

NORTONVILLE NEWS

"The First And Second Coming of Christ"

During the Christmas season, we look back and remember the time when Jesus was born. We remember how Christ was humbly born in a stable over two thousand years ago. To us, it is redemptive history. But let us also remember the people of God who lived before the coming of Christ, and didn't have the privilege of looking back. Instead, they eagerly looked forward. They looked forward to the fulfillment of God's promise in prophecy.

God made a sure promise after Adam and Eve disobeyed Him in the garden of Eden. God said while speaking to Satan the serpent:

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel" (Genesis 3:15).

This verse is the first mention of the good news of Christ. God Himself would put enmity between Satan and Eve. The seed of Satan are unbelievers, and the Seed of the woman is Jesus Christ. Jesus would be the One to bruise Satan's head. Through Christ's death, the power of Satan would be defeated. And though Satan bruised Christ's heel through the crucifixion, Satan was defeated through the cross. Christ won the victory over sin and death and the Devil!

Stay Connected

Sunday

9:30 am Sunday School

10:45 am Sunday morning

6:00 pm Sunday night

6:00 pm Sunday Youth Group

Wednesday

Prayer Meeting at 6:30 pm

Olympians at 6:30 pm

If you have internet and would like to watch our Sunday morning service, search for Nortonville Gospel Chapel on **Facebook** or **YouTube**. You can also see the video and discover more resources on our website:

www.nortonvillechapel.info

No Internet? Simply call **616-846-7309** at 10:45 am on Sunday and you can listen to the whole morning service.

The godly people in the Old Testament times looked ahead to that time when God would keep that promise. They didn't know it would take four thousand years to be fulfilled. They were saved by trusting in the Lord to keep His promise to defeat Satan. They lived by faith, looking ahead for the promise to come in the fullness of time. And they were not disappointed!

Two such people who looked forward to the birth of Christ were Simeon and Anna. We have a wonderful account of them in Luke 2:25-38. They were both in their "golden years" when Christ was born. Though they were physically old, their faith was strong and vibrant. Though they were in their last days on earth, their spiritual strength was alive and well. They prayed to God every day! They trusted God moment by moment! They walked with God! And when Christ was carried into the temple as a baby by Joseph and Mary, Simeon and Anna rejoiced. Their greatest desire on earth had been met! God had fulfilled His promise and the Son of God had been born of Mary, the One who would bruise the serpent's head. And all who trust in Christ as Lord have broken the power of Satan over their lives! Glory to God!

We look back to the birth of Christ with great thanksgiving. And if our faith is in Christ Jesus, we also have something to look forward to. We look forward to being with Christ forever and His return in glory. He now sits at the right hand of God, having all authority in heaven and earth. He has authority over His Church. And one day, in His perfect timing, He will come again and receive all those who love Him unto Himself, so that we will forever be with the Lord.

This Christmas, let us look back with awe and wonder and thanksgiving. But let us also look forward with anticipation to Christ's glorious return. Just as He kept His promise to come the first time, He'll keep His promise and come again in glory. Just as Christ will be faithful to His promise, let us be faithful in our service to Him. He tells us in Revelation 22:12-13:

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."

Special Christmas Program

With kids and adults
December 18th, 10:45 AM

Brief Congregational Meeting

Concerning the licensing of Pastor Josh
December 18th after morning services

Christmas Eve Service

December 24th, 7:00 pm

Christmas Morning Service

December 25th, 10:45 AM

Spotlight: Anna Sytsma

Nortonville Gospel Chapel supports a number of missionaries all around the world. One missionary we support working locally in Michigan is Anna Sytsma, coordinator of Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) in Kent and Ottawa counties.

Anna was the middle child, born between her younger and older brothers. She was raised in Kentwood, before moving to Moline as a teenager. At five years old, after coming home from Sunday School, Anna asked her mother how she could be saved. Her mother was busy preparing for Sunday lunch, but Anna did not want to wait! Her older brother took her through the Romans road, and Anna accepted Christ as her savior.

Anna's parents were actively involved with CEF, and would host a 5 day clubs in their backyard over the summer. When Anna was 15, she decided that she would go through the CEF training like her father had. Anna attended the Christian Youth in Action (CYIA) program, a two week training school teaching students how to engage children with the gospel.

After completing the CYIA program, Anna learned of the Child Ministries Institute, and attended the 12 week program providing more specialized training in children's ministries. She began interning at CEF in 2015, and became the acting coordinator of CEF Kent and Ottawa in 2016.



The Kent and Ottawa chapter of CEF has after school Good News Clubs currently operating in Grand Rapids, Zeeland, Grandville, and Walker. They have been trying to open clubs in Lowell and Jenison as well, but are facing some opposition from the schools in those areas. Anna asks the people of Nortonville to keep praying that they will be able to get those clubs started.

In her free time, Anna likes making handmade crafts. She is especially fond of making cards to give to friends and loved ones. She is also big fan of the Star Wars franchise, and enjoys watching all of the films. Her favorite verse is Isaiah 26:4,

**“Trust ye in the LORD for ever:
for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting
strength.”**

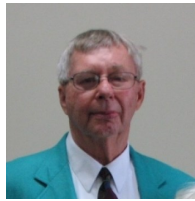


Joan Thompson, resident of Evergreen Village Apartments, wrote the following Christmas poem in 2022.

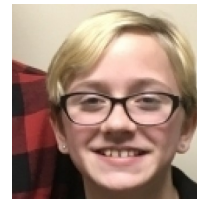
Christmas Bells

Ding dong-ding dong
 Far out over the hills
 Way down in the vales
 Hear the glad Christmas bells
 Ring out-ring out
 God's blessed story re-tells
 And joy in our spirit swells
 Good news-good news
 Hearts in Christ are re-born
 On this frosty Christmas morn
 Rejoice-rejoice
 For our Savior has come
 And He will gently lead us home

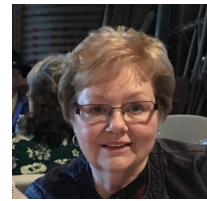
December Birthdays



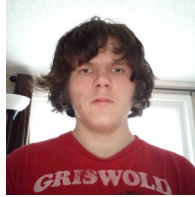
December 2
Reg Stroebe



December 4
Anna Dalman



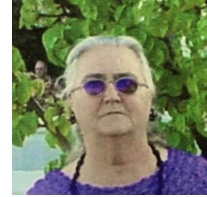
December 9
Nancy Brondyke



December 16
Nathan Vink



December 16
Elaine O'Neill



December 17
Charlene Easey



December 23
Elizabeth Vandenberg



December 25
Josh Puett

December Anniversaries



December 31
Pat and Vince Blake

Upcoming Events

12/11	Choir Practice 4:30 pm	12/17	Choir Practice 11:00 am
12/12	24/7 Prayer Opportunity Noon - 12:00	12/18	Christmas Program 10:45 am
12/13	Board Meeting 5:30 pm		Brief Congregational Meeting
	No Small Groups	12/24	Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm
12/14	Ladies Christmas Luncheon 11:30 am	12/25	Worship Service 10:45 am
	Olympians Caroling 6:30 pm		No evening service
12/15	No Ladies Bible Study		