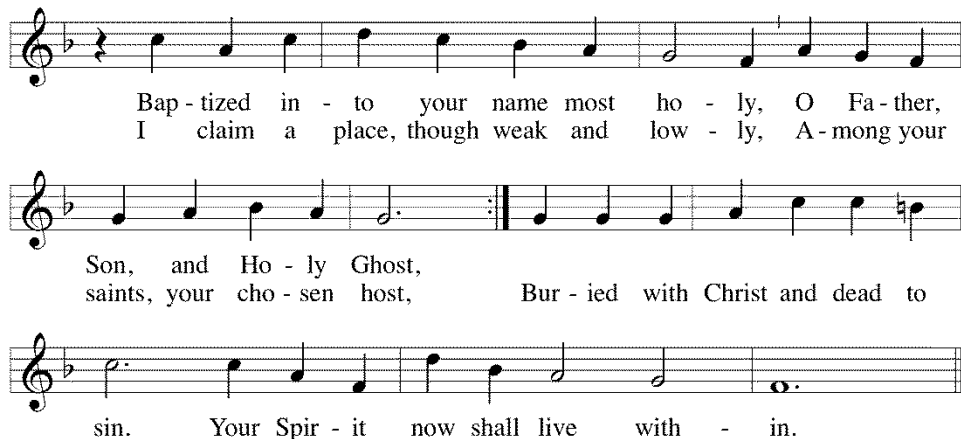


CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
THE JOURNEY THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE
A Journey Toward a New Friendship
 May 4, 5, and 8, 2019

On our Confirmation Day, we may feel like our faith is ready for anything. But when times of testing come, we may wonder, "Where is the Jesus I fell in love with in my youth?" Confirmation is a personal commitment to keep building that relationship with Jesus. Stay connected through his Word and Sacrament.

BELLS AND WELCOME

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



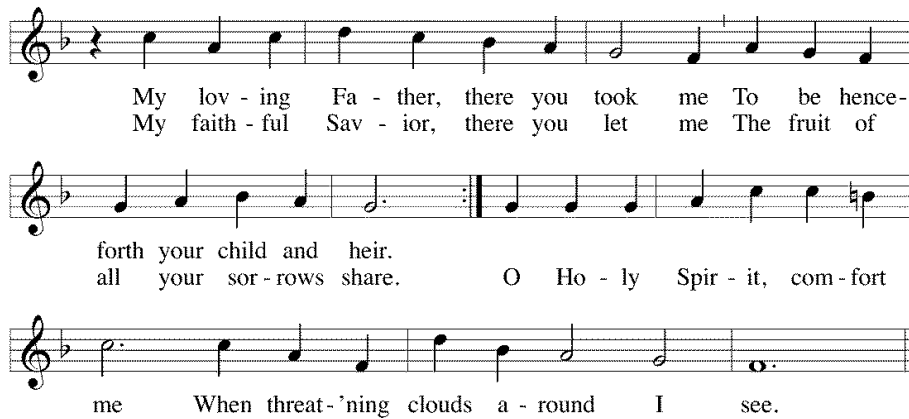
Bap - tized in - to your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther,
 I claim a place, though weak and low - ly, A - mong your
 Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,
 saints, your cho - sen host, Bur - ied with Christ and dead to
 sin. Your Spir - it now shall live with - in.

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*)

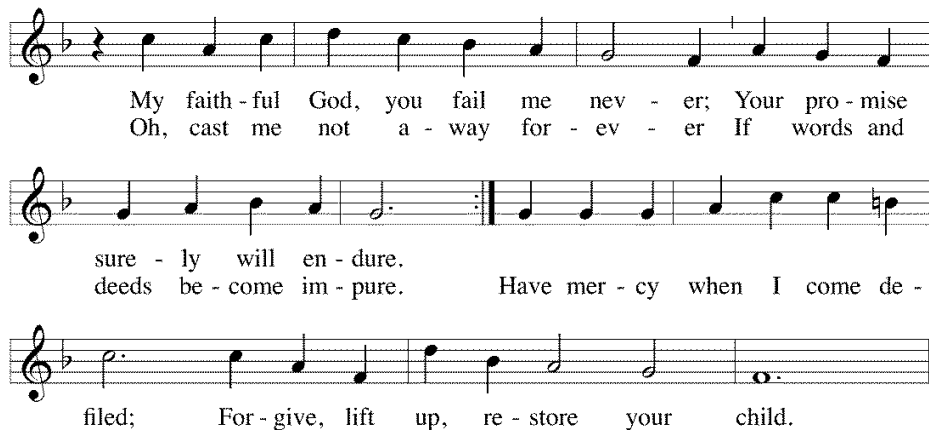
C **But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.** (*1 Corinthians 6:11*)



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.



FIRST LESSON

Acts 9:1-19a, Bible page 1100

It's interesting where our life journeys take us. Sometimes we are led in directions we never anticipated. Wherever life's road may lead, when Jesus is leading the way, we're on a good path.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 67, Hymnal page 91

We pray for God's blessings on us and on our confirmands.

GOSPEL

Revelation 5:11-14, Bible page 1240

John shares a vision of the end of the journey for those who by God's grace remain faithful to point of death.

HYMN OF THE DAY 599

Our Lord and God, Oh, Bless this Day

SERMON

John 21:1-14, Bible page 1088

Pastor David Kuehl

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (*Sunday*)

The Good Confession, *Called to Sing*
by Jon Eiche

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

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 confirming their faith 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.

CLOSING HYMN *(on screens)*

By Faith

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

ORGANIST *Carol Nelson*

CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2019

Saturday	Sunday 7:45 am	Sunday 9:15 am	Sunday 10:45 am	Wednesday
Amanda Berry	Evan Artlip	Joshua Johnson	Brady Becker	Abigail Hockers
Brady Kremkau	Kyle Byley	Sophia Kennedy	Anna Bonack	Chloe Klopf
Katelynn Schneider	Emma Eilertson	Grace King	Wolfgang Krill	Hannah Klopf
	Abigail Esmeier	Zachary Koch	Joshua Kwiatkowski	Madilyn Watry
	Molly Fitzsimmons	Amber Larson	Kierstan Proite	
	Jack Goelz	Logan Lawonn	Jude Radish	
	Rowan Gray	Eli Lepke	Isabella SanFelippo	
	Samuel Grimes	Mason Mazziotti	Gabriel Sheahan	
	Noah Gruetzmacher	Kathleen Meyer	Weston Sundholm	
	Ethan Haag	Abigail Prosser	Melanie Tonn	
	Leah Hudock	Ian Rintelman	Tresna Wehking	
	Ellie Johnson	Melanie Schwartz	Thomas Westendorf	
	Ryan Miller	Isabelle Steidl	Serenity Witzlsteiner	
		Elizabeth Veley	Lucy Younk	
			Ryleigh Zeller	

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 12.

Evan Christopher Artlip

Parents: Christopher and Paula Artlip

Sponsors: Ken and Lois Artlip, Karen Ludwig, and Sue Petry

2 Corinthians 5:7 I will walk by faith even when I cannot see.

What this scripture means to me is that no matter what happens in life, I am not alone. God is always with me and will give me strength. I know I am not perfect and that we all make mistakes along the way but I am blessed to have a loving, supportive family with strong faith and friends that care about me. I plan to make decisions that are based on my faith and trust in God and not just on what others are saying or doing. I want to live my life in a way that pleases God. He loves us so much that he sent his only Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. It is comforting to know that all who believe in him will have eternal life.

