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CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

EMPTY LIFE

May 6, 7, and 10, 2017

When we're looking for meaning and purpose in life, the empty tomb shows us how to work for things that really last.

BELLS AND WELCOME

M In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Bap - tized in - to your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther,
I claim a place, though weak and low - ly, A - mong your
Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,
saints, your cho - sen host, Bur - ied with Christ and dead to
sin. Your Spir - it now shall live with - in.

M I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

C **Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.** (*John 3:5,6*)

M Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time our mothers conceived us. (*Psalm 51:5*)

C **But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.** (*1 Corinthians 6:11*)

My lov - ing Fa - ther, there you took me To be hence -
 My faith - ful Sav - ior, there you let me The fruit of
 forth your child and heir.
 all your sor - rows share. O Ho - ly Spir - it, com - fort
 me When threat - 'ning clouds a - round I see.

M As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.
 C **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior, Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

My faith - ful God, you fail me nev - er; Your pro - mise
 Oh, cast me not a - way for - ev - er If words and
 sure - ly will en - dure.
 deeds be - come im - pure. Have mer - cy when I come de -
 filed; For - give, lift up, re - store your child.

M Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the Word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. (*Ephesians 5:25-27*) Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

All that I am and love most dear - ly— Re - ceive it
 Let me con - fess my faith sin - cere - ly, And help me

all, O Lord, from me.
 your own child to be! Let noth - ing that I am or
 own Serve an - y will but yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.
 O Lord, favorably receive the prayers of your Church, that being instructed by the teaching of the blessed apostles, we may always make a pure confession of your saving truth; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

FIRST LESSON

Hebrews 13:20-21, Bible page 1215
May the God of peace equip you with everything you need to live out his purpose in your life.

ANTHEM (*Saturday*)

Thy Word, Saved By One

PSALM OF THE DAY (*Sunday and Wednesday*)

Psalms 23, Hymnal page 72
Surely God's goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

GOSPEL

John 10:1-10, Bible page 1075
Jesus' sheep follow him because they know his voice.

HYMN OF THE DAY 464

Jesus Christ, My Pride and Glory

SERMON

Philippians 3; selected verses, Bible page 1180
Pastor Jeffrey Bonack

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (*Saturday*)
(*Sunday*)

How Great Thou Art, *Woodwinds*
"Jesus Loves..." Medley, *Brass Ensemble*
arr. by Al Schumacher

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M** O Lord God, we thank you for the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, your Son, and for the promised graces we have received through him. We thank you that through his perfect life and his obedience to death on the cross we have been granted cleansing and pardon for all our sins.
- C** **We thank you that in his resurrection we have the promise of life everlasting, and that in his ascension to the right hand of your majesty, we have the assurance that he continually intercedes for us.**
- M** Lord God, heavenly Father, in Holy Baptism you began your good work in those who are being confirmed this weekend. You have also blessed their training and instruction in your Word, so that now they look forward to their confirmation and to receiving your Holy Communion.
- C** **Pour out your Holy Spirit on their hearts and minds, as they continue to grow in your Word, so that they may always fear, love, and trust in you above all things, confess their faith joyfully and boldly, and with their lips and their lives glorify you.**

M Help us all to believe and trust in you, to love and serve you, all the days of our lives. Rebuke our selfishness and subdue our self-indulgence.

C **Deepen our sympathies, strengthen our hope, and confirm us in our faith.**

M Dwell in our homes, O Lord, and let the trust of our families be centered in you alone, so that no difficulty, trial, or adversity rob us of the conviction that you are our helper in every time of need.

C **Relieve the afflictions of the weary and the sick, and dry the tears of the troubled and sorrowful. Lead them to look to you as the unfailing spring of healing and hope.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful, even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION *(Sunday 9:15 am)*

CLOSING HYMN *(on screens)*

In Christ Alone
(Saturday) Saved By One sings verse 3.

CLOSING PRAYER

M O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE (*Saturday*) **Trumpet Tune**, *Woodwinds*
(*Sunday*) **Onward, Christian Soldiers**, *Brass Ensemble*
arr. by Al Schumacher

PRESIDING MINISTER (*Sunday*) *Pastor David Kuehl*

ORGANIST *Nicole Greanya*

SAVED BY ONE *Kathi Boziel, Cheryl Christianson, and Maria Schultz*



Our vision is that by every possible means we bring every person in our area of influence closer to Christ through regular worship, small groups, and serving together.

Confirmation Class of 2017

9:15 am

*Kyle Blomdahl
Rose Bonack
Elizabeth Eilertson
Evan Eirschele
Isabella Garofani
Alex Gawlitta
Emma Johnson
Isabelle Kennedy
Christopher King
Gwendolyn Kolesari
Samuel Lanham
Caden Lawonn
Aaron Longhenry
Alexis Manzara
David Rynders
Matthew Scholbe
Allison Veley*



10:45 am

*Kyle Aggen
Luke Bara
Jacob Becker
Jaiden Blundon
Molly Mars
Audrey Mazziotti
Nathan Miller
Sydney Mueller
Arie Proite
Alexis Randolph
Caleb Schneider
Elijah Shevey
Alaina Tomczak
Melissa Tonn
Kennedy Vahowick
Isabella Veit
Alexis Weber
Walker Witzlsteiner*

Once again this year the confirmands selected their own confirmation verse and were asked what this verse meant to them. This gave them the opportunity to express their faith. This, together with a lengthy written review, took the place of the traditional public examination. What follows is each confirmand's personal information, confirmation verse, and his/her profession of faith. We thank our gracious God for the life-giving and life-sustaining gift of his Word, and we pray that he would send his Holy Spirit to keep these young people faithful, even to the point of death, that they might receive the crown of life. God willing, the confirmands will receive the Lord's Supper for the first time with their families the weekend of May 14.

