and I couldn't understand why. I realized I needed to lean on something, or someone, beyond myself and human understanding to guide me through these crucial decisions with love and grace - the kind that only Christ could provide.

As a child, my mom would always ask me to pray before every meal. It was a simple act that brought peace and comfort. But as I grew older, I stopped for a long time. I became insecure about praying in front of others, afraid of making them uncomfortable, not realizing that in letting go of that practice I was also letting go of something integral to my sense of peace. Looking back now, I can see how much I needed to reconnect with that faith.

I'm so thankful for people like Doug & Glenda Reimer who always made the effort to reach out and saved me a seat here at Northview and to Perry Klassen who demonstrated to me what a spiritual role model looks like. There are so many others I am grateful for who played a role in my spiritual journey. It shows through the different chapters in my life that God continues to place people in the right places during the times when I was being unfaithful.

Now that I have developed a relationship with Christ, I am allowing my heart to be more open to Him and His work through being with the people, prayer and His Word. I know that living in this world, I will continue to face challenges and wrestle with the desire to "feed the flesh." Knowing this encourages me to lean on God even more. After everything I went through to strengthen my faith, being here and getting baptized feels like the next natural step.





## Elijah Njuguna

**Baptized By: Pastor Dan Sparrow**

I first learned about Christ through my parents who brought me up through church as a child, having me grow up in a Christian household for all my life. I realized I was a sinner a few years ago when I finally started to listen to adult sermons and Ezra once did a sermon on sinning and I was moved by it that day. That was probably the first time I doubted that I would get to heaven because of my sin but now I am a true believer in Jesus Christ and with that comes the next step of being baptized.

I am growing in my faith by being more involved in church and at school. With church I joined Northview kids and I am growing by learning to teach about it. At school I am in one of the only Alpha clubs in Abbotsford and love it! I am one of the co-hosts who run it. The best part about it is that we are at a public school and the person teaching it and running it is not a teacher but a peer and a friend, and they set the example for me to be baptized.

I want to be baptized to publicly declare my faith to the world, to take the next step in my faith in Jesus and to change my perspective in life to focus more on God.





## Luke Dyck

**Baptized By: Wes Dyck (Dad)**

I was born and raised in a Christian home and have grown up going to church and Sunday school. My mom and dad both taught me and my sister about the Bible and how we are sinners in need of a saviour. So at the age of eight I saw that I was a sinner and accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour.

When I was nine years old my parents got divorced. Although this was a really hard time in my life. I always knew God was with me. I started going to a Christian school in middle school which really taught me more of who God is and strengthened my faith. During this time I also made some good Christian friends who have been there for me and been there to encourage me. I am being reminded that God will always be there no matter what. No matter what I have done. No matter what life throws at me, I can always come running back to Jesus.

I am responding to Jesus by trying to read my Bible more and getting more involved in church and being baptized. Going to church and Christian school most of my life I have learned and understood what baptism is. All over the New Testament when someone becomes a Christian it says repent, believe and be baptized. In Matthew 10:32 it says "so everyone who acknowledges me before men I also will acknowledge before my Father who is heaven".

I want to be baptized because it is clearly Biblical and it is an act of obedience as a follower of Christ.





## Andy Dyck

**Baptized By: Anita Chapman (Mom)**

I heard about Christianity from my mom and from my school as far back as I can remember. I realized I was a sinner in need of a Saviour in grade 9 Bible class at MEI with Mr. Shuel. At the beginning of the class, he asked for everyone's testimony, and I was not sure if I believed but his logic and reasoning convinced me. This, along with things I heard at church and from my mom, helped me believe.

I am responding by reading my Bible, praying more, attending church, and hosting a Bible study. I am learning to be mindful of false teachings because of the things I'm learning. I am being challenged to obey Him in how I live my life and how I treat others. He has made me aware that I should be slower to anger and have a better attitude towards others.

God calls us to be baptized, and I want to take the next step and declare my faith to the world.



