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CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
BE A PART OF THE STORY – ACT II
UNITED
May 5, 6, and 9, 2018

The church is always threatened by divisions — race, income, gender, age, etc. God's powerful words opened Peter's mind to the bigness of God's Church. Could God bring rich and poor, male and female, black and white, young and old into one community of faith today? This message is our prayer that God would do today what he did back then.

PRESERVICE HYMN SING

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. (*Psalms 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.



FIRST LESSON

1 John 4:1-11, Bible page 1230

What unites us? Our common faith that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, that he lived, died, and rose again as the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

PSALM OF THE DAY (*Saturday, Sunday 7:45 am, Wednesday*)

Psalm 98, Hymnal page 103

Sing to the Lord a new song for he has done marvelous things!

GOSPEL

John 15:9-17, Bible page 1082

What preserves our unity? Our love for Jesus' commands and our love for each other.

HYMN OF THE DAY 598

My Maker, Be with Me

SERMON

Acts 10-11, Bible page 1101

(*Saturday, Sunday 7:45 am, Wednesday*)

Pastor Nate Strobel

(*Sunday 9:15 am*)

Pastor David Kuehl

CONFESSION OF FAITH (*Saturday, Sunday 7:45 am, Wednesday*)

Apostles' Creed

**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*)

Come One, Come All, David Weise
Lift High the Cross, Brass Ensemble
by James Curnow

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

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 (*Sunday*) **On Eagles' Wings**, Brass Ensemble
arr. by Al Schumacher

PRESIDING MINISTER (*Sunday*) Pastor David Kuehl

ORGANIST Carol Nelson

Confirmation Class of 2018

9:15 am

*Caleb Bremer
Marcus Fitzsimmons
Kali Hudock
Mason Meitner
Megan Mueller
Layla Nowak
Nicole Pearson
Julia Quartuccio
Grace Schneider
Megan Schneider
Savannah Sievert*



10:45 am

*Adam Balcerak
Kyle Bettinger
Matthew Draeger
Mikala Ellis
Samantha Galian
Ethan Glaze
Sean Gray
Jaedyn Henneberry
Kylie Kasch
Dylan Krause
Lauren Krieger
Seth Ristow
Riley Stehmeier
Cole Vahouick*

Together with their parents, the confirmands selected their confirmation verse and were asked what this verse meant to them. This gave them the opportunity to express their faith. What follows is each confirmand's personal information, confirmation verse, and 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 13.

Adam Fox Balcerak

Parents: Ken and Wendy Balcerak Sponsors: William House and Tracy Rossi **John 3:35-36: The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.**

I have chosen John 3:35-36 as my confirmation verse because it reminds me that as long as I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God I will have eternal life. Verse 35 states, "The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands." This means that God loved Jesus so much, he gave his one and only Son the power to save us all from sin and death. Verse 36 says, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life," confirming that my belief in Jesus as my Savior will provide me peace and comfort, knowing that he died on the cross and rose from the dead so that I will be saved. Verse 36 continues to say, "But whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them." If I reject the fact that Jesus died for my sins, the wrath of God will come upon me. In this sense I should both love God for providing me with eternal life as well as fear him knowing that if I reject the Son of God I will not be saved.

Kyle Robert Bettinger

Parents: Kevin and Jennelle Bettinger Sponsors: Matthew and Diana Luttmann **Romans 6:23: The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

A lot of times we forget about the person who saved us from all our sins, and the simple answer is Jesus Christ. Romans 6:23 reminds me of Jesus dying on the cross to forgive our sins. It also reminds me that we do sin; we should know that we will be forgiven, for Jesus has died on the cross and sacrificed his life so that we can have eternal life in heaven. The wages of sin is death which represents the consequences of evil-doing. God gave us his Scripture for a reason. It's not just a guideline on how to conduct ourselves but it's also words of reassurance. Even though there will always be pain, after this life we will gain so much more. This shows that God has a place waiting for us in heaven, and when Judgment Day comes, Jesus will have seen how God's grace led me to live my life to his glory.