Brady James Becker

Parents: James and Jennifer Becker

Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

I chose this verse to be my Confirmation verse because it gives me comfort and strength that God will always be with me and will always be protecting me from any sin in the world. It also comforts me because it tells me that God is everyone's best friend, and that he accepts anyone through Christ. My Bible verse tells me that God's Word keeps me strong in the Lord, so that I can have eternal life through him. My Bible verse also tells me that God is our refuge, and that he will shelter me, and keep me away from all sin so I will never fall away from him. He will also provide me spiritual shelter and food as I come to church to grow in faith and have eternal life. My verse also tells me that God is always active beside me, and that he is caring for me, because he gave his Son to die for my sins and everybody else's. My verse shows me that God is compassionate to me even though I am a filthy sinner.

Anna Gabrielle Bonack

Parents: Jeffrey and Laura Bonack

Joshua 1:5 No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Despite God talking to Joshua in this verse, I believe God's words can apply to anyone. In Joshua 1:5, God is reminding me that there is no one greater than him—God has more power than anyone or anything else in this world, including the devil. As God promises, no one will stand up against me—not even the devil. Nothing compares to God's power. God also tells me in this verse that he was with Moses. I know God was with him, and I know Moses was a sinner. Moses murdered, questioned God, grew angry, disobeyed God, acted just like every other human. Yet he is presented as an example of faithfulness and righteousness, and God remained by his side. Since I am a sinner, like Moses, I know that God will never leave my side, especially when he reveals his Word in the last part of this verse. When God promises that he will never leave me nor forsake me, I trust that he will stay true to his Word, that he will always keep that promise, because God doesn't break his promises. I chose this verse because those last words (I will never leave you nor forsake you) remind me that even the sin I think no one else can see—God sees. But even though God sees every time I give in to the devil—every evil act, impure thought, sin of omission—I can be sure that he will not give up on me. I know this through the promise he gives me in this verse, and through my knowledge of the ultimate sacrifice—Jesus' suffering and death as he took all my sins upon himself. It gives me comfort that when everyone may fail me, God never will. He will always remain by my side.

Amanda Christine Berry

Parents: Keith and Jennifer Berry

Sponsors: Bethany and Timothy Hilgendorf

Psalm 121:3 He will not let your foot slip - he who watches over you will not slumber.

I have chosen this verse as my Confirmation verse because of memories from my childhood, and the assurance of the future. To begin, I remember being little, and having a slightly more mature mind than the rest of my peers. This, of course, was only in specific areas, such as my imagination. While I still played with stuffed animals and played pretend, I'd stay awake at night, fearful. This was never a fear of the dark exactly, but more a fear of what's in it. I knew there were bad people in the world, and those people would do harmful things to others. This was my fear. Now that I have taken this Confirmation class and read this passage, I have no need to be afraid anymore. As well as this, I know that I will flourish for the rest of my life, with no fear of being harmed by another sinful creature until the day the Lord calls me home to his kingdom.

Kyle Jacob Byley

Parents: Shawn and Kam O'Dell

Luke 10:16 "Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me."

I chose this verse because I thought it meant a lot and shows that God is always with me. If somebody does something bad to me, God is always with me and this means a lot to me. I think this is a really meaningful verse. I am never alone. That means a lot to me that God is the best protector and that God is always there when I need him and that I don't ever have to doubt God. For example, when I went in for surgery I knew that God was with me and knew I would be ok.

Emma Eleanor Eilertson

Parents: Curt and Jennifer Eilertson

Sponsors: Kristin McGraw and Derek Eilertson

Psalm 118:24 This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

I have chosen this as my Confirmation verse because this passage is a great way to start my day. It reminds me that whatever troubles may come throughout my day I can be assured that it will all work out according to God's plan. It is easy to rejoice when my day is going well. It is difficult to rejoice when my day is not going well. This verse reminds me to rejoice on my bad days as well as the good ones. This verse helps me live my faith. When I am happy on a bad day people may wonder why, and I can share my faith through these words. One other reason I have chosen this verse is because this is one of my grandma's favorite verses and she has had a very big impact on my life. Always remember: "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad."

Abigail Grace Esmeier

Parents: Kurt and Cherie Esmeier

Sponsors: Kent and Kerrie Esmeier

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.”

Ever since I was in 3rd grade I knew that this would be my Confirmation verse. It has special meaning to me for a couple of reasons. This is the same verse that my mom has relied upon in her life, and it also reminds me that I don't have to worry about what the future holds for me, or anything else, for that matter. I know that God will take care of me and that he will lead me in all aspects of my life. He has a plan, and that plan is for my good and it won't hurt me, no matter what. As a constant reminder of his promise, I have this verse on the wall of my room. It is a visual reminder that even when things happen in my life that cause me to struggle, I don't have to worry, it's all part of his plan for me. God gives me hope for a prosperous future, a future that has both positives and some not so positives, but I can rest assure that all of it will be for my good, just as he has planned.

Molly Lydia Fitzsimmons

Parents: Seth and Carrie Fitzsimmons

Sponsors: Kristi Gorsline, and Joel and Bethany Schwartz

1 Peter 5:7 Cast your cares upon the Lord, for he cares about you.

I have chosen 1 Peter 5:7 as my Confirmation verse because it brings me a reassurance of comfort. Just like anyone else, I deal with stress whether that be for an upcoming test, sporting event, or homework. This verse reminds me that I can pray to God about my problems, and he will help me overcome them. Worry and fear are so big in our world today, but Peter writes that we should take that worry and fear and cast it to God who cares so deeply for us. Yes, we know that this does not promise that God will fix everything we worry about, but I can trust he will handle them in the way that is best for me. It was not God's will for me to carry all these burdens, that's why he sent Jesus so that he could carry all my sins and struggles for me on the cross. Because of this, I have the assurance that God's love for me is strong and trustworthy. Believing that God is mighty and cares for me, allows me to have the confidence to hand over all my fears and worries to him.

Jack Robert Goelz

Parents: Martin and Sara Goelz

Sponsors: Rachel Diehm and Karen Milazzo

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

I have chosen this verse as my Confirmation verse. I remember hearing it in a Bible study at Camp Phillip once, and it struck me as a key perspective of the gospel message. The first part of it is a reminder to me that Christ died for me *once*. This means I don't need to do anything to justify my sins, emphasizing that absolutely everything that needs to be done has been done for me already. The second phrase is proof that the first matters. Because Christ was my holy, righteous substitute, his suffering and death on the cross pay for my sins wholly and fully. If he wasn't perfect, his work would have been meaningless, and because I am an unrighteous sinner, I need him as my substitute. The last phrase plainly states why Christ's work matters, and what it does for me. It tells me that because Christ lived perfectly, died innocently, and rose again, I have eternal life in heaven with my heavenly Father.

Rowan David Gray

Parents: Richard and Deaune Gray

Sponsors: Cindy and Brent Cook

Revelation 22:16 I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright morning star.