Kyle John Aggen Parents: Neil and Jamie Aggen Sponsors: James Brady and Kathleen Duerst **I Peter 2:9: But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.**

I have chosen my confirmation verse because this passage says a lot to me. It says, "You are a chosen people...God's special possession." This means I am one of God's special possessions. He chose me, of all people, a wretch and a sinner, and he loves me so much that he sent his Son to die for me. I know that I cannot, CANNOT, even start to thank him for "calling me out of the darkness into his wonderful light." He sent his Son basically to grab Satan's snout, shove it in the muck and mire and the mud of the main street of hell, and say, "Nope he's mine, so back off." I believe in God because I am his forever and will be with him in his glorious light of heaven, praising him forever and ever. Now that sounds like an awesome future, one that I and all of my classmates will enjoy in the future.

Luke Bo Bara Parent: Timothy Bara Sponsor: Kathy Brodel **I Samuel 12:24: Be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.**

I have chosen this verse because it shows me how to live my life to glorify my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. God gave up his Son on the cross to pay for my sins. So, whenever I am studying the Scriptures or even sharing God's message and proclaiming his salvation to others, I can serve him faithfully and lovingly. Although at times the devil may tempt me to question God for why hardships or trials come into my life, I can lean on God and trust and serve him. Since Jesus not only died on Mount Calvary, but also rose for me to forgive my sins, I can trust and be certain that Jesus will help me with any issue in my life, whether it's just a little scratch, or even a loss of a loved one. God tells me I don't have to fear. For if I listen to God faithfully and trust what he tells me in the Scriptures, I can be confident that God will provide me with everything I need.

Jacob Avery Becker Parents: Kenneth and Julie Becker Sponsors: Sue Brehm and Ed Anderson **Isaiah 41:8-10a: But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, "You are my servant"; I have chosen you and have not rejected you. So do not fear, for I am with you.**

This verse means a lot to me for several reasons. One reason is because it has my name in it. Another is that this verse reminds me of how I was adopted from Russia because it says God picked me from the far ends of the earth. I feel it is about me and I can relate to this particular verse more than any other ones I read. I know that Jesus has plans for me and he does everything for a certain reason, and I see in this verse that remains true. When it says, "So do not fear, for I am with you," I can read that and think to myself that, no matter what, Jesus is always going to be there and I can always go to him for everything.

Kyle Wade Blomdahl Parents: Kirk Blomdahl and Corinne Kraatz Sponsors: Brian Henneberry and Cathleen Hockers **John 3:16: For God so loved the world that he gave his and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

I have chosen this as my Bible verse because I believe that what is said in this passage is true. God gave up his Son to die for us on the cross. That means a lot to me because it was a hard sacrifice for God to give up his Son, whom he loves, for people who do not deserve it. We do not deserve this because we sin every day and fail to do what is good. God decided to give up his Son on the cross for us, after which he was buried, descended into hell, and rose again. He did this so we believe in him as our Savior. God has also said that we will not perish as long as we believe in him, again because he loves us. I believe when he says this, he means we will not go to hell and that we will have eternal life in heaven. This passage means a lot to me because God did not have to do this for us. God chose to do all of this so we can spend eternal life in heaven with him.

Jaiden Dawn Nicole Blundon Parents: Step-father Todd Eichman and Kim Blundon-Eichman Sponsors: Dawn Bontempo and Brandon Kerwin **Philippians 4:6-7: Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.**

I have chosen this as my confirmation verse because it brings a sort of comfort over me and helps me remember that God will help me out of every situation, as long as I pray and believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This passage also helps me remember that, as long as I stay in the faith with Jesus Christ, he will guard and protect my heart, mind, and soul. When I read this passage, it helps me pray, because sometimes it seems weird to pray and not get an answer right away. This verse helps me remember that when I pray, ask a question, or thank God, he may wait with his response for my good. This passage makes me calm because I remember that I do not have to worry about anything, as long as I pray and believe what the Bible tells me. Through his Word God will protect me and keep me in the one true faith.

Rose Kaitlyn Bonack Parents: Jeffrey and Laura Bonack **Psalms 5:3: In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.**

I chose this particular passage because sometimes in my life it may feel as though God doesn't hear me and I am speaking to something that doesn't exist. It's at times like these that I need to look to this passage to remind me to continue looking to God whenever I need something or want his help. This passage is also a reminder that I can wait expectantly for his answer because, even if it might not be right away or the answer may not be what I preferred, he does answer and I think that this truth will be very important for me to know as I continue down the road. I also need to understand that if he does say no, he has a reason for it and it's part of his plan. To know the almighty and powerful God is watching over me and understands all of my burdens is so comforting to know. As I journey through life, I can be positive I am not alone and that I have a God who loves me so much that he sent his only Son to fix the mess I made. I hope that as my life progresses, I will be able to share this gift with as many people as possible, so they may be able to experience the amazing blessing of eternal life. As I grow and go through life, I pray that God will assist me in staying in the faith, whatever trials I may face, and that I will be able to turn to him whenever I need to, knowing he will always hear me.

Elizabeth Ann Eilertson Parents: Curtis and Jennifer Eilertson Sponsors: Derek and Heidi Eilertson and Kristin McGraw **Philippians 1:21: For me, to live is Christ, to die is gain.**

I have chosen this verse as my confirmation verse because it reminds me of how I can share God's saving Word while I'm on this earth. Living for Jesus gives me a sense of purpose in life. I can live in heaven eternally with Jesus after I die. Dying is such a great gain, because once I die, I will go to heaven and live there eternally with Jesus. My verse also reminds me of one of my favorite songs from a Bible camp I have gone to in the summer that taught me a lot about the Bible and Christ's sacrifice and love.