Caleb Benjamin Bremer

Parents: Steven and Katharine Bremer Sponsors: Travis and Marie Kurth **Psalm 27:1: The LORD is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid?**

I have chosen Psalm 27:1 as my confirmation verse because this verse stood out to me while I was looking through the Bible. I think this because in the first part, "The Lord is my light and my salvation," means that Jesus, my Lord, is lighting the way for me. He is showing by his actions throughout his entire life what I should aim to do in my life. I should not try to do what my sinful nature wants to do, but what God wants me to do. Christ is my salvation, not just for me but for all believers, because he lived a perfect life, suffered for us, died on the cross, and rose from the dead. But if he skipped any of these things he wouldn't be my salvation. "The Lord is the stronghold of my life," means to me that Jesus Christ is the foundation of my life and that nothing else should be my foundation. He is also my stronghold because I can come to him anytime, in good times, and especially in the troubling times. Jesus can take any burdens I have and I can lay them on him because he cares for me and loves me. "Of whom shall I be afraid?" speaks to me because I shouldn't have to be afraid of anything in my life, because Jesus saved me from my eternal condemnation. I also don't have to worry about evangelizing to others. Just because someone asks about my faith in Christ doesn't mean I have to be nervous. Ultimately, the Holy Spirit is responsible for planting a seed in their heart.

Matthew Richard Draeger

Parents: Joshua and Christine Unz Sponsors: Thomas Clayton, Jr., and April Brunsell **John 14:1-3: Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.**

I've chosen John 14:1-3 as my confirmation verse because I wanted to tell how I know I will be in heaven along with all of you and I know this because Jesus has told us he has prepared a place for all who believe in the Father believes in Jesus. I'm sad to leave all you and this school and I also hope that I will see all of you there too.

Mikala Jade Ellis

Parents: Jason and Melissa Somers Sponsors: Jarred and Sara Treppish **Isaiah 40:26: Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.**

I have chosen this verse to be my confirmation verse because it reminds me that God created the earth and everything in it. Have you ever noticed all the stars in the sky? Well, did you know that God knows exactly how many stars are in the sky and their names? The same goes for mountains, rivers, and everything on this earth. This also goes for how he knows everybody on earth. Not only their names, but also how many hairs are on their heads and what is in their hearts. Not one thing is missing. Have you ever looked at the world around you and wondered: Who created all this? Well, God did! He did all this because of his great power and strength. His strength and power are so mighty that he was able to make us, the earth, and everything in it. This shows his almighty power is amazing and that God can do anything!

Marcus Seth Fitzsimmons

Parents: Seth and Carrie Fitzsimmons Sponsors: Scott Kobleske and Sadie Jo Vasold **Philippians 4:13: I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.**

I have chosen this to be my confirmation verse because this verse in particular has been with me my whole life. Whether that would be on the court, in the field, during a math test, or even on Stephen Curry's shoes. Whenever I hear those words spoken by friends or family, it reminds me that no matter what I do, God is keeping me safe, and he is with me and by my side at all times. As I go on in high school, college, and life, I know that God will lead me to make the right decisions. We know that things might not go our way, but this verse just reminds me that anything is possible with God, and that when things seem tough, God is there with us strengthening us in our faith, guarding and protecting us in all situations.

Samantha Jean Galian

Parents: Charles and Wendy Galian Sponsors: Greg and Amy Narey **John 3:21: But whoever lives by truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.**

The reason I chose this passage is because it says to me that whoever believes in Jesus will go to heaven. This passage spoke to me because whether you are a believer or unbeliever, you can know that if you believe in Jesus you will go heaven. The most important thing that is taught in a Christian church is knowing that if you believe your sins are forgiven, you will go to heaven. I also chose this passage because of the other part: "So that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God." This part says to me that it is showing unbelievers and especially Satan that believers are doing this for God and have faith in him and believe in him.

Ethan Patrick Glaze

Parents: Shane and Nicole Glaze Sponsors: Joe Koskovich, Brittany Newbery, and Melinda Wenzel

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.

The confirmation passage I have chosen is a good choice for me, I feel, because I can always trust that God will be following me every step of the way through my life. No matter what happens to me, I can be reminded that the Lord has a plan for me, even when I can't see it. This passage also confirms to me, and all that walk with God by faith in Jesus, that we will have a bright future both here on earth and in heaven. He also will not let any harm or danger get in our way throughout our lives without making it work for our good. In fact, he says in John 16:33, "I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart I have overcome the world." God loves and cares for all people who walk the earth just as Jesus did.

Sean Russell Gray

Parents: Richard and Deaune Gray Sponsors: Leah Perbix and Darrin Smedsmo **Matthew 7:24-25:**

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

I chose my passage (Matthew 7:24-25) because it shows how believers in God are powerful. The people who built their house on the rock (God) lasted. To build your house on the rock means that you have a strong faith in Jesus Christ, God the Father, and the Holy Spirit. Believers have a strong base and don't get swept away from the rock. The "build" part of it means that you use God's Word to make the best decision. The "wind" and the "rain" represent the devil and temptations. These verses mean that if I believe in God and believe what he says, with God's protection I can stay out of harm's way. Also God will protect me from all evil and temptation. When I make it into the rest of my life this passage will always remind me of some very important things, such as, everybody needs God not to get sucked into temptation and unbelief that the devil tries to persuade us to fall into.