I have chosen this as my Confirmation verse because I really like it and it reassures me of Christ's second coming. Part of what this verse means to me is found in the verses around it. In Revelation 22:10, God says, "He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming soon.'" This helps me understand what my verse, Revelation 22:16, means by explaining what Jesus means when he says, "I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright morning star." What I think this means is that the morning star, or Jesus, is something that is coming soon, like the morning, and something that we are looking forward to. This is referring to Jesus's second coming, and Judgment Day, because that is coming soon and we look forward to it. When he says, "the offspring of David," he is referring to how he came through the line of David, as prophesied in the Old Testament. One of the main reasons I chose this verse is that it reassures me of Jesus's second coming. This verse helps my faith when Jesus says, "I am the root," because it reassures me that Jesus will always support me and be under me, and even when I fall, he will still be there for me to grow off of. Also, as he declares that he is the root, he will give me the spiritual water that I need in order to grow and produce spiritual fruit. This is why I chose and like this verse so much.

Samuel David Grimes

Parents: Michael and Amy Grimes

Sponsors: Kyle and Dixie Luedke

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 have chosen this as my Confirmation verse because it brings me confidence, comfort, and certainty. It brings me comfort because this verse reassures me that God is with me and will never leave me. It also reminds me that God will pick me up when I fall down and when I am in times of trouble. This verse brings me certainty because it shows me that I can always rely on God in times of trouble and doubt and trust in him in these times as well. Finally, this verse brings me confidence because it reminds me that God will fight for me, defend me, and will give me the strength I need to get through everything. These are the reasons why I have chosen Isaiah 41:10 as my Confirmation verse.

Noah Andrew Gruetzmacher

Parents: Bill Gruetzmacher and Kerri Dibb

Sponsors: Andrew Kleist and Emily Jiles

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."

When the prophet Jeremiah wrote the words of my Confirmation verse, the Israelites were filled with sadness, doubt, and despair, because they had just been exiled to Babylon. They felt as though God had abandoned them. However, that couldn't have been farther from the truth. God encouraged them to walk by faith and not by sight. God knew what the future was going to hold for them and so he instructed them to be prosperous, to make a home in this new land, and to trust in his saving grace.

Like the Israelites, I will be leaving the comfort and security of St. Paul's where I've attended school since I was six weeks old. Instead of having twenty-nine classmates, I will have over a hundred classmates, most of whom I won't know. But just as God was with the Israelites, so he will be with me as I leave the comfort and securities of St. Paul's and enter the doubts and uncertainties of high school. As I walk through the doors of Wisconsin Lutheran High School, I will remember that God has a plan for me. I will remember to put all my faith and trust in God's plan, even when things seem impossible. And I will pray for my classmates to have faith in God's plan for them as well, so that they will also walk by faith and not by sight.

Ethan James Haag

Parents: Christopher and Jennifer Haag

Sponsors: Amy Boesel and Brian Haag

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 have chosen this as my Confirmation verse because it reminds me that whenever I may experience earthly trials and tribulations, God will always be with me! God does not promise a life without hardships, but this verse is a pure reminder of God's unconditional love, power, and strength, so there is no need for me to worry or fear. God promises me that wherever I am, there will be an army of angels and a loving, omnipresent God with me. God also reminds me of his omnipotence, as he will uphold me with his righteous hand. This comfort encourages me to come to God in prayer, with all my concerns, and he will listen. He assures me everything will work out according to his will, and that through the Holy Spirit I will be seated in heaven, rejoicing with Him forever. What a blessing to live without fear, even during difficult times, because God is my protector and strength during this earthly life!

Abigail Madison Hockers

Parents: John and Cathleen Hockers

Sponsors: Brian and Christine Henneberry

Psalms 119:105 Your Word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

I have chosen this verse to be my Confirmation verse because it reminds me that God's Word is always there to guide me. When it says, "Your Word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path," it is referring to how God's Word is there to guide me and to help me to not be confused in my daily life. When there is no light, you're not able to see, just like how without God's Word I wouldn't know right from wrong because his Word is that light that shows me clarity. Just like that light on a path, God's Word shows me where I should and shouldn't go and what I should and shouldn't do. His Word helps me to make the right decisions and know what I should be doing. Without God's Word my life would be different. I wouldn't know that God is there to protect me from all sin, death, and the powers of the devil, or that Jesus sacrificed his life so that everyone on this earth, including me, could be saved. God's Word is a very important guide in my life and this passage shows a description of that.

Leah Parlee Hudock

Parents: Lucas and Andrea Hudock

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 have chosen this verse as my Confirmation verse because I worry a lot. I worry everyday about how my life will turn out or what will happen when I am in high school. But mostly, I worry about falling away from God. My parents helped me pick this verse, which is special. The thought of being away from the one person who died a slow and painful death for me is an awful thought. And the words of Jeremiah 29:11 help me know to stay connected to Jesus. The words, "... plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future," are amazing words that remind me that God has a plan for me and will protect me. I have made some amazing friends at St. Paul's and I hate to ever think that we might not be friends in the near future. But I trust that God's plan for me is right. I trust that he will guide my way in the darkest of nights. I worry. But this verse has stuck with me and has made me realize that I don't need to worry, because God is by my side.

Ellie Denise Johnson

Parents: Michael and Sarah Johnson

Sponsors: Richard and Margaret 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 verse because I feel that it connects to a part of my life that is happening right as I graduate from 8th grade. This verse tells me that God will be by my side every step of the way. God knows the plans He has for me and will guide me every step of the way through this transition. Remembering this verse will help me rely on God to bring good things into my life and help me grow as a person in faith. God gives me hope, and when I am going through hard times, I can remember that God will find the good in the situation and bring it to me. When I was going through all my knee surgeries, I used this verse to help me get through them. Knowing that God would get me through that time gave me hope and helped my faith grow. God has helped guide me with decisions as well. He has helped guide me to make the decision to go to Wisconsin Lutheran High School, where my faith will continue to prosper.

Joshua Michael Johnson

Parents: John and Claudia Johnson

Sponsors: Christopher Hoffman and Natalie Schliem

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

The reason I chose this as my verse is because it comforts me and makes me feel strong in hard times. When it says, “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid,” It makes me feel that no matter what happens I can be strong in God and not have to fear. I know he is there for me when I need him. When I step on the mat for wrestling or on the field for football, I can be sure that when I am out there or doing anything else in my life I know God is by my side and that I don’t need to be scared of what will happen. Last season I got hurt on the field and I was scared and didn’t know what to do but, as I lay out on the field, I knew that God would be with me protecting me and he would do what he knew was best for me. This is how I know he is with me and gives me the courage and strength to overcome whatever obstacle that lies in my path. So as I venture further into life, I can take this passage with me every step of the way and look at it whenever I feel like I need to be reassured that God is there for me and will never leave me to go through life by myself and will protect me in everything I do and wherever I go.

Sophia Mary Kennedy

Parents: Jason and Lindsay Kennedy

Sponsors: Mason Hoffman and Morgan Holzer

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 as my Confirmation verse because I know that it will always be a reminder to me that God will never leave my side and that I should never be nervous to share the gospel with anyone around me, believers or not. It doesn’t matter where I am going or what I am doing. I don’t need to fear because God is there protecting and comforting me every step of the way. Having full assurance that God will always love and take care of me, I will have complete trust in him. I am certain that I will encounter hardships in my life, but this verse will urge me to look to God in every situation, above anyone or anything else. God’s love and comfort to me is an amazing blessing that I will always cherish and keep with me. This is why I will continue to live for Jesus and do my best to put him first. I wish to always keep this verse in both my heart and mind, strengthening my faith a little bit each day.

