

Northern Lights Newsletter

Northern Michigan District Church of the Nazarene
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“SAYING, ‘THANK YOU, LORD’”

Colossians 3:15-17 - ¹⁵And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

In the immediate context of the above text, the Scripture gives us some profound reasons for thanksgiving, including, The Forgiveness of Christ (v13), The Peace of God (v15), and The Word of Christ (v16). I particularly cherish the instruction that we are to sing these themes to ourselves and to one another. The most profound way we can be a thankful people is by applying all the grace available to us in Christ. God, in Christ, has given us the ability (grace) to live for Him. We say “Thank You” best by employing that grace! Here is how some of the great hymn writers have expressed it:

Isaac Watts: "Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small: Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all."

Bernard of Clairvaux: "What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners gain: Mine, mine was the transgression, but Thine the deadly pain. Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place; Look on me with Thy favor, vouch-safe to me Thy grace. What language shall I borrow to thank Thee, dearest friend, for this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end? O make me Thine forever! And, should I fainting be, Lord, let me never, never, out live my love for Thee!"

Today and every day, *Sing the wondrous love of Jesus, sing His mercy and His grace (Eliza E. Hewitt)! Live a life of faithfulness, i.e. a life of thanksgiving!*

Happy Thanksgiving!

Rev. Dan Gilmore
District Superintendent

Rev. Cosmos Mutowa serves as the Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Director for the Africa Region. He and his wife, Andronica, live in Johannesburg, South Africa. Rev. Mutowa has been diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma, Stage 2, and will begin chemotherapy treatments this coming week. We have been asked to join in prayer for Rev. Mutowa as he begins cancer treatment.

Thank you for praying for Cosmos and Andronica Mutowa during this time.

TRINIDAD and TOBAGO WORK & WITNESS TRIP 2020

Is God tugging at your heart-strings to go on a Work & Witness Trip?

There is still room for volunteers to sign up for the Work & Witness trip to Trinidad in February. Tentative dates (waiting on approval from Global) February 14-21, 2020. Plan to use your talents to make improvements on the Petit Church of the Nazarene and also to enjoy warm, tropical winds and ocean breezes in the middle of winter!

Please contact Jan Crockett at jan.crockettcentres@gmail.com or 231-883-6354 if interested. You must have a passport for this trip. The first payment of \$500 is due upon signing up. Total cost of the trip is approximately \$1,800. Don't delay, time is passing very quickly!



CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

SUNDAY SCHOOL & DISCIPLESHIP

Matthew 28:19&20 records one of Jesus' most often used and recited commands, known as The Great Commission. As the disciples gathered around Jesus and worshiped Him, verse 18 states that even in this setting there were some who doubted. It is from noticing the doubt in the group that Jesus begins this foundational commission to us. Most of us can recite that we need to GO, MAKE DISCIPLES and after this to BAPTIZE. The motor under the hood for this to continue to build God's Kingdom is when Jesus said in verse 20, "TEACHING them to observe all I have commanded you." Teaching is what SDMI is all about. Small groups (on any day of the week and in any location), Sunday School, discipleship classes, mentoring sessions, you name it, there is teaching going on. Sometimes even words are used! It is no shock to the church to hear and see the cloud of doubt that hovers over so many in our society, and much of it can be attributed to false teachers and bad theology. I would also add that bad examples of Christianity are displayed in public and private far too often. With school in full swing and most teaching arms of the church fully functioning like our youth groups, children's ministry and adult classes, the premium is on quality, Biblically sound teaching of all those who would hear what we say, and also watch what we do. In his book, "Thinking, Listening, Being," Dr. Jeren Rowell states, ***"Clearly being a faithful teacher is about much more than delivery of content. It has much to do with the character and integrity of the teacher."*** If you teach a class, lead a group or have any influence over another human being you have the opportunity to teach about Jesus in your words and your actions. I pray for all of the teachers and small group leaders on our district to continue to be the "doubt erasers" God gifted them to be!



Rev. Brian Farmer is the pastor of Cherry Grove COTN and the Northern Michigan District SDMI President

Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things He hath done for you.
I Samuel 12:24



Nov. 1-3	Pastors and Spouses Retreat – Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn
Dec.7	District Ministry Team Christmas Gathering – Cherry Grove COTN
<u>2020</u>	
Jan 25	District Board of Ministry – Traverse City COTN
Feb 20	District Advisory Board (Nominating & Finance Committees) Traverse City COTN
Feb 21-23	NYI Winter White Out – Center Lake Bible Camp, Tustin, MI
March 7	District Celebrate Life – Beaverton COTN
April 16	Camp Board Meeting
April 24-25	District Assembly – Cadillac Cherry Grove COTN
May 7	ONU Baccalaureate
May 8	ONU Commencement
May 14-16	Regional Celebrate Life – ONU
July 27-31	Children’s Camp – Manton Christian Camp
Aug 2-7	Family/Teen Camp – Manton Christian Camp

District events, news, and prayer requests are updated regularly on the district website:

www.nmdnaz.org

“God is in control, and therefore in EVERYTHING I can give thanks – not because of the situation but because of the One who directs and rules over it.”

-Kay Arthur