Jaedyn Noelle Henneberry

Parents: Brian and Christine Henneberry Sponsors: Kirk Blomdahl and Cathleen Hockers **Proverbs 3:5-7:**

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom.

I have chosen, Proverbs 3:5-7 as my confirmation verse because there are days when I feel lost in my own faith and wonder why God has led me down the path he did. I never expected to understand the way God works with my heart and soul, but I often find myself trying to find an answer to the unanswered. Yet I know in my heart these things can be answered when I am in heaven. This is what I choose to accept. In this world I am blind. I cannot choose the right paths on my own, my conscience, based on God's Word, tells me I am right, I'm making the right choices. My trust has always been in God, but I have been hesitant to hand over a small part of it. I guess it is hard for someone to guide the blind if they are unwilling to trust fully. Jesus takes my hand, tainted with sin, and helps me see the light. He will guide me until I can come home to his kingdom. I believe and trust in the path he has laid out for me.

Kali Sage Hudock

Parents: Lucas and Andrea Hudock **Psalm 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 tells me that the Lord is everywhere I go, and he will always be by my side to protect me from harm and danger. I hear God speaking to me, telling me he will guide me to everlasting peace, as well as lead the way to my heavenly home. It tells me he will always be teaching me new things, and I have the assurance that he will be fighting for and with me all of my days. I think it is also like Baptism, like a new life, because God is welcoming me into his family, and I should give him all my trust because he knows the right path for me, and he will get me there safely. He invites me to trust in him, and that is what I do. My hope, faith, and trust are in him all day long because I know his plans for me are perfect and will lead to a perfect destination.

Kylie Rae Kasch

Parents: Kent and Tera Kasch Sponsors: Chad Eichman and Tom and Stacie Kasch **Isaiah 43:5: Do not be afraid, for I am with you.**

I have chosen Isaiah 43:5 as my confirmation verse because, when I read this verse, I know that I don't have to be afraid of anything, because my Lord is with me every minute of every day. Even in the smallest moment, for example, when I am lying in bed and I hear a strange noise, my mind begins to wonder what that strange noise was, "Is someone trying to break into the house?" "Is someone in the house?" "Is there a kidnapper?" But then I remember that God is with me and he won't let anything bad happen to me unless it is in his will. In addition, whenever I hear about people who have died because of some sickness/disease or when I hear about mass shootings, I am afraid that one day that will happen to me. Again I remember that God is with me and I shouldn't be afraid that something like that would happen to me because it would only happen if it is in God's plan for me and/or my family. That is why I have chosen this as my confirmation verse.

Dylan Ronald Krause

Parents: Ken and Julie Krause Sponsors: John Frohmader and Jenny Studer **Proverbs 13:4: Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper.**

I have chosen Proverbs 13:4 as my confirmation verse because it shows me that if you do indeed work hard then you will prosper. This gives me comfort because it is coming from the book of God, and I know that by working hard at my faith then I can only get better and good things will come from it. This also reminds me that if I don't work hard and keep up with my faith and going to church, then I will keep getting farther and farther away from God's Word and ultimately end up losing my faith. I know that I should always work hard and keep trying to expand my faith as well as push myself to learn more about God's Word. It frightens me to know if I don't, I could become an unbeliever and end up going to hell being a lost and condemned sinner. With all that being said, I know that if I'm lazy and don't even make an attempt to push my understanding of God's Word then I might not end up in heaven. I will ultimately end up losing my faith and suffer the consequences of eternal death in hell.

Lauren Elizabeth Krieger

Parents: John and Jennifer Krieger Sponsors: Robert Krieger and Susan Valcq **John 8:12: Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”**

I have chosen this verse to be my confirmation verse because it reminds me that God sent his one and only Son into the world for us to take away our sins. By believing that Jesus Christ is my Savior I know that I will live eternally in heaven with him. When I trust in the Lord, I know that he will keep me safe from all evil and danger and will help me when I get into bad situations. By following the Lord, I know that he will work everything out for his will even though we may not see the benefit. Many times when we do not see how God is helping us we start to doubt him. Rather than doubting, I need to believe that God is doing great things for my good and others. I just need to put all my trust in the Lord and by doing so my reward will be a life forever with him in heaven.