**March 30, 2025**

**Sunday • 11AM**

Downes Road Location



## Summer Gibson

**Baptized By: Van Reutz (Grandpa)**

I grew up surrounded by Christians; my mom, her parents and their parents before them. I was also lucky enough to be surrounded by Christian friends for most of my life.

I was born into a strong faith filled family and attended church for most of my life. In my late teens, I stopped going to church after some tough life circumstances. I felt comfortable in my worldly life for years, until my dad passed. A beautiful person, not perfect, but would give you the shirt off his back. I was confused - angry, full of anxiety, depression and fear. I was lost and finally decided I couldn't deal with the weight of the pain by myself.

I made the decision not to do it by myself and I reached out for guidance from friends, family and professionals. One day after school dropoff, I felt the overwhelming presence of God and I knew he heard my cries and my family's prayers. I fell to my knees and cried out for forgiveness and strength. It took awhile, but I finally surrendered last August. I bought a Bible, stopped listening to secular music, started dressing modestly and was seeking an online church because I was nervous to attend alone. I found Northview, and the first service I watched just so happened to be 'Getting off the Fence'. I felt like Jesus was speaking to me and convicting me throughout the service. After that I came back every Sunday in obedience, finally having the boldness through God to attend in person this last November.

I will continue to walk in righteousness and to repent when I fall short. All glory to God I am ready to surrender my life completely in obedience, because even though I don't deserve it, I believe through Jesus I am a new creation. I don't think I would be the woman I am today without the Lord guiding me and watching over me. I am forever thankful and want to serve Him.





## **Natalia Gubiotti**

**Baptized By: Anna Skeels (NHSY Leader)**

I've grown up in a Christian family and always considered myself a Christian, but I never started taking it seriously until later in 2024. I struggled with depression throughout middle school, but it became worse in grade 8. I grew farther from God, and I stopped putting my faith first. I would always put my own mental health first, saying I was too tired to read my Bible or had too much to do. I put all my problems before God, not knowing He was the true solution to them.

When I started grade 9 I was in a horrible mental state. I had many things in my life that pulled me further from God. One night, I prayed to God, and asked Him to take away anything or anyone that was holding me back from Him, no matter what it was. The next day I met a new group of people for Bible study. It was the first time in a while I felt a real connection with God.

In less than a week everything in my life had changed. I lost people who I loved but gained people who helped me grow a stronger connection to God. I no longer was living in a horrible mental state, and I knew that God answered my prayers. I am no longer the girl who woke up drained every morning with no hope. Instead, I am the girl who is blessed everyday to be woken up by God.

I want to be baptized because I know how important it is for my faith, and my relationship with my Lord and Saviour. I know there is no right time for this next step in my faith, and I could not be more ready to commit my life to Jesus Christ.





## Connor Evans

**Baptized By: Pastor Mark Burch**

When I was young, I was introduced to Christian youth ministry and accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour but didn't fully understand the significance of the commitment and sin until I was older. God met me at the lowest point in my life after my accident took place, suffering a traumatic brain injury, losing my speech, bodily functions, vestibular and cognitive ability, my profession, a relationship, and so many things I cared for. With nowhere to turn or run to, I brought my anxiety, pain and prayer to Jesus and life changed drastically. I found my path to the Lord through redemption and struggles that were beyond something I could repair without our Lord and Saviour. Glory be to God! He healed me in ways that were said to not be possible - walking, talking, working my dreams into reality by his grace.

I have opened my eyes, heart and soul to His word, love and grace. I'm learning every day how to glorify and honour our Lord in everyday work, friendships and family. Each day I face worldly issues, or common problems where my faith is tested and I must remain steadfast in Jesus.

I want to be baptized to lay down my life to the One and only true God, to proclaim my faith publicly and find peace in my heart. I have found a place at Northview where I feel at peace and I want to stay for a lifetime serving God with this community and Church full of disciples.

I want to thank my Mom, Brother, Uncle, Kenny, Mitch, Rob, Calvin, Graeme and the friends that joined me today. Thank you Pastor Mark, Brian and Mat for believing in me to get my life back together to be a part of this community that I love serving.