Evan Daniel Eirschele Parents: Erich and Amy Eirschele Sponsors: Lisa Eirschele and Jon Peterson
Romans 6:23: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I have chosen this as my confirmation verse for three reasons. One reason is that I want to be constantly reminded that our life before Jesus came to this earth, died on the cross, and rose from the dead was grim because we were dead in our sins and needed a Savior. But then he did die and rise and gave us the gift of eternal life. My second reason is that this verse doesn't leave out the fact of the punishment we would face when we died. I don't want only to think about the gift of eternal life, I want also to think of what would have happened if God didn't send his Son to save us from eternal suffering and death. This reminds me to be thankful to God for all eternity. My third reason is that this verse shows how much God loves us. God loves us so much that he sent his one and only Son to live a perfect life and suffer in hell itself.

Isabella Faith Garofani Parents: John and Shellby Garofani Sponsors: Brian and Carrie Brunelli **Psalms 25:4-5: Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.**

I have chosen this verse as my confirmation verse because it gives me assurance that God will provide and help me all day long. I have hope in God all day long because, if any issue arises, my faith will be found in him to help me find a solution around the issue. For example, whenever I have an important test coming up in school, I put strong hope in God to get me through the test and to do well on it. Another reason why I have chosen this Bible verse is the fact that God guides me in the truth and teaches me to become a better person. I've learned from day to day that when I pray to God, he answers me, which then guides me in his true Word. I've also learned that, when I pray to God about fights I've gotten into with friends or family, he answers me by teaching me to become a better person. And I can say I have become a better person by listening to God and putting hope in him. Just by reading this Bible passage, it gives me comfort and support that God is my true Savior who watches over me and protects me.

Alexander Joseph Gawlitta Parents: Michael and Tammy Gawlitta Sponsor: Timothy Gorecki **Psalms 119:105: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.**

I have chosen this as my confirmation verse because it inspires me. When it says a light on my path, it means that God is showing me the way, and he will always show me the way. It makes me feel that God is with me in a dark time and in the light and, no matter what, he will always be with me. It also makes me feel that God will help me when I need him in the darkest of times, and he will forgive me for my sins. This verse inspires me to go through life with a smile on my face and to be gentle and caring towards others. I hope this inspires you to feel the same as I do, and I hope you can help others and remember this verse in the darkest of times.

Emma Grace Johnson Parents: Michael and Sarah Johnson Sponsors: Richard and Peggy Johnson
Jeremiah 29:11: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

I chose this as my confirmation verse because it's really comforting to me to know that God always has a plan, no matter where life takes me. During hardships, it may be difficult to remember that God always has a plan. We like to think that God doesn't know what is best for us and that we know what's best. But, really, we don't. His plan is what is best for us, even if we don't understand why. Even though we don't know what God has in store for us, we must trust that he knows all things. I must always remember to love and trust in God above all things. God will work things out for the good of those who love him!

Isabelle Loretta Kennedy Parents: Jason and Lindsay Kennedy Sponsors: Mason Hoffman and Jennifer Kennedy
John 16:33: In this world you will have trouble, but take heart! I have overcome the world.

I chose this verse because it is very comforting to know that I have a God who will be there for me through all the tough times I will face. It is also reassuring to know that throughout my life, when I run into unbelievers or people that persecute me for my faith and trust in Jesus, I always have a God to turn to who has overcome the whole world and all the evil within it. Because of his sacrifice, I will one day live with him forever in perfect harmony, and will not have to deal with the problems and struggles of life on earth. I pray that after I am confirmed, and continue toward the future, I will always keep this passage in my heart, and that God will use it to strengthen my faith and keep me close to him forever.

Christopher Jon King, Jr. Parents: Christopher and Sussy King Sponsors: Sumiko Hattori and Matthew and Elizabeth King
Psalms 23:4: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

I have chosen this for my confirmation verse because my mom read it to me when I was really little, and I thought it was really comforting. So it has always really stuck with me. It's also my favorite Bible passage. In fact, I like all of Psalm 23, but verse four has always been the part I remember and liked reading and hearing the most. It starts by saying, “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.” At one point or another, everyone goes through really tough times in their life. For instance, it was not easy when I had to move and adjust to a new school and way of doing things. I was really nervous at first, but it all worked out. The rest of the passage says, “For you are with me; your rod and staff, they comfort me.” God has complete control and will protect us. I think that this is a great, comforting passage for anyone to hear. I find it really good to hear when I'm in doubt or worried. Christians who fear death or anything will know that their God loves them and will protect them.

Gwendolyn Eileen Kolesari Parents: Bryon and Crystal Kolesari Sponsors: Darrel and Tracy Gamsky
Ephesians 2:8-9: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast.

I have chosen this as my confirmation verse because so many think that good works save you, but that is not the case. God says it is not because of ourselves that we can get into heaven but through Jesus. Faith in our Savior, Jesus Christ, is the only way into his heavenly kingdom. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't do good works. God made it this way because otherwise people would brag that they did so many good works to get into heaven. Instead, God made it this way so we don't have to worry about doing so many good works in order to get to heaven. God loves us so much that he put his only Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross to pay for all the sins of the world so we wouldn't be in hell for eternity. If God said that in order to get to heaven you have to obey all Ten Commandments, none of us would be saved; we would all be in hell.

Samuel John Lanham Parents: John and Ruth Lanham Sponsors: Paul and Shirley Finke and Stacey Schottey
2 Samuel 22:31: As for God, his way is perfect: The LORD'S Word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him.

I have chosen this verse as my confirmation verse because, first of all, it's a Bible verse using my name. Secondly, when I think of the passage, I think of God's Word and that no matter what he says it is flawless. When I think of flawless, his Word has no imperfections to it. Also, he will always keep his Word truthfully and will always do everything in his power to protect me and shield me from all the powers of the devil. When I die, because I have taken refuge in him, I will be safe from all the sins of the world and will be safe with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit from the power of the devil, who is trying to take me for his own to be with him in hell. Gladly and thankfully, I know I will be in heaven with them someday.