Mason Louis Meitner

Parents: Michael and Emily Meitner Sponsors: Rebecca Kleist and Thomas Meitner **Psalms 119:105: Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.**

I chose Psalm 119:105 as my confirmation verse because it says that God's Word will guide me through my life, and it is the light that helps me through the darkness of sin, the world, and the devil. It also reminds me to study God's Word daily, and makes it even more important to study it. I can also pray knowing God will lead me to what is best for me through his Word and thanking him for blessing me with it. It can help me to convert other people I meet in life, since as I get older I will meet more people, and also to instruct people who believe in religions that add or take away things from God's Word. If I become a pastor it will also guide me to teach well. It will mostly help to guide me to make the right choices and to obey what God commands.

Megan Lydia Mueller

Parents: David and Tina Mueller Sponsors: Nicholas Navarrete and Steven Plutschack **2 Corinthians 12:9: My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.**

I have chosen this passage to be my confirmation verse because it reminds me that God loves and cares for me. Not only that, but he also shows me his great mercy in my day-to-day life. I know that, because I'm a child of God, no matter what happens he will always be there for me. In this passage God says that because I am weak, his almighty power will rest on me and make me stronger. I know that even though I am a sinner and will never live up to God's standards, his mercy for me and all people is enough. Even though I may face troubles in life, God uses them to build up my faith in him. It is a comfort to me that the troubles on this earth are God's way of bringing me even closer to him, along with worshiping, praising, and praying to him.

Layla Faith Nowak

Parents: Michael and Melinda Nowak Sponsors: Andrew Ciula and Jesy Koscinski **John 15:5: I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I remain in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.**

I chose John 15:5 as my confirmation verse because it helps me remember that God is my heavenly Father and that if I believe, I will be able to do great and spiritual things and enjoy eternal life in heaven. Also, if I don't believe, I will have eternal death in hell. When I am going through hard times, I know that God will help me through them. At my school, because I go to a public school, some teens don't believe in God. This verse gives me the spiritual strength to confront them and tell them that Jesus died for our sins, and that if you believe, you will go to heaven. In the beginning of the verse, it says, "I am the vine; you are the branches." I comprehend that as meaning that Jesus is the vine, and that we, as Christians, are the branches. I feel like the good things I do are what Jesus calls "bear much fruit." I also think it means that I will be able to walk my life with lots of faith and with Jesus and be able to do amazing things in life. I enjoy singing, and I truly think that it was a gift from God to sing beautifully in church. The verse also states, "Apart from me, you can do nothing." I think that means if you don't believe, you cannot do anything, spiritually. You might be able to do some things in life, but without faith and the Holy Spirit, you won't be able to go to heaven. God is our Father and we as Christians are his lambs. If we keep faith and God in our heart, spiritually, we will get amazing gifts, including life forever in heaven. If you don't believe, you will suffer eternal death in hell. I believe that God has blessed me with amazing things and I can't wait to see what other amazing spiritual works I will accomplish next.

Nicole Grace Pearson

Parents: Brandon and Shelly Pearson Sponsors: Kenneth and Cynthia Tregellas **Psalms 118:1: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.**

I have chosen Psalm 118:1 as my confirmation verse because it has a meaningful message that helps each and every one of us understand his love and kindness and all he has done for us. This passage says, "Give thanks to the Lord." In other words, praise and appreciate him and everything he has done for us. In addition to that, the passage says, "Give thanks, for he is good." He is good means that he has won the victory over the devil for us, protects us from evil, does everything for our greater good, has saved us from sins, and forgives our sins. This passage also states, "His love endures forever," which is a very important message for believers to know and understand. This means that his love for us is eternal and everlasting. No matter what, he will always love us. This passage is special to me because it tells me that I want to praise and give thanks to him because he protects and does everything for me and loves me aside from all my sins and imperfections.

Julia Concetta Quartuccio

Parents: David and Bonnie Quartuccio Sponsors: David and Denise Kaminski **Isaiah 41:10: Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.**

I have chosen Isaiah 41:10 as my confirmation verse because it tells me to never fear, and I get to have the assured comfort that no matter how hard times get, I have God by my side. I never have to be discouraged because God is my rock and lives eternally. He will always help me in times of need, so I can pray to him and come to him with every trouble and hard time we have in life. It also assures me that he won the victory for me, and I get to spend eternity with him in heaven forever. It gives me comfort to know that he will hold me up with his victorious right hand, and he will bring me to heaven and be with him. Knowing that he won the fight for me, I can live my life to my best abilities, and don't have to worry about what anyone else thinks of me because God knows that I am beautiful inside and out.