## Graeme Bisset

**Baptized By: Connor Evans (Friend, Mentor)**

My name is Graeme Bisset, I was born and raised in a secular household. I was baptized as a young child but never raised in the faith. My family celebrates Christmas and Easter but only because that is what everybody does in Canadian culture.

Growing up, I was fond of the stories in the Bible, but didn't believe in God. In highschool I became an atheist and looked for spiritual guidance through the use of mind-altering substances. For the longest time I thought that I could live by my own authority.

I first felt God's presence as I was driving to work with a Christian co-worker of mine. He explained to me that the Holy Spirit flows through you when you're baptized. At that moment something inside of me changed. My movement towards Christ continued to expand as I met more and more Christians in different places which eventually led up to 2024 when I started attending Northview regularly after being invited to Sunday worship by my brothers Connor and Calvin.

After 6 months of attending Northview with my brothers and my beautiful girlfriend, Gabrielle, I'm here to publicly declare my faith in the One who saved my life through His love and grace, Jesus Christ. Because of Him my debt is paid in full. And by His authority I will live the life that He has gifted me.





## Calvin Ducharme

**Baptized By: Connor Evans (Friend, Mentor)**

As a boy, I enjoyed church — singing songs with the youth group and teaching arts and crafts with my mom. I remember one summer camping trip holding hands with my crush... perhaps I was too enamoured with her to appreciate this Jesus guy they were telling me about...

By the time we moved away I had drifted toward other interests. Rebellion is in our nature and as my dear mother can assure you, I am no exception. In highschool and university I went my own way. Convinced of my own intellect, I thought I could write my own rules. That was, until I heard this old professor from Toronto tell me to clean my room... However, I was only smart enough to listen and not yet wise enough to follow — so I continued to live my life like I was both Cheech and Chong, trying to speedrun enlightenment with my so-called sacred foods. And yet I knew something was missing. My grad quote was simply that old professor's 7th rule to life, "Pursue what is meaningful, not what is expedient." Little did I know where that rule would lead me.

And then one day she left. My highschool sweetheart, gone. Without her love I was broken. But it is true what Paul says about singleness, and I had all the more time to get my eyes up.

When I did finally come to know the love of Christ, through trials and tribulations, stumbling and questioning strangers at the local pool house, it was a blessing not deserved — knowing I was more like the man owing 500 denarii — but a blessing well needed by my longing heart.

Today, I want to be baptized to symbolize my faith in Jesus Christ our Lord, Son of God, and King of the universe.





## Gabrielle Driediger

**Baptized By: Linda Driediger (Grandma)**

I was born into a Christian home and brought up spending lots of time with my Grandparents who worked for a local church in Abbotsford. I attended Christian School for the primary years of my education, and I've attended different youth groups throughout my life. I struggled with peer relationships and being bullied growing up. This led me to struggle in my faith. I often stated when I was in highschool, "I believe in God, but I don't like organized religion."

Some of the moments in my life led me to question the faith I put in God, as well as the time I spent going to church, were switching from my Christian school due to bullying, the loss of family members, and my own families' struggle to commit and be devoted to God. No matter how much I struggled, I always felt loved by the Lord. Whether I was attending church or not, I often turned to my Bible. I never felt far from God because I always felt loved by Him yet I never felt I wanted to be baptized, as I struggled with healing past wounds and had a hard time with the church and other Christians.

This past year I've started attending church again and meeting other Christians. This has started a healing process that was long overdue. God sent me a community of Christians just now experiencing faith for the first time. They helped me recognize I was going through the motions and following steps, rather than rejoicing in the Lord, and recognizing the salvation Jesus Christ has granted me. The acceptance and love I've experienced has given me a new outlook on my journey in faith.

Though my relationship with God is individual, I can find family in faith. God has led me here and I'm ready to profess my belief and be baptized.





## **Matt Tilstra**

**Baptized By: Pastor Jon Pasiuk**

I grew up in a Christian community, attended church and went to a Christian school. Although I was raised in this environment, it had always felt like something that I was supposed to do. I never actually took the opportunity to understand the why behind being a Christian.