Caden Deane Lawonn Parents: Masten and Angel Lawonn Sponsors: Patrica Kurer and Timothy Thomka
Revelation 2:10: Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

The reason I picked this verse is because, when I first heard it at my great grandma Squire's celebration of life, it touched my heart. Not only was it her confirmation passage, but I felt it is the way we should all live our lives. The Lord our Savior has done so much for me and my family in good times and in bad that this shows us that being faithful Christians will lead us to eternal life in heaven. I feel using this passage as my guide for now and in my future will lead me to happiness with the Lord. The promise that I have made to the Lord is to be a faithful Christian and to show it in my daily life.

Aaron Evan Longhenry Parents: Lance and Deborah Longhenry Sponsors: John and Theresa Chudy
Isaiah 41:10: So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

I chose this to be my confirmation verse because about six months ago I had a terrible injury to my leg. I struggled with it and wondered what would happen in the future as a result. One thing that I have learned is that I should always fear God in the way the Bible urges me, but, also, that I should not fear what lies ahead. The part of my verse where it says, "I will strengthen you and help you," is so good to know when I remember what I've been through and what will happen when I'm older. To know that God always loves me and is there to help me is something I will never forget.

Alexis Faith Manzara Parents: Vince and Cindy Manzara **Psalm 119:105: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light on my path.**

I have chosen this passage because, when I think of Jesus Christ, I think of all the wonderful works he has done for me and how he guides me safely each and every day. These words display my faith beautifully and give me the hope I need as I grow older, while I continue to strengthen my faith in Jesus and his Word. I know obstacles will create bumps in my path. That's why I need Jesus' light to shine on me and to show me the correct and safe way through life. I have also loved this verse because it is a verse I have known since I was in kindergarten. It has always stuck with me and played a big role in my life as a comfort in times of need.

Molly Elizabeth Mars Parents: Sean and Brandi Mars Sponsor: Jennifer York **Deuteronomy 31:6: Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never forsake you.**

I have chosen this as my confirmation verse because it has always had a special place in my heart. I believe that this is a verse that every Christian should keep in their mind because, when they come to hardships in life, this is a very comforting verse to read and remember. It says to not be afraid or terrified because of them, and I believe that when it says, "them," it really means the hard times that we have in life and that we should always stay strong and not be afraid. In the verse it also says, "The LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." This part of the verse, I believe, is the most important part of the whole thing, because it is just so comforting to know that you will never be alone and that God will always be there helping you through your troubles in life. This verse will be something that I will always remember and use for myself or others in time of need.

Audrey Ann Mazziotti Parents: Christian and Suzanne Mazziotti Sponsors: Michelle Grzanna Borden and Christine Ann Grzanna Koszalka **Romans 8:28: And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.**

I have chosen this as my confirmation verse because it appealed to me as soon as I read it. The verse says a lot in just a few words. God works everything for the good of people who love him. It's a relief to know that there will always be good in my life no matter what happens. If I have God in my life, I should never be sad or upset. He chose me to be his child,, so now I have eternal life in heaven; that is the greatest blessing I could ever have. I am blessed with this gift from God: to be loved and saved as a child of God. I can't explain the gratitude in words that would be understood. The love that God gives us is more than just love; it's a blessing. To be loved by God and to love God is an extraordinary thing that no one should take for granted.

Nathan Daniel Miller Parents: Daniel and Michelle Miller Sponsors: Jenna Hamon, Bruce Olszewski, and Barb Gawlik **Jeremiah 29:11: “For I know the plans for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”**

I have chosen this as my confirmation verse because, even in the uncertain and tough times of life, God will never hurt or harm me. Instead, he promises to prosper me and to give me hope and a future. That brings me great comfort as an eighth grader from a small school, that I have gone to for eleven years, to next year being a freshman at a big high school. Even after high school and on to college, God willing, and the rest of my life, I know that my almighty and gracious God will be there with me every step of the way. God has loved and cared for me since my birth - even choosing me since the beginning of time - and he always has my best interests planned out for me in my life. So what do I have to fear as a believer in Christ about my future if God already has it perfectly planned out for me?

Sydney Lynn Mueller Parents: David and Tina Mueller Sponsors: Tanya Makinen and Timothy Mueller **Jeremiah 29:11: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and future.”**

I have chosen this as my confirmation verse because God reassures me that he does have a plan for me and that he loves me. I know this because in this verse God tells me that he will never forsake me. He also says he will never give me anything that I can't handle with his help, and that he will always keep me out of harm's way and will never do anything that wouldn't benefit me. By choosing this as my confirmation verse, I am showing my faith in God when he says that he will give me a hope and future. I also believe God will guide me down the right path, and he will lead me to make the best decisions and continue to inspire me for the rest of my life. This passage also states that he will take care of me and make me prosper in more than one way. No matter what, he will surely take care of me as his own. This leads me to believe that he will continue to help me grow and remain in the faith, so that I may enjoy the all the promises of faith and spend life everlasting with him in heaven.

Arie Josephine Proite Parents: Katie Orvis and Marc Proite Sponsors: Gerald Orvis and Maggie Trabeau **1 John 4:19: We love because he first loved us.**

I chose my passage because the whole reason that God sent his Son, Jesus, to save us from sin is because he loved and still loves us-every single one of us; and we love him because, from his love, he saved us from eternal death. That should mean something to us. Even though this passage is short, it has so many meanings and we need to think about how God, through his grace, loves us so much that he sent his only Son to die on the cross to save us, and we should be so very grateful that he loves us that we should definitely love our gracious, loving, caring God back. Just like a parent teaches a child by example, that's how God teaches us to love. I love God because of what he did for all of us through his love, and I hope that you do, too.

