

NORTONVILLE NEWS

"The War We Are In"

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might" (Ephesians 6:10).

On February 24, 2022, the Russian army invaded the country of Ukraine. And though this military conflict is an appropriate concern, let us remember that there is an even more serious war that is being personally waged against God's people. I am referring to the spiritual battle that all Christians face.

Each believer is in a spiritual war against Satan and his evil angels. In Ephesians 6:12 these demonic powers under the control of Satan are called "principalities", "powers", "rulers of the darkness of this age", and "spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." Certainly, this is not a battle against flesh and blood, but with spiritual forces that are wicked and powerful.

According to Holy Scripture, every member of the body of Christ is called to stand up against this barrage of evil. Every Christian is commanded by God to, "**Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.**" The battle against evil is so beyond our natural capabilities that the only way to make a stand against the devil is to have the supernatural power of God at work in our lives. The Lord God lives within every Christian by the presence of the Holy Spirit. We are in the Lord. Yet, we are told to be "strong in the Lord."

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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

Everyday

Please join us in prayer for the requests and the praises on the **Prayer Sheet**, included as the last page of this newsletter.

Thank you!

There is a lot of difference between being "in the Lord" and being "strong in the Lord". The person who is strong in the Lord is actively relying on the strength of God in his or her daily life. The believer who is strong in the Lord makes a holy stand for the Lord. A lightweight faith won't cut it because the enemy against us is evil and formidable. We need nothing less than the power of God!

When the Russian army attacked Ukraine, they had a strategy. They wanted to conquer specific areas of Ukraine to establish a presence in that country. That is what the devil and his forces want to do to us. Satan has a scheme to harm God's perfect will for His people, to cause strife in our families, and to ruin our testimonies. What are we to do?

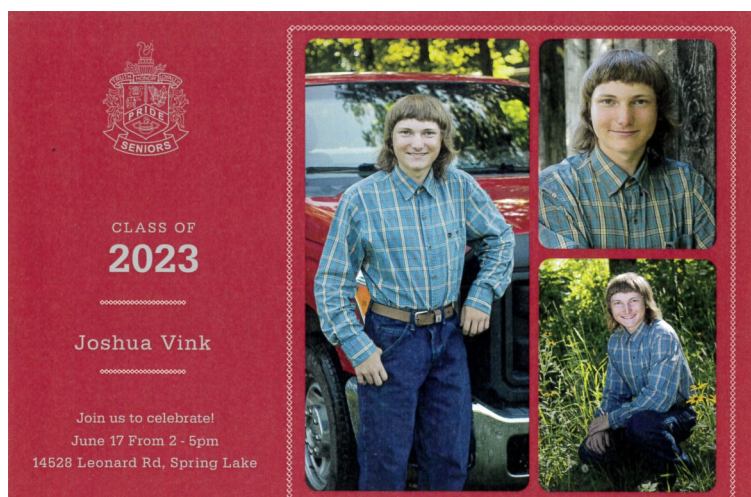
The Word of God says to us, **"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil"** (Ephesians 6:11). In order to make a stand against our strong enemy we need every part of the spiritual armor: the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, a pair of gospel-prepared shoes, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit.

Brothers and sisters, are you strong in the Lord? Are you putting on God's armor every day? On Sunday nights we are learning about this armor that God gives to us. You alone are responsible to dress yourself with the armor of God.

Let us not be ignorant about the devil's devices. The serpent has been opposing God's work in people since he slithered into the garden of Eden. Let's make a holy stand by the power of the living God.



VBS
June 19 - 22
Nortonville Gospel Chapel
6:00 - 8:30 pm



CLASS OF
2023
Joshua Vink
Join us to celebrate!
June 17 From 2 - 5pm
14528 Leonard Rd, Spring Lake

Spotlight: Vince and Pat Blake



One of the couples at Nortonville who have been active in volunteering and serving is the Blake's. Pat was raised in a loving, Catholic family, and was raised to believe in God and to follow His commandments. However, she never learned the Bible, and didn't truly know the Lord. She was born with a large birthmark over her face and neck, and people were often mean to her because of it. She would often feel alone, and that's when she realized that she needed someone in her life who would always be with her. At age 13, Pat gave herself to God.

Later, God sent a doctor who was able to treat her birthmark, and after several years and several surgeries, they were able to remove it. "Now, people look at me, and they really see me. It taught me that there's more to people than just their outside."

Vince was raised in a protestant family, but they didn't regularly attend church, and Vince didn't find the Lord at that time. Most of his early life was focused on his work. His father owned a men's clothing store, and after taking over for him, Vince ran the store for another 25 years.

Vince and Pat first met while they were both working in the shopping center industry. They had both been in previous marriages that ended in divorce, and understanding each other's struggles, they became friends. Then, their companies merged. Vince was sent to Florida, and Pat left for Maryland. Several years later, they found each other again, and in 2002, they were married, and moved back to the Spring Lake area. "God found us, and He put us together."

After getting married, they began searching for a church. They tried several different church's, including the catholic church. The Blakes were friends with Jim and Linda Stellema, and in 2018, they told them of a country church called Nortonville Gospel Chapel, and invited them to the Christmas Eve service. Vince had never heard the things taught in that service before, and it was after then that Vince first accepted Christ as His savior.

Since then, the Blakes have been regular attenders at Nortonville, and have been regular servants for the Lord. "Nortonville has been so welcoming to us, it's been great for us as a couple. It's easy to follow and serve the Lord when you're with others who love and serve the Lord!"

June Birthdays



June 2
David Ambrose



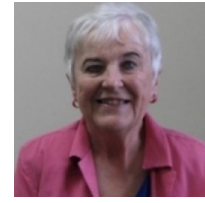
June 4
Bonnie Schultz



June 6
Luke Ambrose



June 6
Sue Brooks



June 10
Susan Dews



June 10
Marcia Garrett



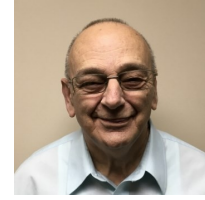
June 14
Cheryl Young



June 16
Dave MacKenzie



June 27
Linda Vink



June 29
Maynard Garner

June Anniversaries



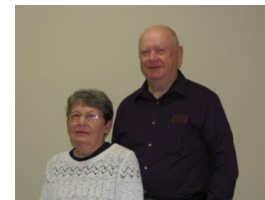
June 4
Ken and Janice Hoexum



June 14
Joe and Elaine O'Neill



June 16
Jim and Dee Dufford



June 18
Dick and Ann Vink



June 23
Bob and Mary VanDyke



June 23
Randy and Barbara Jobin

Calendar

- 6/14 Ladies Mission Circle meeting at Russ', 11:30 am.
Robbinswood Church Service, 1:30 pm.
- 6/17 Josh Vink Open House, 2:00 - 5:00 pm.
- 6/18 Fathers Day
- 6/19-22 Vacation Bible School, 6:00 - 8:30 pm.
- 6/28 Robbinswood Church Service, 1:30 pm.