



Northern Michigan District
Church of the Nazarene

~ Better Together ~

Northern Lights Newsletter

Northern Michigan District Church of the Nazarene

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DS Thoughts and Updates

Blessings to you all in this season of Lent and in our upcoming Holy Week observances. This holy time of year could be called the “Holy of Holies” of the Christian calendar. May it be to us a fresh and vital reminder of our Savior-God’s love for us and our holy call to share His love with all men! Lent in particular is a time to dedicate ourselves afresh to preach Christ crucified (1 Cor. 1:23). These greatest themes of the gospel must be ever sharpened in our hearts and minds. Dear Father, we hallow Your holy name, and we pray that Your kingdom come and Your will be done on earth just like it is done in heaven!

Please continue to keep the Pickford, Clare, and Kalkaska Churches in prayer as they are in the midst of pastoral transition. Rev. Tim Fall is the interim pastor at Clare. Kalkaska is just starting the transition process. Rev. Jim (Barbara) Heckathorn’s first Sunday at Pickford is March 31st. The Heckathorns are ministers with New Church Specialties and are beginning a nine to twelve month interim. NCS includes a full church assessment and implementation process and Pickford is a pilot church for our district of the NCS ministry.

On Saturday evening, April 13th, the first of five pre-launch services for the Upper Room Church of the Nazarene in Petoskey will take place at the Petoskey High School auditorium. Please consider joining with us for this kick-off service. Please pray for our church planters, Josh and Stephanie LaRoque.

Please be in prayer for the Northern Michigan District’s 34th District Assembly, held April 26-27, 2019, at Alanson Church.

Thirty Fourth Annual District Assembly

Northern Michigan District Church of the Nazarene

April 26-27, 2019

Alanson Church of the Nazarene

7489 Mission Road - Alanson, MI 49706

Friday Evening (NYI & SDMI Conventions) begins at 7:00pm

Saturday Morning begins at 8:30am

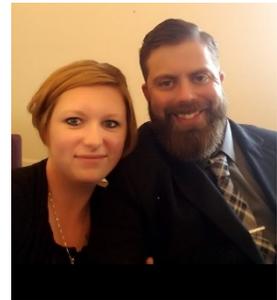


Dr. Eugénio R. Duarte is our presiding General Superintendent. We are anticipating a wonderful time as we gather for our 34th District Assembly. Assembly will begin on Friday evening with the NYI and SDMI conventions and some assembly business. We will also be blessed to hear a message from Dr. Duarte. The main business session will take place on Saturday morning. All are welcomed and encouraged to be a part of this important district meeting.



Petoskey Upper Room Church of the Nazarene will hold their first prelaunch service on Saturday, April 13, 2019, at 6:00pm. This is the first of five monthly prelaunch services as this church plant

begins ministering in Petoskey, Michigan. They will be meeting in the Petoskey High School auditorium at 1500 Hill Street, Petoskey, MI 49770. Dates for the other prelaunch services are May 11, June 8, July 20, and August 17 with the official launch service set for Saturday, September 14. Please pray for Rev. Josh and Stefanie LaRoque and their team as they begin this exciting new ministry on our district.



A Message from Rev. Josh LaRoque

It was the week before the first service, when all through Petoskey the team was a bit nervous, the signs were being printed with delicate care, the hopes that the city soon would be there. The Launch Team was nestled all snug in their beds, while praise and worship danced through their heads, and Stefanie in her kerchief, and I in my U of M cap, had just settled in for a short Spring nap, when out on 131 there rose such a chatter, I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew as a pastor, tore open the shutters and threw up the ladder. The moon on the breast of the fresh melting snow, gave a luster of midday to objects below, when what to my wondering eyes did appear, but a showering of the Holy Spirit who is always near. As sure as a dove Pastor Josh soon shouted, On Stefanie, on Katelynn, on Kaylie on Khloe, on Herb and on Lynn, On Bev and Jim, On Bob and on John, on Mike and on Molly, On Sawyer on Maddy, on Christina and on Shaylyn, the team was prepared for an opening night win...

We are so close. Not an hour goes by where we are not in prayer for this desperately needed new work. Your prayers are coveted and effective. Might you consider joining us for one or all of our preview services? Our Saturday evening services allow for each of you to attend. The first once a month pre-view service for the Petoskey Upper Room Church is being held Saturday evening, April 13th at 6PM, at the Petoskey High School Auditorium. We would love to see you there. Please visit our website at petoskeyupperroomchurch.com as well as on Facebook and Instagram at Petoskey Upper Room Church. Thank you for your love, encouragement, and prayers! Keep praying!

