

APRIL - 2022

Northern Lights

The official newsletter of the Northern Michigan District
Church of the Nazarene

[NMD Website](#)

[Global Ministry Center](#)

[Holiness Today Magazine](#)



In just a few days we will enter Passion week when we focus intently on the suffering, death, and glorious resurrection of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. On Palm Sunday we commemorate His coronation as King of Israel and Messiah (Savior) of the world. On that holy day the children offered perfect praise declaring, Hosanna (Jehovah our Savior) is coming into His city. The prophets had foretold it, and in that hour if men had been silent the very rocks themselves would have cried out with the glorious news.

BY DAN GILMORE,
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Good Friday, the most holy day of the Christian calendar, is the day we fearfully remember the suffering and death of Messiah. This is the central theme of the Gospel. He who knew no sin was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him (see I Cor. 5:21). In that hour Christ Jesus satisfied the righteous justice of God just as the prophet Isaiah had declared, **He [the Father] shall see of the travail of his [the Son's] soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he [Christ Jesus] shall bear their iniquities (Isaiah 53:11). Hallelujah!**

Easter (Resurrection) Sunday is the day we celebrate Christ achieving for us victory over sin death and hell. The advent of the New Testament Church, our resurrection hope itself, and our power to live triumphantly above the world as citizens of an heavenly country, all trace their origin to this glorious day. Early Christians greeted each other with the following statement, response: He is risen – He is risen, indeed. It was true on that first resurrection morning. It remains true today. And will ever be true: **THE LORD IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN, INDEED!**

*He is not
here: for he
is risen,
as he said.*

Matt. 26:6a

Hope

IN THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

LAMENTATIONS 3:13-26

Northern Michigan District Assembly
April 22-23, 2022

Clare Church of the Nazarene
10160 S. Grant Ave. Clare, MI 48617

Ordination Service - Friday, April 22, 7:00pm
Saturday - April 23, Session begins at 8:30am



Dr. David A. Busic
Jurisdictional
General Superintendent



NMI Central is a weekly email publication focusing on the work of the Church of the Nazarene. Every week prayer needs and praise reports for the global ministries of the Church of the Nazarene and our missionaries will be listed as well as ways you can get involved. Visit www.nazarene.org/nmi-central to subscribe.

NMI Video Resources

Click [**here**](#) to access videos of missionaries sharing about their call and their journey. Use these videos in your church, in small groups, or individually. You will want to see all of them! They are available in English, French, Korean, Portuguese, and Spanish

STAY UPDATED AND
INFORMED



UPDATE FROM OUR NMI PRESIDENT ON REFUGEE AID

Jill Rice
District NMI President



Since March 1, 2022, Northern Michigan Nazarene Missions International has sent over 1,594 boxes of clothing, coats, blankets, and shoes for Ukrainian refugees in Poland. The boxes are being delivered by container to Poland through the charity, GiveBackBox. This charity offers discounted postage for shipping items for charitable purposes. Our churches, individuals, and businesses from all over Northern Michigan (and beyond) helped in gathering materials and boxes, and donating for the cost of postage.

We were blessed to have banana boxes donated by Meijer, Aldi, Tom's Food Store, Save A Lot, Food Rescue, and The Father Fred Foundation. We had no idea we would need so many boxes for all of the donations! The local news stations, UpNorth Live 7 & 4, as well as 9 & 10 News, picked up the information about the relief efforts on our Northern Michigan NMI Facebook page. They came to Traverse City Church of the Nazarene several times for interviews and ran news stories on the efforts to gather needed items for the refugees. The phones at the church rang off the hook for several weeks after the interviews with people wanting to bring donations and to help! Thank you to Rick Rice for fielding most of those calls. We set up special drop-off days so that the community could drop off their donations. People came from all over Northern Michigan to bring items for the relief efforts. We even received donations from California and Chicago. Soon the Traverse City church was overflowing with donations. In fact, we received so many items that we had to stop accepting donations!

The greatest blessing was that, in addition to our own church people, people whom we didn't even know came and helped us fill the boxes! Among others, a local men's club, The Men's Shed Association, brought a whole crew of men and worked multiple days filling boxes. Another group of ladies designated themselves the "postage ladies" and made sure that every box was properly labeled for shipping. People just called on the phone and said that they were coming to help! The local UPS store was amazing! Each time we let them know we were coming with boxes, they called a special truck to load up our boxes and get them out the same day. We have never experienced such an outpouring of love from our Northern Michigan Community! Our Clare Church joined in and sent 64 boxes. Other churches have taken special offerings to help with postage, including Buckley Faith Community which raised an additional \$300.00 to help with postage!

