

NOVEMBER | 2021



NORTHERN LIGHTS

*The Official Newsletter of the Northern Michigan District
Church of the Nazarene*



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"Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name. Make known His deeds among the peoples; make them remember that His name is exalted." Praise the LORD in song, for He has done glorious things; let this be known throughout the earth." Isaiah 12:4-5



THANKS BE TO GOD!

Eric E Jordan - Herald of Holiness
November 18, 1959

Paul's writings personify gratefulness. Thirty-four times he gives thanks or encourages others to be grateful. I learn from Paul some of the things for which I should be thankful.

Paul was ever grateful for the reality of personal salvation. It was difficult for him to understand how God could "enable," that is, trust him with the glorious gospel. He marveled that he had "obtained mercy"; that God had saved him, the "chief" of sinners (I Timothy 1:11-17). He realized that in his case grace had been "exceeding abundant."

This gratefulness for salvation led to appreciation that others were included in God's plan. He thanked God for the "faith" of the believers at Rome. When he saw some of them, he thanked God and took courage (Acts 28:15). He thanked God for the "grace" that was given the Corinthians. He never ceased to give thanks for the "faith and love" of the Ephesians. The Colossians had "faith" and "love" and "hope"; they "knew the grace of God in truth"; had with him been made "partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light." Hence, he gave "thanks unto the Father" for them.

Divine providence was among the things for which Paul thanked God. In the midst of a shipwreck, Paul and his companions in voyage gathered to eat bread and meat. God had appeared to him and said, "Be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, . . ." (Acts 27:21-36). Paul was grateful for this and many other divine providences in his life.

Paul was grateful for the assurance of victory in his conflicts with Satan. "Now thanks be unto God," he declared, "which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place" (II Corinthians 2:14). Satan had tried to "get an advantage" of Paul, but he says, "A door was opened unto me of the Lord." It looked like Satan would defeat him, but God always caused him to gain the upper hand.

Paul was a realist when it came to the problem of sin. By sin, death had entered the world. "The sting of death" was sin. But Christ had died for sin; hence Paul had no fear of the future. He was thankful for the final victory he knew would be his at death. "Thanks be to God," he wrote to the Corinthians, "which giveth us the victory" (over the presence and hence power of sin) "through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 15:57). "O death, where is thy sting?" (v. 55) Before he died, he could thank God for the victory he would feel in his soul when death placed its chilly hand upon him.

Underneath these areas of gratefulness was appreciation for the One who made gratitude possible. Second Corinthians 9:15 tells us the source, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" —an obvious reference to Christ. Because of this supreme Gift, Paul found release from his sin—salvation became a reality in his life. Likewise he saw its reality in the lives of others. It was "the Lord" who stood by him in his providences. It was "through Christ" he lost the fear of death. Paul had met and received God's greatest Gift. That relationship resulted in a life of thanksgiving.

I want to join Paul this Thanksgiving season. I too am grateful for the fact of salvation from sin and the privilege of being His minister to others. I am grateful to God that He has saved others; now I have fellowship in the gospel. I thank God that to this day He has caused me to triumph over Satan. I thank God for His daily providences. He has surely watched over me in my journeys oft. I thank God that the "sting of death" has been cleansed. There is no fear of entering His presence. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." Christ is the Source of all my thanksgiving.



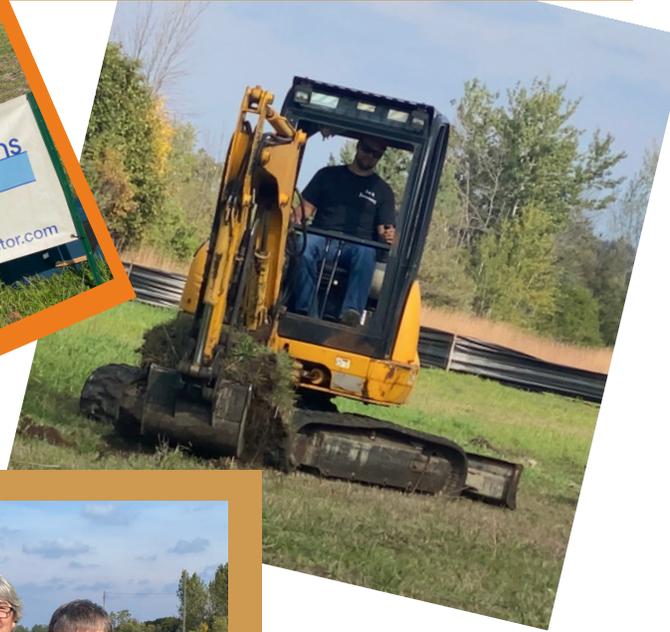
Thanks be to God
for His indescribable gift!
II Corinthians 9:15



GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY- OCTOBER 11, 2021

Cheboygan Church of the Nazarene and
Cheboygan Compassionate Ministries, Inc.

Cheboygan Compassionate Ministries and Church of the Nazarene, under the leadership of Revs. Jon & Wynne Schott, has been in existence since 1993. They serve their community through Lord's Kitchen, which serves free meals, Monday through Friday at noon, year round. They also provide laundry services and hold a back to school giveaway event every year. With their new 6000 square foot, barrier free facility they will be adding showers. They also will be able to host work teams to help individuals within their community with renovation projects.



John Pastor (general contractor, Rev. Dan Gilmore,
Ryan Pastor (general contractor)



Revs. Jon & Wynne Schott

Prayer of Dedication

Father, in the name of Jesus, we declare that this building will be an instrument used by You to love and serve this community. We commit each shovel dug into the earth, each pound of concrete poured, each beam put in place, each truss, each piece of siding, every window and door, every piece of drywall, every fixture, every pipe and wire that will pass through this new place to You and your purposes. We allow You, Heavenly Father, to be in charge of the ministries that will flow from this facility. We entrust You with the people who will walk through the doors, and we proclaim this as Your church, Your building, Your ministry. Father, we ask that just as You have provided for this church and compassionate ministry center since it formed in the early '90's, You would continue to be Our Provider for all the resources we may need in the days ahead. We thank You that when we commit our ways to You, You hear us.

Thank You that through the years You have taught us to trust You and that your timing is all that matters. We ask for Your protection over this project. Keep our workers safe from accidents. May You be in charge each day as the workers do their jobs. May You give each contractor strength and wisdom to give their best each day. Thank You for their willingness to commit to our project. Please give all of the workers a sense of You at work in this place. We give You all the glory, Father, as we begin construction of this building. We trust in You and Your continued provision in the days and months ahead. We praise You and thank You today. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen



WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS TO
REV. JEREMY & CARI GOMEZ
AND CONGRATULATIONS TO
CADILLAC CHERRY GROVE COTN.



Rev. Gomez has been called as lead pastor to Cherry Grove Church of the Nazarene. The Gomez's first Sunday will be November 7, 2021. We are excited for the Cherry Grove congregation as they enter into this new chapter of Kingdom Ministry.

Rev. Gomez has served as staff pastor at Clare COTN for the past 8 years.

Upcoming Events

2021

Dec. 4 - Pastor and Family Christmas Gathering - Delamar Resort, Traverse City

2022

Jan. 29 - District Board of Ministry - Traverse City First COTN

Feb. 17 - District Advisory Board - Traverse City First COTN

March 11-13 - Pastor and Spouse Retreat - Delamar Resort, Traverse City

April 22-23 - District Assembly - Clare COTN

May 21 - NMI Convention - New Horizons COTN, Pickford

2023

June 9-16 - General Assembly - Indianapolis, Indiana

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