Nazarene Missions International - NMI

In the past – it was from the west to the rest. In the 1990’s – it was from the best to the world.
In the future - it will be from everywhere to everywhere.”

Gustavo Crocker, General Superintendent, Church of the Nazarene

David and Sylvia Potter, missionaries to Vanuatu, will be our speakers at our annual NMI convention on May 18, 2019 at Kalkaska Church of the Nazarene. The theme for this year’s convention is “Prayer: The Bridge to the Nations”. Registration begins at 9:00 and the convention begins at 9:30.



JILL RICE
District NMI President

Our 37, recently commissioned, global missionaries in the Church of the Nazarene were from 17 nations, every continent where the Church of the Nazarene has ministry. They include one refugee couple and two couples going to minister to refugees. Our LINKS missionaries, David and Cheryl Young, were among the commissioned missionaries. Please pray for the Youngs, their suitcases were lost and they lost literally all of their clothing except what they had on their backs when they were returning to Timor Leste. Thankfully their children’s suitcases were not lost.

NOTE: Lessons 1-4 for the 2019-2020 Adult Mission Education: Bringing New Focus to Missions, are now available FREE on the NMI website, <http://nazarene.org/nmi>. Also the NMI Adult reading books (3) are available to download and read for FREE. They are also on the NMI website in PDF formats and they can be ordered from The Foundry publishing for a cost.

Missionary Speakers Available

Daryl and Sylvia Potter, from Vanuatu, are scheduled to be at our NMI convention on May 18 and they will be at East Tawas Church of the Nazarene on May 19. If you would like to have them come to your church they are available the week before convention. Please text Sharon Moore at 815-685-1025 or email her at sharonmoore@yahoo.com if you have questions or would like to schedule the Potters for a service at your church.



Sunday School & Discipleship Ministries International – SDMI

It’s finally spring in Michigan and that means it is time for SDMI to spring into action. We are looking forward to District Assembly on April 26-27 at Alanson Church of the Nazarene. Our SDMI convention is on Friday night during the Celebration Service. We hope to see as many local church SDMI directors there as possible. We will be getting information out to you soon.

I was privileged to attend M19 in Kansas City in February and was blessed and filled with excitement about what God is doing and going to do through His church!! I am looking forward to sharing at our Friday night service of what God spoke to me while I was there. I am honored to serve God and be His child!



BRIAN FARMER
District SDMI
President

Nazarene Youth International - NYI



JEREMY GOMEZ
District NYI
President

In February NMDNYI held a 3 day retreat for teens on our district called Winter White Out. This annual event which takes place at Center Lake Bible Camp in Tustin is truly a time for fun, worship, rest and renewal. Teens get three days away from their normal stresses of life and worship with other teens from around the district. They are challenged to grow in their faith and have an opportunity to meet new friends and develop friendships with those from around the district. This year was especially memorable as our speaker (Rev. Chase DeMott) grew up coming to WWO as a teen as well as our worship leader (Erin Gray). What a reminder of Proverbs 22:6! Also a BIG shout out to our Retreat Coordinator (Rev. Chris DeMott) for many faithful years of leading this spirit filled retreat! If you have a teen and want to know more about these life altering events we provide as a district, simply go to our webpage nmdnyi.com

Retiring



Pastor Bryan and Val McInerney have retired after serving 10 years as lead pastor at Kalkaska Church of the Nazarene. Prior to serving as lead pastor, Brian was the associate pastor at Kalkaska. The McInerneys plan to stay in the Fife Lake area and continue in Kingdom ministry as God leads.



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| April 6 | Team Day – Perry, Michigan |
| April 13 | ONU Ladies Day 2019 – Olivet Nazarene University |
| April 26-27 | District Assembly – Alanson Church of the Nazarene |
| May 10 | ONU Baccalaureate |
| May 11 | ONU Commencement |
| May 16-18 | Regional Celebrate Life - ONU |
| May 18 | NMI Convention – Kalkaska Church of the Nazarene |
| July 8-14 | Nazarene Youth Conference 2019 – Phoenix, AZ |
| July 29-Aug 2 | Kid’s Camp – Manton Christian Camp, Manton, MI |
| August 4-9 | Family Camp – Manton Christian Camp, Manton, MI |
| Sept. 5-7 | ONU Theological Conference |
| Sept. 20-21 | District Men’s Retreat – Lost Valley Bible Camp |
| Oct. 11-12 | District Women’s Retreat – Evergreen Resort – Cadillac, MI |