Seth Ryan Ristow

Parents: Timothy and Jamie Ristow Sponsors: Molly Kaminsky and Danny Ristow **Psalm 119:105: Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.**

I have chosen Psalm 119:105 as my confirmation verse because, as the verse says, "Your Word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." The first part of this verse means that God's Word guides me to live my life for him and that his Word will help me make the choices in my life. Also, this means that his Word will help me make all the small choices that benefit me as a Christian. These choices will benefit me because they will help me live and lead a better and more Christian life. These choices will also benefit him because, as I am leading a better Christian life, my actions will show people I am Christian which is to God's glory. Then the Holy Spirit might start to work faith in their hearts so that they can be with me in heaven one day. The last part of this verse means to me that those little choices that I made as a child because I had faith in Christ and trusted that what he wanted was the best for me will also help me make good choices as an adult and that God's Word will always guide my life and be first in it.

Grace Amelia Schneider

Parents: Jason and Angela Schneider Sponsors: Terrilynn Lorbetske and Terry and Sherry Tillman **John 16:33: I have told you these things, so that you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.**

I have chosen John 16:33 as my confirmation verse because of the comfort it offers me. Like every other person, I face stress and worries every day. Troubles will come into everyone's lives, but what matters is how you deal with them. As a Christian I know that I can turn to God in any time of hardship, and these words specifically offer me a sense of relief. God guarantees that throughout life we will come in contact with loss, but we can still be at ease. Yes, there will still be pain in this world. But do not be afraid, for God has overcome the world! At time it will still be hard, and all hope will seem lost. These words, however, hold a promise that will always stand firm. Jesus Christ, my Savior, has overcome this world. He suffered and died so that one day I may live with him eternally in heaven. Therefore, I can have comfort in my Lord, for he is greater than any and every obstacle of this temporary earth. I have hope in the Father, for he will be by my side in every trouble. But, above all, I can have peace.

Megan Claire Schneider

Parents: William and Sally Schneider Sponsors: John and Lynn Schneider **Ephesians 2:10: For we are God's masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

I have chosen this verse to be my confirmation verse because through it I know that in Christ I am perfect in God's eyes and that I was created to do so much good through him. God so meticulously crafted me that every bone, every curve, and every turn I have was made perfectly by God's hands. The imperfections I may see in myself are perfect in God's eyes because God in Christ has recreated me in his image. By that, I know that God sees me as holy, just as he sees Jesus. I was born to serve God from the very day I was baptized to the day I go to be with Jesus in heaven. God has a plan for me and for all Christians. The point of our being alive is to spread the great news that Jesus is our Savior. All people need to know that through Jesus's death, we have inherited eternal life. When I stand before God on Judgment Day, I can be certain that I am going to heaven, because Jesus washed my sins away completely.

Savannah Rae Sievert

Parents: Mark and Jodi Sievert Sponsors: Amy Smith and Brook Smith **Romans 8:31-32: What then shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all - how will he not also along with him, graciously give us all things?**

I have chosen Romans 8:31-32 as my confirmation verses because I feel encouraged by the words that tell us our Lord will always be by our side and will go against those who are our enemies. Although we were slaves to sin from the time we were conceived, our compassionate Lord gave his only Son as a sacrifice for us. In these verses we are told that our Father in heaven has offered his only Son to be our substitute. If that were not enough, God has also graciously given us everything we need in life to prosper. By believing that Christ has won us back from slavery, our faith has allowed us to become children of the almighty and powerful God. We have the blessings, as Christians, of always knowing our Lord Jesus Christ is helping us to win the fight against the power of sin and the devil. In Romans 8:31-32 we realize that we can have the sure sense of hope and comfort in knowing that, if the Maker of heaven and earth is for us, who can be against us?

Riley Alan Stehmeier

Parents: Ryan Stehmeier and Selena Hintermeyer Sponsors: Sharon Stehmeier and Troy Tatlock **Deuteronomy 10:20: Fear the LORD your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name.**

I have chosen Deuteronomy 10:20 as my confirmation verse because in every commandment it says we should fear and love God. Just like the commandments, my passage is reminding me that I should fear, love, serve, and dedicate my whole life to Christ Jesus. Hold fast to him and have no other gods, take our oaths in his name and his name only. Deuteronomy 10:20 follows everything the commandments have to say. There is only one problem, how can we do these things without sinning? God expects us to be perfect in every way, shape, and form. Thankfully for us, Jesus, the One we live for, died so we may enter heaven, and because of him, God sees us as having kept the commandments. The one way to get to heaven through Christ is to believe and confess our faith and hold on to him. We do not do these things for the reward of heaven, but to thank our Lord and to show our love and faith for him.