Grace Lynn King

Parents: Christopher and Sussy King

Sponsors: Sumike Hattori, Matt and Elizabeth King

Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

I have chosen this verse because it reminds me that in every situation I have no need to be anxious or worry. God will always be there for me, watching over me, and helping me in my every need. It helps me realize that God cares about every situation I am in, even the small ones. He will also give me peace through Jesus, which I know I cannot understand, but I trust him anyway. This verse also says that I can pray to God at any time and ask him for anything and he will answer it according to his will. This passage is a reminder for me to be thankful because God is watching over me at all times, which is incredible. I know that according to this verse, God will guard my heart and mind. We tend to focus on our outward sin and not what is in our hearts or minds and God protects it. This world makes it easy to worry, but this passage comforts me.

Chloë Xuexin Klopf

Parents: Jeffrey and Sharon Klopf

Sponsors: Carol and Tom Geske, Heather Knops

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 passage as my Confirmation verse because it gives me great comfort and hope. I know that even in the darkest times in my life—when troubles and hardships come, when the world, my sinful flesh, and the devil cause me troubles that will test my faith—I know I can trust God to comfort me because he is with me. He was with me from the time I was conceived and born, and he is still with me. This gives me great comfort and I know that I can turn to him in prayer because he will always listen to me. The words, “his rod and staff they comfort me” tell me that God is there protecting me. He has never given me more than I can bear. And the troubles he gives me only bring me closer to him in faith.

Hannah Xuehuan Klopf

Parents: Jeffrey and Sharon Klopf

Sponsors: Wayne and Rita Klopf, Amy Miller

Philippians 1:21 For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain.

I chose this as my Confirmation verse because it has always been a part of my life and it comforts me. This verse tells me to live in Christ and grow in my faith until I die, and that I should live by his Word and try to obey it the best I can, even though I’m a sinner and I need Jesus. I should live for Jesus on earth, but I know that death will be way better because I will be standing in the presence of the Lord and I will be with him forever in heaven. While I’m on this earth I should live by faith in Jesus Christ. I shouldn’t be afraid to spread the gospel and tell about Jesus to the world. This verse comforts me because I will receive the joys of heaven when I die. There will be no pain, suffering, or sadness; everything will be perfect and I will be in the presence of the Lord forever.

Zachary Andrew Koch

Parents: Andrew and Laura Koch

Sponsors: Doreen Cramer, Nadine and Norm Mims

Philippians 4:13 I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength.

I have chosen this as my Confirmation verse because it shows me that my strength comes from God's Word and I can rely on it in all situations. An example of this is when I was diagnosed 2 ½ years ago with Type I Diabetes. I thought to myself, "Why me?" Just as when the Apostle Paul once asked the Lord to remove a physical problem from him, his reply was "My grace is sufficient" (2 Corinthians 12:9). As it was for Paul, now it is for me. With the strength that the Lord has given me I can manage my disease. The Lord also gave me the strength to play the sports that I love, basketball and golf. Not only does he give me the strength to play these sports but also gives me the ability to encourage my team and keep a positive attitude. Also he gives me the strength to believe in him. Without faith in Jesus we are lost, so he gives me the strength to believe in him so one day I will be with him in heaven. Lastly, he gives me the strength to love my family. My family is very important to me and as it says in 1 John 4:19, "We love because he first loved us."

Brady Franklin Kremkau

Parents: Franklin and Laury Kremkau

Sponsors: John Kremkau and Kristy Melius

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

I chose this as my Bible verse because I feel that just as God forgave us, we should forgive the others in our life, no matter what they have done. One example of this was the time when I had forgotten to work on an English essay that was going to be due in a couple of days, but my mom forgave me and just told me to work on it for a half-hour every day until it was finished. That day has helped me to realize that my mom forgave me just as Jesus forgives everyone. She didn't need to, but she did because she loved me, just as Jesus does. Ever since, I have tried to behave the best for my mom and dad and to obey God's law the best I can.

Joshua Parker Kwiatkowski

Parents: Timothy and Katherine Kwiatkowski

Sponsors: Bryan Kwiatkowski and Kristi McCumber

Matthew 11:28 Come to me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.

I chose this as my Confirmation verse because of the comfort it can give me when I face all of the trials and tribulations in life. I like this verse because no matter what happens to me in life, whether I sin and have guilt weighing on my heart or I've lost a loved one, God still loves me, and I have redemption in Jesus Christ, my Lord. I can also use this verse to comfort a friend, who has had bad things happen to them. Matthew 11:28 is just a huge comfort knowing that, in Jesus, all of my sins are forgiven, and when nothing seems to be going right, God loves me and will be there to provide comfort to me. It also provides me relief because I know that every time I mess up, God will forgive me and will always love me and accept me as his child.

Wolfgang Ashley Krill

Parents: Michael and Emily Krill

Sponsors: Jerry and Kristen Pettigrew

Ruth 1:16 But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.”

I chose this verse because it is my favorite verse of all time and it reminds me of how I came to believe. It is about women who lost their husbands and have to move on in life. Naomi wanted to leave Ruth behind and travel back to her homeland. She encourages Ruth to go back to her homeland too. However, Ruth was very sad, and Ruth didn’t want to, even though her sister left her.

Ruth wants Naomi to understand that she really wants her to go with her. She has her mind set on Naomi’s people being her people and Naomi’s God being her God. Ruth wants to stay with Naomi and help her and her trouble.

This verse applies to God because Ruth wanted the faith Naomi had in God. Where you go I go, your people will be my people and your God will be my God. This is how I remember what God can do in someone life. Ruth followed her heart.

Naomi led Ruth back to her homeland. Ruth met Boaz and they have a child. Ruth who would become the great grandmother of David is now part of the path to Jesus. David was the king and this led to Jesus. Ruth’s decision to follow Naomi and her finding Boaz, led to Obed, and that led to Jesse. And this family line eventually led to Jesus himself.

My big takeaway is anyone can believe in God no matter what they originally believe. This means anyone can believe God and this will lead to better things. This does not mean that things will be easy but Ruth learned to trust God and this led her faith to grow stronger.

Ruth ultimately became part of the family of Jesus. I am part of that family too. I go to a church with other Christians. I follow a God who goes where I go and loves me no matter what. I am proud of Ruth. She is my sister in Christ. I am a Son of God. A forgiven child of God. Ruth is a believer just like me.

Amber Malora Larson

Parents: Gary Larson and Julie McSwain

Sponsors: David LaBonte and Heather LaBonte

Matthew 7:7 Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

I have chosen this passage to be my Confirmation verse because this verse speaks to me. Haha, yeah, “This verse speaks to me!” very cliché, right? Well, when I first read it, I thought that it was very profound, for reasons that are yet to be disclosed. This is one of my favorite Bible verses.

This verse reminds me that God will provide. He takes care of me, and I don’t need to worry. He has a plan for me. Everything that happens is all according to his plan. God showers me with blessings every day. He blesses me with things I ask for and those I don’t, which he does out of love for me. This reminds me to pray boldly. God has three answers—yes, no, wait. He wants me to pray boldly, even if I don’t get what I want or if he answers, “wait.” It also reminds me of the most important blessing that God gives me—Jesus. Because of him, I don’t need to live perfectly to reach heaven, something that is impossible for any of us sinful human beings. Because Jesus died for my sins, I can live with him forever in heaven. Long story short, (too late) I really like this verse.