Alexis Lynn Randolph Parents: James and Kellie Randolph Sponsors: Lisa Eberhardy and Christopher Geboy **Psalm 73:24: You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.**

I have chosen this as my confirmation verse because it explains to me how God's Holy Spirit leads me through his Word as I live here on earth. It is telling me that, when my body and soul separate, I will have eternal life and be taken into glory. God watches and continues to guide me carefully as I live on earth, and he sends his angels down from heaven to help me when I desperately need direction, even though I do not deserve it because of my sin. He guides me by leading me on the right path, to worship him, and to pray to him. When my time comes, or on Judgment Day, the sinners who repent and believe in God's Son will go to heaven and receive eternal life. Unrepentant sinners who don't believe will suffer and burn in hell. This shows that the confirmation verse that I have chosen means a lot to my faith.

David Daniel Rynders Parents: Daniel and Kristi Rynders Sponsors: Steve and Julie Kish and Casey Rynders **Isaiah 40:8: The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of the LORD endures forever.**

I chose this passage because in this world so many people don't believe in God. Those people are the people who think looks and beauty are everything. They think that their possessions come first. I believe that you should put family before possessions. But, above all things, you should always put God first. You should always love your family but, with faith, always put God in the number one spot in your life.

Caleb Terrance Schneider Parents: Jason and Angela Schneider Sponsors: Terri Lorbetske and Craig Tillman **Colossians 3:16-17: Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

The Bible is full of many different amazing verses that I could have chosen to use as my confirmation verse. But there was one verse that really stuck out when I was looking through Colossians, namely, chapter 3, verses 16 and 17. These verses really stuck out because they talk about letting God's Word grow and live in me richly, as I teach and am taught God's Word. It also goes on to talk about having gratitude in my heart toward God and toward others which, as a Christian, I feel because I have God in my heart. Then it goes on to say, "Whatever you do, whether in word or in deed, do it all in the name of the Lord." This is a big part of the verse for me because it tells me how I, as a Christian, should do everything in the name of the Lord so I can glorify God and bring others to faith. So far these verses give an amazing summary of what we, as Christians believe and try to do. But these verses go on to say, "Giving thanks to God the Father through him." To me this is the best way to end my verses: by giving thanks to God for all the blessings that he has graciously given me.

Matthew Jeffrey Scholbe Parents: Jeffrey and Michelle Scholbe Sponsors: Stefanie Sprester and Steve Woldanski **John 15:5: I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.**

I chose this passage because it represents a lot of what I believe in as a Christian. By saying he is the vine and we are the branches, Jesus is saying that as long as we remain in him spiritually and remain in the holy Christian church, we will have eternal life in heaven with him, and he will provide us with necessities for life. But if we do not remain in him, we can do nothing, meaning we are spiritually dead. This means a lot also because Jesus is giving us a call to action: to learn from the Bible what he did for us on the cross. This passage helps me in my daily life because it is what I want to do to get to eternal life in heaven and keeps me focused on the ways of the gospel and looking at what Jesus did for me and for all believers. This passage also shows that I, as a Christian, have to stay connected to Christ and his Word and hear it as much as possible. Lastly, this passage means a lot to me because Jesus calls me to be a disciple (producing fruit or good deeds) and spread the Word of God and the gospel.

Elijah James Shevey Parents: Wayne and Julie Shevey Sponsors: Mark and Jodi Sievert **Colossians 3:23-24: Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.**

I have chosen this as my confirmation verse because of the inspiring truths it teaches me, and it tells me how I should live my life. The verse tells me to do everything for God and work at it with everything I have, knowing it is all for the glory of God—not other people but him who made me. This verse makes me want to do those things, whether in sports or in school, and to do anything I can in using the talents that he gave me. The next part talks about the promise of salvation in heaven. I can always be confident that I will go there when I die. It is an inheritance that I will receive from the Lord as a reward, because Jesus suffered, died on the cross, and rose to take away my sin, and, therefore, I have the gift of heaven. It closes by telling me, “It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” I will never forget that.

Alaina Mae Tomczak Parents: Michael and Lisa Tomczak Sponsors: Jim and Cheryl Wirtala **Joshua 1:9: Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.**

I have chosen this verse to be my confirmation verse because I must be strong in my faith, even when faced with hardships due to my friends or others not following Jesus’ words and commandments. I must be strong and take a stand and set an example of what Jesus would want me to do. This will affect all aspects of my life as I get older. Young people will be tempted to do ungodly activities, and there will come times when I have to take a stand and say to my peers, “Don’t do that,” or “That’s a bad idea.” This will cause problems with my friends that are not Christians, and they will be angry with me. I have to be strong and not give up on them, even when times are at their worst. Jesus has given me the strength to be strong in mind and spirit and be to brave and courageous to try again because he forgives our sins.

Melissa Faith Tonn Parents: Brian and Sarah Tonn Sponsors: Kathi and Tim Kwiatkowski and Sarah Wright **Joshua 1:9: Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.**

I have chosen this as my confirmation verse because it encourages me to stay positive. Through my life, I will encounter struggles. I know that I can always think back to this verse, and it will give me the strength I will need to keep going. At times, I feel like I am walking through life alone, but God promises he will be near me. Therefore, there is no need to worry or be afraid. I am now moving on to the next chapter of my life, and temptations are sure to come my way. I will need God's help to stay true to his will. I am confident that, through rough times and through great times, God will always be by my side. With that wonderful, encouraging statement, I can go into the rest of my life feeling courageous! I am excited to see what will happen next. Since God is with me, anything is possible!