Cole Nolan Vahovick

Parents: Michael and Sally Vahovick Sponsors: Timothy Treffinger and Ted Vahovick II **Isaiah 7:9: If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all.**

I have chosen Isaiah 7:9 as my confirmation verse because it means something to me. I first found it at the Pabst Farms YMCA on the scoreboard during baseball. I believe it means if you do not know how to stand firm in faith with God, you will not stand spiritually. When you don't keep your beliefs with what God will do for you, even when you're feeling down, God will do what he knows is good for you. It says in other spots in the Bible, for example, I Peter 5: 7, "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." This is similar to Isaiah 7: 9 because they both relate to staying with and trusting God. The other part of the verse is, if you do not trust and believe in him, you will not receive eternal life and stand with him in heaven. Out of all the people you want to see in heaven, mom, dad, grandma, and grandpa, wouldn't you want to see your Savior the most? He is the One who saved you from sin, death, and the devil. You will get to be with him forever, and standing firm in your faith will get you there. I know at my age I still have a lot to learn, but I know for sure God always has a plan for me, and I'll be standing with him in heaven one day. Thank you.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of May 7, 2018

MON	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> (Grace Room)
	7:00 pm	Woodwind Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
TUE	9:30 am	Ministry Growth Team Meeting
	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study (Grace Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	10:30 am	Ministerial Team Meeting
	12:00 pm	OWLS Meeting (Grace Room)
	6:30 pm	Handbell Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
WED	9:30 am	<i>Mommy and Me</i> (Faith Room)
	1:00 pm	<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> (Grace Room)
	4:30 pm	Public School Confirmation Instruction Classes
	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)
	7:00 pm	The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
FRI	8:15 am	Lutheran School Chapel (Main Church)
	5:00 pm	Stack/Noffsinger Wedding Rehearsal (Oconomowoc)
SAT	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	3:00 pm	Candace Stack/Ryan Noffsinger Wedding Ceremony (Oconomowoc)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
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 Holy Communion
	10:15 am	The Bridge
10:45 am	Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion	

HEAR AND SEE THE MESSAGE ONLINE!



- **Watch Live:** Attend church remotely on Sundays at The Bridge at 10:15 am. Live streaming is available at www.thebridgemuskego.org, Facebook at *The Bridge at St. Paul's*, and You Tube at *The Bridge Church Muskego*. All past live replays are also available on each platform.
 - **Sermon Videos and Podcasts:** Sunday sermons are available at www.stpaulmuskego.org and www.thebridgemuskego.org. They are usually available Sunday evening for that same Sunday's message.
-

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

SUNDAY MORNING NURSERY

If you have small children, 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 child care providers to alert you to any need your child has. Ask a worship host for directions.

FUNERAL

June Fickau, born June 1, 1919, entered eternal life with her Savior on May 1, 2018. A funeral service will be held on Monday, May 7, at 11:00 am at Hartson Funeral Home in Hales Corners. May the loved ones of June find comfort in the promises of the Savior today and always.

HOSPITALIZED

Charles Galian is at Zilber Hospice, Stephanie Brandt is at Froedtert, and Richard Sobczak and Betty Teisel are rehabbing at Tudor Oaks. Lyn Johnson and Jason Michaels have been discharged from the hospital.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Please pray for the following individuals in their time of need: Dawn Brown, David Burkowitz, Sharon Dreyer, Namine Eiche, Brittany Gillespie, Tom Goodman, Janelle Gray, Daniel Holtz, Dawn Jahns, Judith Lauber, Sandra Merfeld, Sonia Neuberger, Cheri Sorensen, Jeanne Steinbrecher, and Dick and Jane Sternberg.

ATTENDANCE

962 attended last week's worship services.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO KNOW JESUS BETTER

Anyone and everyone is invited to *Following the Promise*, a Bible study tracing the promise of the Savior through the Bible all the way into your own life. This study also serves as St. Paul's pre-membership study. Pastor Nate Strobel is leading these studies on Sundays, 8:30-9:30 am, in school classroom 9, and beginning May 8, on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm in the Faith Room. Contact Pastor Nate at nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org or mark the back of your Connection Card to register or for further information.