We are thankful to God that He chose to use Northern Michigan NMI to help His people in this way! Our theme for this year has been "Serving the Broken." Our 2021-22 Adult Project (that was chosen over a year ago) was to send refugee kits where they were needed. We had no idea what God had in mind! His plan was much bigger than our District NMI Council had imagined! Many of our churches had already raised funds for refugees throughout this year. So we were ready to purchase needed supplies and had funds on hand to ship the boxes! God prepared us in advance to help in this crisis! The need of the Ukrainian refugees is so great. We pray that God guide the delivery of these boxes and that the contents will be a blessing to His people. Thank you Northern Michigan NMI for being faithful! Through your giving, we have experienced the miracle of the loaves and fishes first hand!



Sunday School Discipleship Ministries (SDMI) name changes to Nazarene Discipleship International (NDI)

During the 98th Session of the General Board, members approved a new set of bylaws for Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI).

The bylaws were created by a global SDMI strategy team with representatives from each of the six world regions. The team sought to identify the principles, practices, and behaviors of a local church that effectively makes Christlike disciples. These results were incorporated into the bylaws as five core principles: fervent prayer, compassionate outreach, comprehensive biblical learning, intentional mentoring and equipping, and authentic relationships.

The team also suggested the renaming of Sunday School & Discipleship Ministries International to Nazarene Discipleship International (NDI), which was approved by the General Board's Local Church Ministries Committee and later the full board.

According to NDI Global Director Scott Rainey, the name change more adequately reflects the focus of the denomination's global discipleship framework, A Journey of Grace.

We remain committed to Sunday School as a fundamental enterprise in our Scriptural mandate to make disciples," Rainey said. "However, the global strategy team wanted our name to reflect our commitment that making disciples is an ongoing journey encompassing all of life. Additionally, we wanted to be sure our name included the word 'Nazarene' to communicate our identity within the denomination."

The change creates continuity between the names of the three local church ministries, Nazarene Missions International, Nazarene Youth International, and now Nazarene Discipleship International.

To read the bylaws click [here](#)

To watch a video of Dr. Scott Rainey, NDI Global Director click [here](#)

I AM THE WAY THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE. JOHN 14:6



Discipleship is a journey of grace with Jesus as our guide and companion.

Christian discipleship helps believers grow in the Lord Jesus Christ as they are equipped by His Holy Spirit, who resides within them, to overcome the pressures and trials of this present life and become more and more Christlike.

COLOSSIANS 4:2

"CONTINUE IN PRAYER, AND WATCH IN THE SAME WITH THANKSGIVING."



HALF-MILLION
MOBILIZATION

CALLED TO PRAYER

The half-million people of the Church of the Nazarene in USA and Canada are invited to devote ourselves to prayer in the "Half-Million Mobilization." On Sunday, May 1, we are issuing a call to every one of our 5,000 churches and 500,000 members to devote themselves to prayer, asking the Lord to bring revival and ultimately resurgence in his Church across USA and Canada.

Click the link for more information, videos, prayer guides and journals, and resources for children and youth.

[Pray USA/Canada](#)

Praying Our Way to Pentecost

From May 1st through Pentecost (June 5th) you can join in a daily time of prayer using the *Praying Our Way to Pentecost* prayer journal. The prayer journal is available **online**. We anticipate a great outpouring of the Spirit during this season. To launch *Praying Our Way to Pentecost*, on May 1st churches around the region will pray together in our morning services. In April the prayer focus is Church boards, staff, and ministry leaders. On Sunday, May 1st, our hope is that 500,000 Nazarenes will be praying together in USA/Canada as we begin our daily journey of Praying Our Way to Pentecost!



“GOD DOES NOTHING BUT BY PRAYER, AND EVERYTHING WITH IT.” - JOHN WESLEY

"God's children can conquer everything by prayer. Is it any wonder that Satan does his utmost to snatch that weapon from the Christian or to hinder him in the use of it?"

- Andrew Murray

"Prayer is the key that unlocks all the storehouses of God's infinite grace and power. All that God is, and all that God has, is at the disposal of prayer."

- R.A. Torrey

"More prayer, more exercising of our faith, and more patient waiting leads to blessings, abundant blessings. I have found it to be true many hundreds of times, and therefore I continually say to my self, "Put your hope in God."