Kennedy Jean Vahovick Parents: Michael and Sally Vahovick Sponsors: Michael and Rebecca Benedict **Philippians 4:13: I can do all this through him who gives me strength.**

I did not choose this passage because it is common or popular, but because it is true. God gives everyone abilities that make them who they are. He can also take away abilities. This is where strength comes in. Everyone has to use strength to do something. That's because not a single human can do everything perfectly (except Jesus) because of the fall into sin. Since then God has given us the ability to believe in him, and many don't. It can be hard to believe in God, because of all the bad things in the world. To make sure that people believe that Jesus came and forgave their sins, the Holy Spirit needs to give strength to everyone. In the end humans need strength to believe God created the world and everything in it, that we made it fall into sin, and that Jesus came, taught, suffered, died, and was raised for the world's redemption. The Holy Spirit now has to move people to believe it and receive their eternal life in heaven. It takes help by God's power to complete this task. It is true that I can do all this through him who gives me strength, even if it seems impossible.

Isabella Rose Veit Parents: Sam and Amy Veit Sponsors: David (deceased) and Sharon Klaus and Gene (deceased) and Sandy Veit **John 3:16: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

I have chosen this as my confirmation verse because God loved his creation of sinful people and, even though we don't deserve to be saved, God loves us much more than how many times we sin. God sent his holy-sinless-perfect Son to die on the cross to pay for our sin, wash our sins away, and make us clean with his holy-perfect Son's blood.

I have faith in the power of my God. I know that any problems I have will one day be gone. Even when people are not nice to me, in my heart I will forgive them and try to show kindness like God's holy-perfect Son. I also know that any wrongdoings against my friends or family will vanish someday. I'm glad to know that by believing and continually asking for forgiveness, I will be in heaven. One day I will be with all the other believers in paradise with Jesus.

Allison Emily Veley Parents: Christopher and Lisa Veley Sponsors: Amy Sievert and Michael Sievert
Psalm 119:73: Your hands made me and formed me; give me the understanding to learn your commands.

I have chosen this as my confirmation verse because it helps remind me of what a sinful human being I am and that I need God's help to follow his commands. It takes me all the way back to the beginning of the world when God made Adam and Eve in his perfection. Unfortunately, Adam and Eve sinned, and now everyone else is sinful. God, however, had the Bible written so that all his people could know his commands and follow them. Since we are all sinful, we can't follow them perfectly, so God sent his Son into the world to die for all people, so that we all someday may be in heaven with him. The Bible helps me learn God's commands, and when I pray to God for his help, I know that I can't do it perfectly because I'm a sinner but, since Jesus died for mine and all the world's sins I know he can help me accomplish anything.

Alexis Hanna Weber Parents: Darren and Kimberly Weber Sponsors: Michael Imberger and Jill Weber
Joshua 1:9: Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

I have chosen this as my confirmation verse because, as I go through life, I will face many hard times and may feel as though no one else understands how I feel and that I am alone. Having this verse as a guide throughout life will help me to strengthen my trust in God and will help me remember that I always have someone else along the way with me, helping to fight my battles. Some people will face more hard times than others but, even then, we still need to remember that God is always with us and will always be there wherever we go. Even though there may not be hard times that I face all the time, I will always remember that God is there with me every step of the way and all of the good things in life that happen are all because of him.

Walker Oren Witzlsteiner Parents: Wade and Trisha Witzlsteiner Sponsors: Barb Horn and Todd Witzlsteiner
Revelation 3:11: Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

I have chosen this as my confirmation verse because it's a great comfort to know that Jesus is coming back to this sinful earth. Jesus told us, "Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown." Whether it's Satan tempting us directly or his doing it through earthly means, we know the crown can't be taken from us, and that we need to stick firm to God's Word. Just knowing he is watching over us is a great comfort.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of May 8, 2017

MON	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	10:15 am	Open Forum (Stoney Creek Adult Community)
	7:00 pm	<i>The Story Bible Study</i> (Grace Room)
TUE	9:15 am	Ministerial Team Meeting
	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study (Grace Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	12:30 pm	Open Forum / OWLS Meeting (Grace Room)
	6:30 pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	<i>Following the Promise Bible Study</i>
WED	4:30 pm	Public School Confirmation Instruction Classes
	6:30 pm	Chapel Choir Rehearsal (Faith Room)
	7:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
	8:00 pm	Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
THURS	6:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	6:45 pm	Stoney Creek Bible Study (Stoney Creek Adult Community)
	7:00 pm	The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
	7:00 pm	Ministry Board Meeting
FRI	8:15 am	Lutheran Elementary School Chapel (Church)
SAT	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
SUN	7:45 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Grace Room Bible Study
	9:15 am	Kids Club and Boost Youth Ministries
	9:45 am	The Bridge Communion
	10:15 am	The Bridge
10:45 am	Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion	

Multimedia Ministry

- **TV:** *Time of Grace*, Sundays at 5:30 am on UPtv, 7:00 am on WBME, and 10:30 am on WDJT. Thursdays at 3:30 pm on TBN. For a complete broadcast schedule, visit timeofgrace.org/waystowatch or call the *Time of Grace* office at (800) 661-3311.
- **Radio:** Lutheran Radio Church Service, Sundays at 7:00 am on JOY1340 AM
- **Online:** Podcast and video sermons at www.stpaulmuskego.org and www.thebridgemuskego.org
- **Live Streaming:** The Bridge, Sundays at 10:15 am at www.thebridgemuskego.org



ST. PAUL'S NEWS

SUNDAY MORNING NURSERY

If you have small children (4 years old and younger), you might appreciate being able to focus on the sermon without interruption. We have a staffed nursery every Sunday during the 9:15 and 10:45 am services in the east wing of the church. A silent pager system allows childcare providers to alert you to any need your child has. Ask a worship host for directions. The nursery closes 10 minutes after the service, so please pick your child up promptly.