NEW GRACE ROOM BIBLE STUDY BEGINS MAY 13

The Hard Life of Jacob begins Sunday, May 13, at 9:15 am in the Grace Room. Life can be hard - ups and downs, twists and turns, a mixture of failures and successes. The patriarch Jacob's life is a prime example of a hard life. This class will explore the life of Jacob and discover three life lessons to put into practice. This three-week study will be led by the directors of The Lighthouse Youth Centers in Milwaukee, Pastor Jim Buske, Chugee Fletcher, and Mark Gunderson.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY – JUNE 1

St. Paul's will set up a booth for this year's Jammin' on Janesville on Friday, June 1, 5:00 – 9:00 pm. Our booth will include carnival games and candy for the kids, as well as information about our church and schools for the adults. Volunteers are needed to help with set up, running games, passing out candy, and being a smiling face to communicate with visitors. There are 3 ways to sign up:

- Mark the back of your Connection Card and Outreach Coordinator Sally Wallner will call you.
- Contact Sally directly at swallner@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 294.
- Sign up through the Needs List on My St. Paul's.

All proceeds from the event go to the Muskego Police Department's D.A.R.E. program.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

NEW MESSAGE SERIES BEGINS NEXT WEEKEND

On Mother's Day some of you will be here who have experienced a great relationship with your mother and some not so much. Some of you will be here who do not have a relationship with God or perhaps not as strong a relationship as you would like. This relationship is the one we need more than any other. How do we develop a deeper relationship with God? How do we as parents help our children to develop this kind of relationship? Dig deeper next weekend as we start a 3-week message series entitled, "Your True Purpose."



ANNUAL VOTERS MEETING – THURSDAY MAY 17 AT 7:00 PM

Decisions to be made at this meeting are approval of the annual ministry plan, four resolutions designating use of Gift Trust Fund and Legacy Fund grants, approval of the Cool Million campaign and elections. A copy of the ministry plan, the resolutions, nominations, and staff reports are in *The Messenger* available at the Welcome Center.

A COOL MILLION UPDATE!

Already we are at \$520,000 in gifts and plans-for-giving. Of that amount, we have received \$77,245. Every offering and plan, no matter what the size, is a precious gift from God's people for which we give thanks.

As a result of this generous beginning, we signed the contract to proceed this summer with replacing the aging furnaces in our school with a new heating and cooling system. What a blessing this will be to our school and potential summer ministries in the future! Information packets with a plan-for-giving card are available in the lobby. If you haven't already returned a plan-for-giving card, please pick up a packet and follow your heart that beats with a love for the Savior. Consider prayerfully your part in A Cool Million.



ORGANIZATION OF WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SENIORS (OWLS) MEETING

The OWLS meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 8, at noon, in the Grace Room. Enjoy the potluck meal while Pastor Panitzke presents a short forum on the next year at St. Paul's. Then be ready to go to Antarctica with Jay and Joan Oswald. All are welcome.

DIVORCECARE SUPPORT GROUP

Divorce is painful. It is not what God intended when he instituted marriage, but in this sinful world it does happen, and it hurts. If you have gone through a divorce/separation, then you may be experiencing some of the pain, loss, loneliness, and confusion that come along with it. We at St. Paul's are here to help and support you. You are not alone. "May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in you." (Ps. 33:22)

St. Paul's offers DivorceCare, a Christ-centered, 13-week program which includes video segments, group discussion, and personal Bible study. Feel free to join anytime throughout the 13 weeks to find help, discover hope, and experience healing.

DivorceCare begins Tuesday, May 8, 6:00-7:30 pm, in school classroom #8.

TEENS UNDER GOD – PICKLEBALL FUN

The next TUG open gym night is Sunday, May 20, from 6:30 til 8:00 pm in the Trinity Gym. Teens – come try out pickleball! The "grand plan" is to use pickleball as an activity to connect with other teen groups of our church body in the Milwaukee area. Bring some friends to help give it a good test. Contact Dr. Joel Nelson at jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 145, with questions.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

DIVINE CALLS – PRAYERFUL DELIBERATION CONTINUES

Angela Schneider is considering the call to be a full-time teacher in our 4K. Mrs. Schneider is a member of St. Paul's and has served as an aide and substitute teacher in our 3K and 4K since 2011.