Logan Michael Lawonn

Parents: Masten and Angela Lawonn

Sponsors: Adam Angrick and Sheri Thomka

Joshua 1:9 Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

I picked this passage in memory of my cousin Holly. I was inspired by her Confirmation verse when I read it and decided this would also be a message that I would want to live by. I want to always be reminded in my journey that I can be strong because I always have God's love with me. I do not need to be afraid or discouraged by life's disappointments or changes. Life isn't always going to be easy but I'm thankful that the Lord will always be with me wherever I go.

Eli Samuel Lepke

Parents: Joshua and Nicole Lepke

Sponsors: Ryan Kolosovsky and Annie Lepke

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 have chosen this as my Confirmation verse because it reminds me that whatever situation I am in, God will always be with me - wherever I am. Because of this promise, I know there is a God who loves me and cares for me with all his heart. I can be confident in my faith and know I do not have to fear when I am right with God. He does everything for my good even if I think it is bad at the time. A quote that really helps me understand this is, "Life kept throwing me all these curveballs and then God gave me a bat and taught me how to swing." What this means to me is that when something in life does not go the way I intended it to go, I get to face any hardships with Christ by my side. I have been a Christian my whole life and I look to continue being a Christian and strengthening my faith until the day I die.

Mason Robert Mazziotti

Parents: Christian and Suzanne Mazziotti

Sponsors: Donald and Maureen Grzanna, Donnie Grzanna, Mark Grzanna, Michelle Grzanna, and Mike and Christine Koszalka

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your understanding; in all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight.

I have chosen this verse because it tells me that I don't have to be alone through any bad times that come across my life. If I trust and believe in the Lord and his Word, he will be there for me and protect me from any danger. With this knowledge of him, I can ask him for help to rescue me from sin. This passage shows me and gives me the comfort of knowing that he will forgive me of my sin and lead me on the path of heaven. With all of the sin and war in this world, I have the assurance that he will save me and when it is my time to go, I will truly see his unimaginable glory. I will follow and believe in him, and when I do, he will save me and bring me to heaven to live with him for all eternity.

Kathleen Gail Meyer

Parents: Steven and Pamela Meyer

Sponsors: Daniel Murray and Monica Meyer

Matthew 28:20 And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

I have chosen this verse as my Confirmation verse because it means many things to me. This verse is one of the first passages that I memorized. I knew that I was going to use it as my Confirmation verse since fifth grade. This is one of my favorite verses in the Bible because it comforts me so much. When I went through the hardest times in my life, every night I prayed and remembered this verse because it is a promise from God. God always has and will keep his promises. Not only is this verse a comfort to me, but I can share it with others too, if they need it, or just to brighten their day. A couple years ago, when my grandpa was in the hospital from a major heart attack, it was really scary. When he woke up from a coma, I really had a feeling that he wasn't going to remember my name, or me all together, and nothing would ever be the same again. But all I had to do to reassure myself that everything would be ok and that God is truly with me is to think of this verse.

Ryan Frederick Miller

Parents: Dennis and Tammy Miller

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 chose this passage because it shows me that God loved us so much, more than any other thing in the world, that he sacrificed his only Son for us. God wants us to be with him in heaven where there will be no more hurt or pain or sadness and where we will live in perfection forever. I can't come to believe in God on my own, however, because the Holy Spirit has to create faith in me. The Holy Spirit creates this faith in me through baptism and God's Word and, even though I am not perfect, this faith saves me and brings me to heaven.

Kierstan Gia Proite

Parents: Marc Proite and Katie Orvis

Sponsors: Sandra Krause, Betsy Orvis, and Lynne Witzlsteiner

Revelation 22:20-21 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

I chose this passage because it gives me hope when it says, "He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming soon.'" The verses have an impact on me and the faith of those reading them. I also chose these verses because they have a faith-fulfilling phrase: "The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen." To me that means that the grace of Jesus is with me at all times. As long as I am a believer in Jesus Christ, I know the grace of God is always with me. I know I will be protected from the devil and all my sins and others, because Jesus died for my sins on the cross.

Abigail Grace Prosser

Parents: Dennis and Kristine Prosser

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 have chosen this as my Confirmation verse because it has given me great comfort in hard times. God has repeatedly placed these words on my heart, assuring me that he has a plan for my life, a plan that will work out for my good. I, as a sinful human being, look at a bad situation and doubt that there is any way God can turn it for my good. But God whispers to me, encouraging me that I have him to lean on. He reminds me that he is the Almighty Lord, and he can see everything, from the very beginning to the very end. I can only see the present, the time of trouble I am in. But God can see more. He can see the outcome of a tough circumstance and how it will turn for my good. All He asks is that I trust him. I feel an unexplainable peace that can only come from God: the peace of knowing that whatever happens, it is according to God's perfect will. I pray that everyone around me would come to feel this peace, and that we would all develop a stronger faith in God.

Jude Kaden Radish

Parents: Jason Radish and Jenny Grimmer-Radish

Sponsors: Steven Barnes, James Grimmer, and Jennifer Radish

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 chose this passage because it inspires me to stay strong and fight off the temptations of the world. I can not do this alone. I need the Lord to strengthen and guide me. In this passage the Lord gives me the reassurance that he is beside me to help and make me strong to combat against sin. This is a perfect example of law and gospel. It gives me instruction, and then also shows me the Lord's unconditional love and support. I hope to keep everything that I have learned from this passage as my suit of armor to conquer the temptations of sin.

Ian James Rintelman

Parents: Ryan and Heather Rintelman

Sponsors: Heidi Buchta and Matthew Redfield

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 shows me that God has a plan for my life. It gives me comfort to know that before I was born God showed me the way to him through his Word. This passage shows me that God will be there for me in all stages of life, starting from my baptism and now through my Confirmation, in High school, and during the rest of my life here on earth. Everyone has dark times and times of trouble, and this passage shows that God's Word is our light to get out of darkness. It displays that even in the darkest of times God's Word is a light that reminds me of Jesus who saved me. In the end, this passage displays to me where to look, God's Word, to see Jesus dying for me on the cross and saving me from eternal death in hell. It shows me the path to eternal life with him in heaven.

Isabella Anne SanFelippo

Parents: Matthew SanFelippo, Kristin and Juan Mireles Jr.

Sponsors: Michelle Matusin and Michael SanFelippo

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 leave you nor forsake you.

I chose this verse because it reminds me and assures me that God will always be with me and he will take care of me. In certain parts of your life you have to go through rough times, but thinking about this passage I feel that God will always be with me even in those troubles. This passage gets me through some of the rough times I have and always puts a smile on my face because I know wherever I go, I will be a child of God and he will be with me. Even though it's sad to see my classmates go their separate ways, I hope and pray that everyone in my class will stay in the true faith and always remember that God is with them and loves all of his children. I had a great time learning more about God's Word and spending time with my class. I am glad to know that I have other people in my life that believe the same things I do. I will forever be thankful for the Christian education I got at St. Paul's.

Katelynn Marie Schneider

Parents: William and Sally Schneider

Sponsors: Mike and Katy Kapocius, Paul and Lisa Schneider

Psalm 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not be in want.