I've always known I was a sinner, but was not living in the way a Christian should live and the fact that I am a sinner may have been at the back of my mind due to my upbringing but it did not come to have an affect on me until about a year ago.

Last year I was watching a service online and one of the things mentioned was to just start reading a chapter a day from the Bible and that's what I did. As I've gone deeper into the Word, I've learned the meaning of needing Jesus, and started my journey in Christianity.

As I mature in my faith, I'll continue to seek knowledge, wisdom and just keep working on building my faith in God. I'll continue to build on why I am here as a Christian and put that understanding into practice in my day to day.

I would like to be baptized to let go of my way of living in the past and to make my commitment to living a Christian life and to continue on my journey with God.





## Meagan Tilstra

**Baptized By: Pastor Jon Pasiuk**

I was born and raised Catholic. I was baptized, had my first communion, confession and confirmation. I attended catechism regularly. I always had strong faith in God and never doubted his presence. As a teenager and early adult, I grew distant from God largely because I didn't have a community around me who believed though I never lost my faith.

I reflect back on those times distant from God and those were the years with the most anxiety, insecurity and a lifestyle where I wasn't fulfilled or proud of. My soul was depleted. I pursued external accomplishments, hoping to attain something, but only ended up experiencing temporary happiness. I didn't live a life of depth and meaning.

It wasn't until illness struck me, that I realized I was living my life wrong. I was relying on external factors to bring me joy which was always temporary. It wasn't until I started connecting with God again through daily prayer that I started feeling ease, peace, joy and acceptance all from within. I was, and continued to be, guided and comforted.

I've always known that I am a sinner and was consistent in going to confessional in the Catholic Church. When I started growing closer to God and going to church again in my 20s I was introduced to a Christian church which resonated deeply with me. I felt like I could connect with the messages, the music and other attendees more than I could at the Catholic Church. I was introduced by a friend who has since passed away and I am very grateful for her.

I am responding to Jesus by trying to be more like Him. I am listening to calls to follow Him more; whether attending church more frequently, reading the Bible or looking at ways I can connect with a community. I feel the more I focus on Him, the more I am growing. I am trying to be less judgemental, slow to anger and to consistently see God's work in everything - even in times of conflict or trouble. I ask for His help, I sit in stillness and try to hold onto faith even when it's hard. I would say I'm being most challenged with my openness about my faith. I think God is amazing, and I talk about Him with like-minded people, but I want to be able to comfortably share to those who don't know Him. I want to be baptized to be living according to the purpose God has intended for me.





## **Drew Odenwald**

**Baptized By: Pastor Jon Pasiuk**

I first learned about God from my grandparents when I was a child. I would come to their house for Bible study when I was about 10 years old. They were Jehovah's witnesses and, due to certain aspects of that organization, I never proceeded any further on my walk with the Lord until I was 17 and moved in with my father who had been learning the truth about Christianity. Coming out of the Jehovah's witness organization, I was fortunate to have learned more about God at that point, but I hadn't developed a personal relationship with Christ or submitted myself to Him as Lord throughout my life.

It wasn't until some serious hardships in my life that led me to a place where I had nowhere else to turn to but God for help. I prayed to feel good just for a moment. Almost as if to prove to myself that nothing was going to happen. I then opened my eyes and I was touched. I felt healed in a way I could not have done myself. God's hand had been extended to me my entire life, and He was just waiting for me to reach out and take hold.

Now, after knowing God's guidance and care for me in my life on my developing walk with Him, I want to be baptized to declare myself saved by my Lord, Jesus Christ.





## Charlie Pennington

**Baptized By: Pastor Luke Friesen**

I grew up in a Christian home with my mom teaching me about God. But after my parents split up we stopped going to church and my family struggled. My parents were often busy with my brother, helping him with his struggles so I often felt second in line. I drifted so far from Christ and his salvation even though I knew I needed help.

Throughout middle school, I struggled with severe anxiety and depression. This made me doubt myself in every way. I didn't feel loved or important. But at the start of this school year, I met my first real Christian friends: Sienna, Natalia, Stella, and Essa. I truly believe God sent them to help me. Stella entered my life with the Holy Spirit glowing from within her. She saw me struggling and introduced me to God. I tried to accept Him into my heart, but I was too drowned in pain to accept Him.