Kelly Henning is deliberating a one-year call to be our 2nd grade teacher. Mrs. Henning currently lives in Muskego. Kelly writes the following:

Dear Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School,

I am honored and blessed to receive the call to teach 2nd grade at St. Paul's Lutheran School. Please keep me in your prayers as I deliberate this decision to serve as a teacher for our Lord and the congregation.

*Blessings,
Kelly Henning*

Joshua Lepke is holding the call to serve as our 7th grade homeroom teacher and athletic director. Mr. Lepke serves as Dean of Behavior and Culture for 7th and 8th grades at St. Marcus in Milwaukee.

Jeff Wetzell, our 5th grade co-teacher, is considering a divine call to serve as Dean of Students at Atonement Lutheran School in Milwaukee. This is a new position at Atonement.

Thank you for including these called workers and their families in your prayers over the next few weeks as they consider these divine calls to serve the Lord and his children.

ST. PAUL'S CHILD CARE CENTER TEACHER'S AID OPENING

St. Paul's Child Care Center is hiring a year-round teacher's aide, Monday - Friday, 7:00 am – 2:00 pm. Experience in child care or a related field is preferred. We offer a competitive hourly wage and a pleasant working environment. Contact Director Kim Neubauer at (414) 422-0320, ext. 200, or kneubauer@stpaulmuskego.org to apply. You may also stop by the child care center located in the east wing of the church to pick up an application.

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL JOB OPENING

Wisconsin Lutheran High School is hiring an administrative assistant who reports to and supports the president of Wisconsin Lutheran High School. This position handles confidential correspondence, prepares reports for board meetings, and is an integral part of the central office and assists other administrative staff. Those applying should have attention to detail and experience with Microsoft Office and Google apps. This position is a full time, hourly position. Please send resumes to Jodi Lunow at jodi.lunow@wlhs.org. May 16 is the deadline to apply.

ENROLL NOW

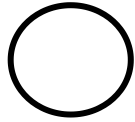
If you or someone you know would like more information about our 3K-8th grade school, please contact Mr. Fitzsimmons at (414) 422-0320, ext. 118. He would love to give you a tour and discuss the potential benefits of our school ministry for your family. You may also enroll directly at www.stpmuskego.org/TADS. Generous tuition assistance packages are available. We don't want the cost of tuition to keep your children from the wonderful Christian education and experience at our school.

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 29 through August 8. Cost is \$5 per hour. Registration forms are available at www.stpmuskego.org.

SAVE THE DATE – NEXT AWAKE AND ALIVE – JUNE 10

Full details can be found at www.awakealive.com.



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. Where have you seen God working in your life this past week?

2. This weekend's message told Cornelius' story, which was a pretty significant game-changer for the early Christian Jews. What kind of unity challenges does the Christian community face today?

3. Read Acts 10:1-8
 - What makes Cornelius a unique conversion case?

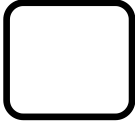
 - Do you have any Cornelii in your life who believe in God but don't know the good news of our Savior?

4. Read Acts 10:9-23.
 - What kind of questions might have raced thorough Peter's head as he witnessed this vision three times?

 - Read Acts 10:34-35. What happened between the first vision and this moment that helped him understand God's message?

5. Read John 4:1-26. Jesus models for us “stepping through the perceived barriers” to loving people. What were the barriers he broke through to win a soul for heaven?

6. As we celebrate St. Paul's new confirmands this weekend, think about what faith advice you would offer them and why. Share these thoughts with your group and close in prayer for your 8th grade brothers and sisters.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

Welcome to the Family!

Acts 10-11

Few things in life are worse than being _____ looking in.

I. Lord, Help Me to Know Your Heart

A. God Made Us For _____ ... for _____

B. God Models True Community and _____ Us Home!

Conversation Starter "God is always _____, isn't he?"

II. Lord, Give Me Your Heart!

A. Sin _____ Community...always!

B. God sent Jesus to be the " _____ of _____ "

Conversation Starters

"Jesus alone can _____ a world _____ by sin."

"Jesus changed the world when he _____ our _____

into God's family with his _____."

Welcome to the Family!

Next Steps

- **Read John 4:1-26.** Jesus models for us "stepping through the perceived barriers" to loving people. *What were the barriers he broke through to win a soul for heaven?*
- **Phone a Friend.** Is there a friend here today you could invite to "coffee with the Lord Jesus" for an open discussion on your prejudices...and theirs? Or is that too scary a thought?
- **Ponder Revelation 7:9-17.** What actions can you take now to embrace the "Great Multitude in White Robes" before you get to heaven's halls?