I chose this as my Confirmation verse because it has always been a huge part of my life. Not only did I pick this as my Confirmation verse, but so did my mother, grandfather, and great-grandmother. It's a very special verse not only to me, but to them as well. It's similar to an heirloom in a way. It has been passed down from generations past. But I wasn't forced to pick it. I had a choice to pick whatever verse I thought was the verse for me, and I preferred Psalm 23:1. I didn't even know about this "heirloom" until not that long ago. I have wanted this verse since about 3rd grade. When I was baptized, I obtained a gift. I don't remember receiving it, but I'll always remember having it. The gift was a stone cross with Psalm 23:1 written on it. Next to the verse is a bigger sheep with a little lamb. I have always considered myself a little lamb of God, and I always will.

Melanie Ann Schwartz

Parents: Dr. Gerald and Ericka Schwartz

Sponsor: Carol Ratkowski

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

I chose this as my Confirmation verse originally because I saw it on the back of a candle when I was younger and thought it was a nice verse. As I got older, I thought about it more and saw that the verse had different meanings. I can relate to the first part, "rejoice always", as it reminds me that God wants me to rejoice even in the bad times because they happen for a reason. The second part, "pray continually," reminds me to talk to God no matter how busy I am in my daily life. The third part, "give thanks in all circumstances," reminds me to give thanks, no matter what, because God always has a plan for me. Finally, the fourth part, "for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus," reminds me that this is all God's will and he has a plan for all of us.

Gabriel William Sheahan

Parents: Dale and Becky Sheahan

Sponsors: Joyce Rader and Carol Sheahan

2 Corinthians 5:7 For we live by faith, not by sight.

I chose this passage because it helps me remember that some people are physically blind. They can't see the things around them. Some people are spiritually blind. They can't see what God does for them. The invisible Holy Spirit helps us to believe in God and see all the good things God has done. The Holy Spirit gives us our faith and our spiritual sight. With this sight, we can live and walk with God.

Isabelle Lauren Steidl

Parents: Brian and Julie Steidl

Sponsors: Natalie and Micah Walz

Joshua 1:9 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

I have chosen this as my confirmation verse because as I go through life I am going to have good times and rough times. Through the hard times I know I may feel lonely and like no one understands what I'm going through, but this verse reminds me that in all situations, good or bad, the Lord will be with me, always standing by my side. It also reminds me to stay strong and never to worry because Jesus puts battles in my life to make me stronger, and although it seems hard at the time it is really shaping me to be the Christian he wants me to be. I hope to always remember this verse when I face struggles and hard times in life so that I can grow through the battles and be strengthened in my faith.

Weston Shawn Sundholm

Parents: Shawn and Jeanette Sundholm

Sponsors: Jacob Paul and Raeann Thompson

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 leave you nor forsake you.

I have chosen this as my Confirmation verse because it is, and will be, a very big influence on my life because God promised to be with me always. Although things will look and be tough in my life, I know that God will be with me and keep me safe. Through Moses and verbal inspiration, God commands me to be strong and courageous, and to go on in life, knowing that God will be there to help me. Also, that I need to be calm and trust that he has a plan to help me and take care of me. As the verse says, "The Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." This will continue to stick with me, because I know that with these words, I can be confident that in all I do God goes with me, and blesses me to do everything to the best of my abilities. I will continue to stay strong in God's Word as it says that God will never break his promises. Most important of all, he sent his Son to be my Redeemer so he could take that promise that he made to Moses and the Israelites, and make it true. I'm happy to know that God will be with me in this important part of my life, and will continue to be with me until the day I die.

Melanie Joy Tonn

Parents: Brian and Sarah Tonn

Sponsors: Rachel Daniels

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 I know God has a plan for me. He is always with me and protecting me. Even when I was a baby and had heart surgery, God was with me the whole time. My surgery did not go as doctors had planned, but God was in control the whole time. He comforted and protected me and my family. With my ongoing health issues, I am reminded this is his plan for me. This verse gives me hope, when going through many tests or having a rough day, I am reminded that this is God's plan for me. I don't understand his plan and can sometimes get frustrated with my struggle, but this verse is my reminder that this is God's will. He has a reason for my struggle, this verse lets me know that he will do what is best for me. And who knows, maybe one day I will be able to live a seizure free life. I look forward to one day being in heaven where I will have no more health problems. Until then I will trust in God and His plan for me.

Elizabeth Kay Veley

Parents: Christopher and Lisa Veley

Sponsors: Dean Sievert and Kimberly Sievert

Psalms 55:22 Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.

I chose this verse because it reassures me of God's promise to protect me. I can trust that God will listen to all my worries and troubles. There are no problems God can't solve. God may not take away all my problems instantly. But in prayer and listening to his Word, God will work all things out for my good. Even when I don't see it, it will be to make me stronger in my faith. He will strengthen me along the way, and he will never let me fall. Jesus carried all my burdens and sins when he died on the cross, and he continues to feel my pain. God sacrificed Jesus out of love for me, to take away my sins, so I can one day live with him forever in heaven. In Holy Communion, God reminds us and assures us of his promises that he has fulfilled and continues to keep, and will always keep.

Madilyn May Watry

Parents: Michael and Elizabeth Watry

Sponsors: Laura Kolodzinski and Emily Watry

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 leave you nor forsake you.

I have chosen this passage as my Confirmation verse because it helps remind me that God is my Redeemer. He is my merciful Father who has saved me from eternal death, and will bring me to eternal life in heaven. This verse tells me that I shouldn't be afraid to follow my goals, and to practice my faith in front of others. He will always be there with me to protect and guide me. As I grow older through high school, through college, and then as an adult, I can use this verse to guide me to find strength and courage in all of the situations I might face. I know that I can live my life by my Christian values without fear of what others think or do. For I know that God is on my side, helping me stand tall, so that through him I can follow my goals and dreams.

Tresna Lauren Wehking

Parents: Gregory Wehking and Rachel Wittig-Oman

Sponsor: Jenni Adams and Daniel Wittig

Philippians 4:13 I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength.

I chose a very strong and encouraging verse that reassures me that I can do anything through Christ. Whenever I'm in trouble I know who to come to with all of my troubles. "I can do everything through him who gives me strength" comforts me a lot. I'm a really big sports lover and I always seem to be very nervous at the start of a game or even a simple practice. Whenever I feel nervous I pray to God to calm my nerves and help me to do the best I can with the abilities he has given me. The Lord has blessed me with an opportunity to go to school and help me to learn, so before every test I pray to him to help me remember the answers I have reviewed. Throughout my life I have been exploring my abilities and interests and what I want my job to be as I get older. I trust that I will be guided through my faith going into high school. Sometimes I'm not sure of where my life will go, but I am sure that I will stay a Christian and get my strength from God for as long as I live.

Thomas Michael Westendorf

Parents: Michael and Melissa Westendorf

Sponsors: Kevin and Renee Mueller

Isaiah 40:28-31 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

I have chosen this as my Confirmation verses because it reminds me that God does not grow tired or weary, he has my back at all times, and when I trip and fall in life, he will pick me up and get me back on the right track. When I am tired and weary with the problems of this life, he will renew my strength, and he will lift me above the problems of this world. While I live on earth, I will have the peace of knowing that eventually, when my time comes, I will fly on the wings of eagles to the land where I will never grow tired or weary, where I will walk and not grow faint, and where I and all believers in Jesus Christ will live forever and never cry, or suffer from pain and sin ever again.