Not long after I found myself swallowing a handful of pills in the late hours of the night and going to sleep with the intention of not waking up. Showing up to school the next day and admitting what I had tried to do was one of the hardest things I've ever done. The support I felt from God and the people that God has blessed me with was unmatched. God woke me up that morning, He kept me alive, showed me the light at the end of the tunnel and the beauty of the life that awaited me. He saved me so I want to devote my life to Him through baptism.





# **CENTRAL ABBOTSFORD LOCATION**

## **Testimonies**

### **Saturday**

5:30PM Kaitlyn MacBurney  
Emily MacBurney

**March 29, 2025**

**Saturday • 5:30 PM**

Central Abbotsford Location



## **Kaitlyn MacBurney**

**Baptized By: Morgan Klassen (Youth Leader)**

I learned about God while growing up in a Christian family and was taught at a very young age about the Bible and such. I have been taken to church every Saturday evening since I was a baby. I even took my first steps at church! Since I grew up in a fully Christian household and loved God all my life, I don't know when I accepted Jesus, although I do know that I've taken Christianity more seriously in recent years. For example, I'm trying to pray more often and am doing my best to purposely find things to help people with. I'm also choosing to listen to more worship music as I learn more about Him and His great love for us.

Although I'm trying to spend more time with God and be more like Jesus, I'm clearly not at a place where I don't need to improve. Sometimes it's kind of hard to remember to stop and pray or read the Bible rather than do whatever it was that I was going to do at that moment instead.

I go to a public school, so I don't have many people that I can talk to about Christianity during the day. I do go to Youth Group though, so at least I have people there that I believe are on the same spiritual page as me.

I've gotten through a small part of my life and now I have decided that I want to be baptized. Why? I want to be baptized to show that I have given my life to Jesus and I am trying to live for Him on a daily basis. Also, Jesus was baptized and He wants us to be as well. I think it marks a milestone in growing closer to Jesus. I love Him :)





## Emily MacBurney

**Baptized By: Don MacBurney (Grandpa)**

My name is Emily MacBurney. I grew up in a Christian household with members deeply passionate about their faith, so learning about the gospel and the story of the Bible was hard to miss. When I was still a baby my parents took me to church almost every Saturday evening, and I don't remember a time without it. I have no specific memory of a certain milestone of accepting Jesus into my life, but I do remember remembering it, if that makes any sense. I also remember being at day camp in elementary school and re-stating my faith a few times because I was worried the first one "didn't work," although I did know that it wasn't necessary, and that Jesus was already with me.

Currently, I'm responding to Jesus in a way of being more patient, in all aspects of the word. I sometimes find it difficult to take the time to consider why some people act the way they do, but I've been working on taking a moment to pause and think about what Jesus would do in whatever situation I'm in. It helps because it gives me a moment to breathe and change my perspective on the situation. I'm also working on including Him in my everyday life. Frequent, simple prayers, requests, and thanks to Him throughout the day will help my overall walk of faith.

I want to get baptized because I want a checkpoint or milestone in the race to the finish line, so to speak. Getting that extra reminder of what I'm going towards is encouraging. My sister is also getting baptized today and it's an important day for both of us. It'll be great to share in the excitement of taking this next step in our faith together. Having someone going through the same thing also makes going up in front of so many people much less intimidating.



# EAST ABBOTSFORD LOCATION

## Testimonies

### SUNDAY

11 AM Evalie Melnychuk  
Thomas Landell  
Jake Lowell

**March 30, 2025**

**Sunday • 11 AM**

East Abbotsford Location



## **Evalie Melnychuk**

**Baptized By: David & Erika Melnychuk (Parents)**

I've grown up in a Christian home and a Christian community. My entire life I've gone to Sunday school and church learning about the Bible stories and their importance. Hearing those stories my entire life, I grew accustomed to them. They grew plain and boring to me after a while. That was before I really started believe in my heart that they are true, and that they are God's word.