BAPTISMS

Christopher Jon (CJ) King, born July 15, 2002, and Callie Anna King, born March 13, 2007, both students in our Lutheran elementary school, were baptized in a private ceremony on Tuesday, May 2, 2017. CJ and Callie are children of Sussy and Chris King.

HOSPITALIZED

Dorothy Bucholtz is in hospice care at St. Ann's Nursing Home. Lois Guhr is at Brookfield Rehab. Richard Krebs is at St. Luke's, and Nancy Rindfleisch has been readmitted to Waukesha Memorial.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Please pray for the following individuals in their time of need: James Beyer, Mary Ann Boldt, Dawn Brown, David Burkowitz, Jodie Crosby, Sharon Dreyer, Shelly Eggert, Namine Eiche, Brittany Gillespie, Daniel Holtz, Dawn Jahns, Connie Johnson, Sandra Merfeld, Sonia Neuberger, Marvin Pellmann, Jeanne Steinbrecher, and Jake Strande.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

985 attended worship services last week.

DIVINE CALLS

St. Paul's member, Mrs. Taryn Volbrecht, has accepted the call to teach one of our kindergarten classes for the 2017/2018 school year. We are greatly blessed to have Taryn joining our staff.

St. Paul's member and former St. Paul's School Administrator Mr. Skip Bremer has returned his call to Salem Lutheran School in Stillwater, MN, to be principal and teach upper grades - departmentalized. We are thankful to have Skip and his wife, Kathy, remaining in service among us.

OPEN FORUMS – ALL ARE INVITED

If you haven't attended an open forum yet, there are 3 left. Attend Saturday, May 6, at 6:00 pm in the Faith Room; Monday, May 8, at 10:15 am at Stoney Creek Adult Community; or Tuesday, May 9, at 12:30 pm in the Grace Room (at the OWLS meeting). The annual ministry plan and resolutions will be presented for discussion. The Ministry Board will consider suggestions made at these open forums, and if necessary adjust the ministry plan and resolutions before the annual voters' meeting on May 18.

ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING

The annual voters' meeting will be Thursday, May 18, at 7:00 pm, in the Grace Room. At this meeting the \$3.5 million annual ministry plan will be presented for approval, as well as three resolutions to amend the bylaws and seven resolutions to designate grants from the Gift Trust Fund and Legacy Fund. Elections will be held for four positions on the seven-member Ministry Board, the congregation's governing board. A copy of the ministry plan, the resolutions, nominations, and staff reports are in the *Messenger* distributed after the service today.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

FOLLOWING THE PROMISE – JOIN THE CLASS MAY 23

1 Peter 3:15 says, “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” Do you have questions about your faith? Join us in this new class, which also serves as a membership course, beginning Tuesday, May 23, at 7:00 pm in the Faith Room. Register on the back of your Connection Card.

HELP WITH READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

Next fall Pastor Panitzke would like to offer a Bible study similar to *The Story* that he is currently facilitating. The 30-week course will take you through selected portions of the Bible, taking you through the entire Bible story in chronological order. Minimum class size is 50 people; maximum is 70 people. The time of the study is yet to be determined. Express your interest on the Connection Card.

NEW GRACE ROOM BIBLE STUDY

Jesus Christ is the true center of our salvation. Because of his death and resurrection, we have the promise of eternal life with him. Since Christ first loved us in this way, it is now our joy to take up our own crosses daily and follow him. Join Mr. Jon Eiche as he leads the study *The Theology of the Cross* on Sundays, May 14 through July 9, at 9:15 am in the Grace Room. This study is based on the excellent book of the same name written by retired WELS Professor Daniel Deutschlander.

ORGANIZATION OF WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SENIORS (OWLS) MEETING

The OWLS meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 9, at noon, in the Grace Room. Enjoy the potluck meal while the speaker, Dave Timm, talks about Alzheimer's disease. All are welcome.

CHAPEL CHOIR

Do you love to sing? Join the St. Paul's Chapel Choir! The Chapel Choir sings for worship about once a month and meets for rehearsal on Wednesdays for about an hour at 6:30 pm in the Faith Room. Any questions can be directed to Pastor Jeffrey Bonack at jbonack@stpaulmuskego.org or Darik Mischke at (920) 344-2330.

THE FINAL STRETCH FOR KIDS CLUB AND BOOST

Parents are invited to attend on Sunday, May 21, when both Kids Club and Boost will close out the year with special activities. Boost will also engage in reflection and evaluation of the past year and teen ministry at St. Paul's. Contact Dr. Nelson with questions about our children's ministry at (414) 422-0320, ext. 145 or jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org.

GRADUATES – SHARE YOUR PLAN

St. Paul's will be celebrating our class of 2017 teens who are graduating from junior and senior high school. Please forward your plans for after graduation as soon as possible to jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 145.

LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OPEN ENROLLMENT

Who do you know has children of school age who might be interested in our school? Our School Administrator Seth Fitzsimmons would be happy to give you or a friend or relative a tour. Our congregation provides generous tuition assistance. We don't want anyone's choice about attending our Christian elementary school simply to be a financial decision. Schedule a time to speak to Mr. Fitzsimmons by emailing him at sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

PRAYER WARRIORS TEAM

Be a part of our Prayer Warrior Team. Receive prayer requests via email about once per week. To find out more information and to indicate interest, mark the back of your Connection Card.

UNDER THE CANOPY

Available dates for hosting this summer's Under the Canopy are June 18, July 2, July 16, July 23, and August 20. This is a great opportunity to share information about your organization with the congregation while enjoying fellowship. Please contact David Weise at (262) 271-3093 or dweise@aol.com to reserve your date.