Serenity Ann Witzlsteiner

Parents: Wade Witzlsteiner and Trisha Vazquez

Sponsors: Scott and Lori Witzlsteiner

Psalm 37:23-24 The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.

I have chosen this as my Confirmation verse because in its powerful words the Lord promises to stand by me. He chose me to be his own, and even when I make a mistake, he'll always be right by my side to pick me up. I should never be afraid of what's in the future because I know that, no matter what, I am strong through Christ. The Lord watches over me and gives me a firm base to stand on. I am also a child of God through faith, which he had blessed me with. I hope to strengthen my faith and come closer to Christ every single day. I don't want to have to fear those days when I stumble, but I have no reason to worry. The Lord has a plan for me and all people everywhere. In my future, there will always be conflicts and complications that I'll have to face, but not alone. I will be built on the rock and have my eyes fixed on Jesus, who is at the center today and every day.

Lucy Carol Younk

Parents: Adam Younk and Jennifer Smith-Hulbert

Sponsors: Andrew Smith and Renee Waldow

Philippians 4:13 I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength.

I have chosen this as my Confirmation verse because it has had a large impact on my life. This verse helps me to remember that Jesus strengthens me to do everything in my life, from school work to trying to be the best friend and Christian I can be. Philippians 4:13 also helps me in sports. Coming into the cross-country season last year, I was really worried about not being good enough. For every meet, I wrote this passage on my hand and when I felt discouraged or weak during a race, I would look down and force all the doubts out of my mind because it reminded me that God is always with me and strengthens me in everything I do. From then on, I have continued to write the passage on my hand, and I am always reminded by it—that God strengthens me. This passage means more to me than just sports, though. It also reminds me that no matter what struggles pop up in my life, whether big or small, God is always there and will help me get through them.

Ryleigh Michelle Zeller

Parents: Michael and Michelle Zeller

Sponsors: Thomas Brummeyer and Suzanne Fischer

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? 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 as my Confirmation verse because of the reminders and encouragement that it brings me. I know that in whatever I do, God will always be with me, guiding and directing me in the right way. He will never steer me in the wrong direction, and I know that I can put my full trust and faith in him. Even when things are against me, or when people cause me to question what I have been taught to be true, I need to be strong and courageous, knowing that the Lord is right by my side helping me through it all. "Be strong and courageous" is what he commands. And I know that through this command, doubt and worries will arise trying to lead me away. But, always coming back to God's Word will keep me in this true faith that nothing can ever replace. We have been told throughout our lives how we must stay faithful to God, and the only way to do that is to trust him and believe that he is with us wherever we are, now and in the future.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of May 6, 2019

MON	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	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
	6:00 pm	Divorce Care (School Classroom #8)
	6:30 pm	Handbell Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
	7:00 pm	Following the Promise Bible Study (Faith Room)
WED	9:30 am	<i>Mommy and Me</i> (Faith 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	Ministry Board Meeting
	7:00 pm	The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
SAT	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	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	

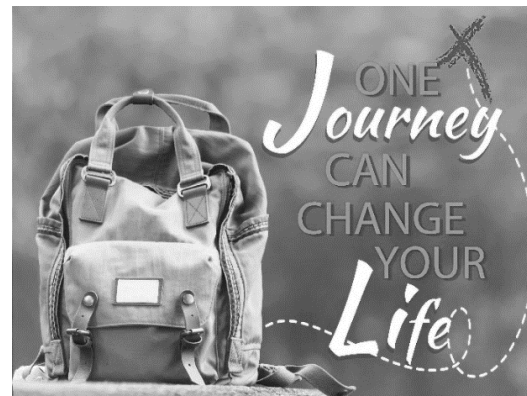


Our vision is that by every possible means we bring every person in our area of influence closer to Christ through regular worship, small groups, and serving together.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

CONTINUE THE JOURNEY!

- A Journey Following a Familiar Voice — Mother's Day (John 10:22-30) — May 12
- A Journey that Exposes You for What You Are (John 13:31-35) — May 19
- A Journey with a Faithful Guide — Memorial Day (John 14:23-29) — May 26
- A Journey that Gives Meaning to Life (Luke 24:44-53) — June 2



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. A worship host will be happy to assist you with directions if needed.

BAPTISM

Rylan Gray Komater, born November 28, 2018, daughter of Nicholas and Danielle (nee Heinrich) Komater, will be baptized in a private ceremony after the Saturday, May 4, worship service. We praise God for the gift of faith given to Rylan and pray for God's guidance on her journey with Jesus.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Please pray for the following individuals in their time of need: Carol Beyer, David Burkowitz, Carol Gosseck, Connie Hikade, Bruce Marggraf, Mary Schauwitzer, Carol Smith, Jeanne Steinbrecher, and Dick and Jane Sternberg.

HOSPITALIZED

Lois Guhr is at The View at Pine Ridge in Oconomowoc, James Beyer and Dorothy Wardin at St. Luke's, and Gary Ives at the VA Hospital. Audrey Wefel is at The Virginia Rehab and Health Center and Nancy Rindfleisch at The Village at Manor Park.

ATTENDANCE

922 attended last week's worship services.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO KNOW YOUR SAVIOR 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 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.

APRIL MISSION PARTNER COMMUNIQUE

The latest communication from our Malawi, Africa, mission partner, John Holtz, is available at the Welcome Center in the lobby. Thank you for your generous gifts that support this vital mission work in central Africa. If you would like to give to this mission work you may give at www.stpaulmuskego.org/give or clearly mark your gift "Malawi Mission Partner" when placing it in the offering plate.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING – THURSDAY MAY 16 AT 7:00 PM

The five open forums preparing for our Annual Voters' Meeting were well attended. The ministry plan and resolutions that were presented were very well received. Participants also offered several great suggestions to strengthen our ministry, and several people asked to get involved in new ways.

On May 16, the voters' assembly will be asked to approve the Ministry Plan for 2019-2020 and five resolutions regarding Gift Trust Fund and Legacy Fund grants. Elections to the Ministry Board will also be held.

Pick up a copy of *The Messenger* at the Welcome Center to familiarize yourself with our staff, our ministry plans, the resolutions, and the nominees.

DIVINE CALL

Mr. Kurt Steffen, our 8th grade homeroom teacher, vice-principal, and 6th-8th grade math and physical education teacher, has received a divine call to Bethlehem Lutheran School in Menomonee Falls. The call is to be the 6th grade homeroom teacher and vice-principal. Please keep Mr. Steffen in your prayers as he prayerfully considers God's will. He would appreciate your counsel.

ENROLL NOW

If you or someone you know would like 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.

SAVE THE DATE – NEXT AWAKE AND ALIVE – JUNE 9

Are you a college student or young professional? Check out the details about Awake and Alive at www.awakealive.com.

2019-2020 CONFIRMATION CLASS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

Families with children who do not attend St. Paul's Lutheran School, who are not currently in the Wednesday afternoon Confirmation classes and who want their children to be confirmed at St. Paul's, should contact Dr. Nelson as soon as possible at jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 145. Confirmation at St. Paul's is a three-year program for public school students, beginning in grade 6. We are in the process of putting together the student lists for 2019-2020 and want to make sure we have all eligible students included. Watch for more information about the 2019-2020 classes coming soon.

JOIN US ONLINE

If you can't join us in person, join us online! A video archive of sermons is available at www.stpaulmuskego.org/worship/sermons.

