

# 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 Vahovick*

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, 1 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.