NEW BEGINNINGS - TINY STEPS, BIG HEARTS 5K/10K RUN AND 2 MILE WALK

Tiny Steps, Big Hearts 5K/10K Run and 2 Mile Walk is scheduled for Saturday, June 3, from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm, at the Wisconsin Lutheran College outdoor athletic complex, 10200 West Watertown Plank Road. *Tiny Steps, Big Hearts* is a family-friendly event featuring a 2-mile walk, a 5K run, and 10K run. Branches Band will be jamming live; kids can enjoy free face painting, balloon animals, and a bouncy house. A raffle will also be held with great prizes. All proceeds go to support the mothers and babies at New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers. Register by calling (414) 376-0594. More information about New Beginnings may be found at www.homeformothers.com.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY ANNUAL CONVENTION

Join 1000 voices in praising the Savior of the Nations at the LWMS annual convention in Orlando, Florida, June 22-25. Meet our church body's missionaries from Russia, India, Hong Kong, St. George, and Utah. Visit the convention website at www.lwms.org for registration materials.

SOEL HOT LUNCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our School of Early Learning is in need of volunteers to make lunch for the little ones on Mondays and Fridays from 10:45 am until noon. Please contact SOEL Director Kim Neubauer at (414) 422-0320, ext. 200, or kneubauer@stpaulmuskego.org for more information.

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

Reeling in the Future

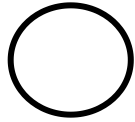
The *Reeling in the Future* Fishing Tournament (formerly *Fishers of Men*) is scheduled for June 3 on Pewaukee Lake. The registration deadline is May 31. For more information go to www.reelinginthefuture.com or email ReelingintheFuture@earthlink.net.

27th Annual WLHS Charity Golf Outing

The Friends of Wisco Annual Charity Golf Outing is scheduled for Monday, June 19, at Hawk's View Golf Club in Lake Geneva. Registration includes green fees, a cart, beverage tickets, and lunch at a cost of \$150. The deadline to register is May 26. You may also register online at wlhs.ejoinme.org/Golf2017. Contact Heidi Witz at planner@wlhs.org or (414) 453-4567, ext. 2004, with questions.

SUMMER CARE FOR AGES 3-10 AT ST. PAUL'S

Our Lutheran school offers a summer care program for children in pre-kindergarten through grade 4 from May 31 through August 12. Registration forms are available at the Welcome Center or at www.stpmuskego.org.



GroupWork

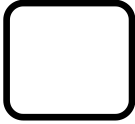
Bible Study Discussion Starters

Life application materials for us in Connector Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.

The Secret To...Everything

1. Frequently, people talk about the secret to a fulfilling life, the secret to a happy marriage, the secret to success, the secret to disciplining children, the secret to financial independence, etc.
 - What is meant or implied by saying, “The secret to...” whatever?
 - Evaluate: There are really no secrets, just lot of undisciplined people.
 - Could someone ever say, “The secret to salvation?” Explain.
2. Briefly review your main take-aways from the first three sermons in the “Empty” series.
 - #1) Empty Tomb, #2) Empty Heart, #3) Empty Hands
 - Why is #4) Empty Life” a good focus for Confirmation Sunday?
 - Do you think it’s practical to talk to a bunch of young teens about an empty life? Explain.
 - Has your own confirmation (whenever it was) really helped to fill your life to this point? Explain.
3. Read Philippians 3:1-11.
 - Confirmation is preceded by – for lack of a better term – indoctrination. How did Paul/Saul feel about the indoctrination he had received as a young man compared to what others had received?
 - What caused Paul/Saul to realize his first indoctrination was really garbage?
 - Why was it garbage?
 - How does this statement from the sermon apply: “God’s love cannot fill us if we are already full of ourselves”?
 - How might young confirmands feel “full of themselves”?
 - Share a time when your self-sufficiency pushed God out of your heart and life.
4. Read Philippians 3:12-21.
 - How do these verses emphasize that the Christian life is a real journey or even better, a marathon?
 - On this journey – this marathon – why it is best to forget what’s behind, strain ahead, and press on?
 - Share a time when your own backward glances messed up your spiritual, forward progress?
 - What powerful, spiritual resource does Paul identify?
5. Who from your faith journey has been/is a spiritual model and example? Explain.
6. Who might the Holy Spirit want you to mentor today?

PRAY: My Maker be with me, the light of life to give.
And guide me patiently while here on earth I live.
To you my heart I tender, and all my powers surrender;
Make it my one endeavor to love and serve you ever.
Help me your loving care to see; My Maker be with me.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

Take notes during the sermon to help you remember the main points

Living a Life that Is Truly Full!

Philippians 3, selected verses (page 1180)

1. Remember **WHO** fills you.

Our life is “full” when we feel l_____ and v_____.

How we choose to find love and value often leaves us feeling empty.

Paul sought God’s approval through the r_____ faith-life he lived.

Some of us look to feed our need for love and value through p_____.

Some of us look to feed our need for love and value through a_____.

We were created to experience love and value in our relationship with G_____.

God’s love cannot fill us if we’re already full of o_____.

WHO fill us? Only J_____ can!

2. Remember **HOW** he fills you.

Satan, the world, and our own sinful flesh e_____ us.

We need Jesus and the power of his r_____ to continually refill us.

Assuring us that God will keep every p_____.

Reminding us that we too will r_____ and l_____ with Jesus forever.

Empowering us to make it safely through the journey to the g_____.

To that end we also need the c_____—its ministry and the encouragement of our Christian family.

Next Steps

- **Remember WHO fills you.** What or whom are you tempted to look to apart from God to feel loved and valued? Confess that sin to God, rejoice in his forgiveness, and then make a commitment to live like he is the only one who fills you.
- **Remember HOW he fills you.** We tend to forget that the Church is a family, that we need each other and need to be there for each other. What will you do assist your church to serve as the family it is?
- **Pray.** Pray for the youth of our faith family who are being confirmed this weekend. Pray that they never lose sight of who really fills them and that they remain active participants in a Christian congregation so that God can keep their faith strong.