The Bridge, our casual contemporary service, is livestreamed every Sunday at 10:15 am on each of the following platforms. You can find an archive of past messages on each site, with the full-service replay on YouTube.



www.thebridgemuskego.org



@ The Bridge at St. Paul's



@ The Bridge Church Muskego

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

TWO DAYS THAT COULD CHANGE YOUR LIFE

On August 8 and 9, The Global Leadership Summit will be telecast live in HD to over 500 locations nationwide. **St. Paul's will be one of the live telecast locations this year for the first time.**

Experiencing the Global Leadership Summit is excellent whether attending at the original campus or at a telecast location. Attending at a telecast location reduces travel costs, saves time, and ensures more people benefit from the wisdom offered by the world-class faculty each year.



“Going into my senior year in high school and already being a leader in my activities at school, the thought of my responsibilities was overwhelming at times, but the Global Leadership Summit gave me the skills and confidence necessary to lead in a godly way. One of the quotes I most took to heart from the GLS last year was from Strive Masiyiwa, “Every day God looked at unfinished work and said that it was good.” I try to remember that everything does not yet have to be how I envisioned it, but to look at the accomplishments that were made and to take a task one day at a time. The GLS truly made me a better Christian leader this past year and I hope to continue this growth throughout college and beyond.” ~ Aaron Miller



As a host site, we are able to offer this 2-day event at a special discount – \$100 off regular rates! Join your friends, coworkers, neighbors, and more and participate in this life changing summit.

Register at StPaulMuskego.org/GLS and pay by credit card using priority code PV2019. For more information about The Global Leadership Summit visit <https://globalleadership.org/global-leadership-summit/>

- Our special early bird rate - \$89 (payment received by June 25)
- Our special rate after June 25 - \$119

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

WHAT ACTUALLY GOES INTO PUTTING A SERMON TOGETHER?

The new Sunday morning Grace Room mini-series will help you appreciate how weekly sermons are put together. It will also encourage you to not just receive the sermon but really consume it. Join Pastor Wayne Shevey, Campus Pastor at Wisconsin Lutheran College, for *What Do I Really Hear? A Practical Overview of What Goes into Crafting a Sermon and the Benefits of Being an Active Listener*, Sundays 9:15-10:15 am in the Grace Room.

MAY / JUNE GRACE ROOM SERIES: A CASE FOR FAITH

Why does God permit evil? Why do some prayers seem to go unanswered? Why has God allowed the church to engage in brutality and hypocrisy? Tough questions demand convincing answers. Using video segments by journalist, Lee Strobel, as he journeys across the country challenging philosophers, theologians, and ordinary believers to defend their faith, St. Paul's member and leader, Mr. Jim Haag, will challenge Grace Room participants to discover what Jim's small group did when they went through the book *A Case for Faith* together. This Bible study will meet Sundays, May 19-June 23, in the Grace Room at 9:15 am.

JOSHUA: WINNING THE WORRY BATTLE

Have you ever tried to fight worry with faith and felt you were losing the battle? Have comments like "God's got this!" or "Just pray about it!" only left you feeling more burdened? This Bible study series, inspired by the Book of Joshua, reviews three tools a person can develop to *Fight in Faith*: 1) embracing God's promises, 2) courage and commitment under pressure and 3) practicing radical obedience while waiting for God to deliver your victory. Join the Tuesday Ladies Bible Study group at 9:30 am, in the Faith Room, starting May 14.

EXPLORE THE HOLY LAND

Pastor Pete will be leading a ten-day trip to the Holy Land the summer of 2020, with a three-day extension to Jordan. Dates are June 16-25. Start checking your calendars! The tour will likely fill quickly. Pick up a brochure at the Welcome Center in the lobby.

ANNUAL WOMEN'S MINISTRY CONFERENCE

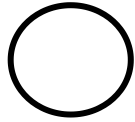
Join with women from across our church body to be nurtured, encouraged, and equipped to live out your calling exactly where God has placed you, July 18-20, at Luther Prep in Watertown. Visit wels.net/wmconference for a list of speakers, topics, and registration materials.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY – JUNE 7

St. Paul's is gearing up for our next community outreach event – Jammin' on Janesville. Jammin' on Janesville is a street festival held on Janesville Road. From the Muskego Public Library to the Tess Corners Fire Station, booths are set up from various Muskego businesses and organizations, and food, fun, and entertainment are enjoyed by all.

St. Paul's will set up a booth for this year's Jammin' on Janesville on Friday, June 7. Our booth will include carnival games and candy for the kids, as well as information about our church and schools for the adults. Watch for details next weekend on opportunities to be involved in representing St. Paul's at this popular community event.



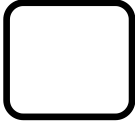


GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. This weekend, we celebrate the confirmation of the 8th graders in our congregation!
 - If you were confirmed as an 8th grader, do you have any special memories from that day?
 - If you weren't confirmed as an 8th grader, what are your hopes and prayers for this class of confirmands?
2. Read Hebrews 11:1. Why does this offer assurance for us in our faith today?
3. Do you ever pause and think about the incredible fact that Jesus wants to be your friend? What kind of impact does that fact have on your everyday life?
4. Re-read the sermon text—John 21:1-14. What does that account teach us about Jesus' friendship?
5. Pastor Kuehl reminds us in his message that Jesus is personally and powerfully with us according to his promise and purpose. What makes this promise and purpose especially helpful for our confirmands?
6. Pastor Nate reminds us that Jesus, as our best friend, will always step up to fill his role. He always "comes and finds us"; he always "loves and reminds us." What role has someone else played in your life as "the hands and feet of Jesus" to assist Jesus in being your friend? How are you planning to fill that role for others in your life?
7. Consider making a commitment to praying for these confirmands beyond today for strength and life-long commitment to their friendship with Jesus. Start with a prayer for them right now and then plan on keeping it up every time you see one of them!



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

The Journey

Journey with Jesus toward a New Friendship

John 21:1-14, Bible page 1088

Introduction: “Germs, germs germs!”

1. Jesus is personally with you according to his promise.

- a. Why did the disciples decide to go fishing?
- b. What an emotional roller coaster ride the disciples had been on!
- c. Jesus knew what his disciples needed and met them where he had promised (vv. 4, 7).
- d. “Sir, I’ll give you \$10 if you can tell me...”
- e. Easter is God’s guarantee that Jesus is with you today...

--Psalm 145:18: “*The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.*”

--Matthew 18:20: “*Where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.*”

--Matthew 28:20: “*Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*”

--Hebrews 13:5: “*Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.*”

2. Jesus is powerfully with you according to his purpose.

- a. Why did Jesus ask his disciples, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” (v. 5)
- b. Jesus provides for the disciples with the miraculous catch of fish.
- c. The miraculous catch of fish must have taken the disciples back to another time when Jesus first called them to follow him.
- d. Like the disciples, we find our purpose in life in living for the One who lived and died for us (2 Corinthians 5:15).
- e. 153 fish—who counted them all?

Conclusion: Let the journey begin with the open and empty tomb of Easter!

My Next Steps

Memorize Hebrews 11:1 – “*Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*”

Read John 10:22-33 to prepare for next week’s Mother’s Day message on *A Journey Following a Familiar Voice*.

Commit to spending time each day with your Best Friend in his Word and devotional materials with which you are comfortable.