Although I heard all about repenting in church, it was my mom who answered my big questions about God and faith. I was about four years old, and my mom was tucking me in, and I started asking these really big questions about God and about what it means to be saved. The more questions she answered the more I wanted to become a Christian. So, I did! Right then and there.

For the first eight years I never really understood the importance of my relationship with the Lord. I only prayed on and off, and I didn't think about how God would want me to live my life. It was only until recently that I started taking these things seriously. I've been praying more and thinking "How would God want me to live my life?" One of the biggest things I've been learning is how to trust God. In every day life that seems easy, but in the hard times trusting God gets hard. Not giving into temptation and obeying my parents are two ways in life right now where I'm being challenged to obey the Lord.

For me getting baptized is not only a public declaration of faith, it's a promise to follow the Lord forever. And I am so excited to make that promise. As I go into high school next year, I'm plenty scared, but knowing that I have God on my side comforts me and makes the future not seem so daunting. I can't wait to follow the Lord for the rest of my life, and see what He's going to do through me.





## Thomas Landell

**Baptized By: Phil Landell (Dad)**

I first learned about God, growing up in the church my grandfather preaches at. My dad would read bible stories to me and my siblings and go over the lessons they taught. I grew up learning about God's Word. Because of my upbringing, I've always known I'm a sinner in need of a saviour. Jesus Christ is stronger than I can ever be. By turning to Him and leaning on His strength, love, mercy, grace and His sacrifice for my sins - I stand strong.

I am responding to Jesus right now by letting Him lead me, lead my life for His purpose. I have been giving my worries and choices to Jesus. Changing how I think, take action, how I can best serve others and reach out to people, even if it's a small interaction. I am learning that by trusting Jesus, He instills peace in my heart. I don't need to worry about things that I have little to no control over and to thank Him for everything that has and will happen in my life, whether good or bad, because it has shaped my character and who I am today and will continue to be.

I am being challenged to obey Him by doing more with my life, embracing my gifts and connecting with people, listening to and learning more about God's word. One of my favourite passages is in Proverbs 3: 5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths".

I want to be baptized to renew myself in Christ and to affirm the change He has put into my heart and mind. I can't help but think back to when I was born, and my parents telling me of how small I was as a premature baby. (2 lbs) I had a 60/40 percent chance of not surviving. I was prayed for everyday for the 9 months I was in the incubator. I was poked with dozens of needles, blind folded to protect my undeveloped eyes and steroids for my lungs. With all that being done, there was no guarantee. God's grace put me here today, strong and affirmed in His Word and His Love. I give Jesus all the credit for saving me as a baby and He's saving me now as a man.





## Jake Lowell

**Baptized By: Trevor Wiens (Friend)**

I can thankfully say that I was born into experiencing God's grace as I came into a family of loving believers. My parents were pastors during my childhood and daily exemplified Jesus to my siblings and I through the work they did and how they raised us. However, growing up in the denomination that I did was a bit of a mixed bag. I saw the heart of God shown through a passion for social justice and outreach ministry, yet often felt different when I heard others my age tell their testimony. These stories tend to find their climax when the prodigal returns and gives their life to Jesus and is baptized. Yet, my church did not practice the ordinances - neither baptism or communion. With that, through my own journey of walking near and wandering far, I often felt the inner conflict of not 'doing' my faith properly. Eventually, I took a step of faith, leaving the space I had felt comfortable in my entire life, and trusted in where the Lord was leading me - Northview.

I have always had the desire to pursue a role in pastoral ministry myself and the Lord has been incredibly faithful in opening up doors to see that happen. The latest door was being accepted into the Immerse program here at Northview and getting to be a part of the Care and East Abbotsford team.

Baptism at this age for someone who has been pursuing Jesus this long may not be the typical story, but I can clearly see the path that was laid before me. I come today with the peace of knowing that this act is not what provides me salvation, but excited that I can, for the first time, profess my faith in the way I was called to by Christ.



If you or someone you know is interested in getting baptized,  
visit [northview.org/baptism](http://northview.org/baptism) for more information.



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980  
**COMMUNITY CHURCH**

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**BE DEEPLY ROOTED**