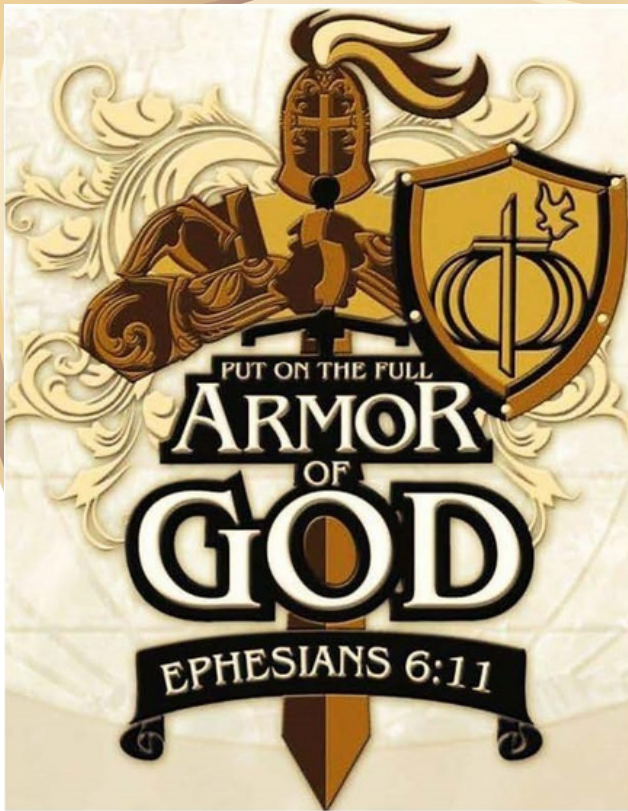
- George Mueller

"No prayer is ever lost, or any prayer ever breathed in vain. There is no such thing as prayer unanswered or unnoticed by God, and some things we see as refusals or denials are simply delays."

- Horatius Bonar

DISTRICT CHILDREN'S CAMP

AUGUST 1 - 5, 2022



Registration at noon on Monday

Talent Show at 11:00am on Friday

Check Out at Noon on Friday

\$140 if registered by June 25th

\$175 if registered after June 25th

If you have any questions, or if you are able to help, or if you know of potential helpers/counselors, please contact Pastor Brandon Metzger at

989-948-2806 or

email bmetzgeronu@gmail.com

basic information

camper application

staff application

facebook page

covid waiver



Family Camp Weekend

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 5-7, 2022

Evening Services start at 6:00 pm

RV sights will be available.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

Nazarene pastors in Ukraine have expressed gratitude for the prayers from the global church. In addition to your prayers please consider giving to the Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Eurasia North Field Crisis Fund which will provide support for those suffering or displaced.

[Give here](#)



The PACE fund is used to help with emergency building matters and pastoral family needs. Please consider donating to the PACE Fund to help with these concerns. Thank You.

Make checks payable to Northern Michigan District (Memo - PACE Fund) and mail to PO Box 1006 Traverse City, MI 49685

UPCOMING EVENTS

2022

April 10 - Palm Sunday

April 15 - Good Friday

April 17 - Easter Sunday

April 22-23 District Assembly - Clare

May 6-7 Commencement Activities - ONU

May 12-14 Celebrate Life - ONU

May 21 NMI Convention - New Horizons, Pickford

August 1-5 Kid's Camp - Manton Christian Camp

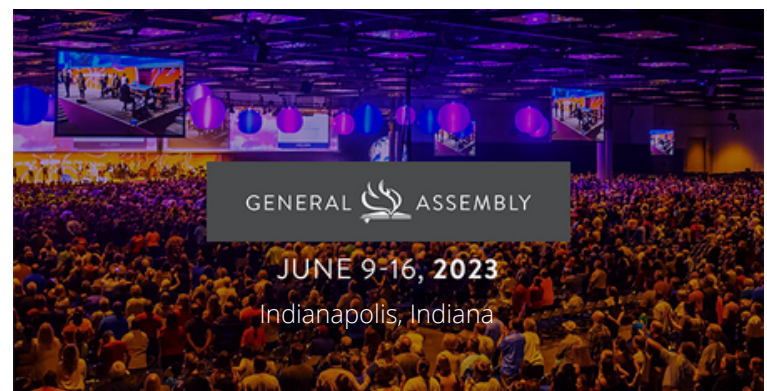
August 5-7 Family Camp Weekend - Manton Christian Camp

Oct. 28-30 Homecoming - ONU

2023

June 9-16 General Assembly - Indianapolis, Indiana

July 5-9 Nazarene Youth Conference (NYC) Tampa Bay, Florida



General Assembly

SAVE

THESE

DATES

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