

2011

***Confirmation
Class***

“I Believe Statements”

Celeste Bergum

I believe God is the creator of heaven and earth and of all life, who gave his only son for us so that we, ourselves, could have eternal life. God our Father, is everywhere in our lives and always at our side. He is a big part of my life and my faith is what gets me through tough times and the struggles I go through in life.

I'm also very grateful for what Jesus went through so that our sins could be forgiven and so that we could have eternal life. The bible teaches us through the stories of Jesus the path to take in life and the way of the Lord which is the road I try to follow as a child of God.

I think that the Holy Spirit helps us to make good choices throughout our lives and helps us know how to go about things when we are troubled. The Holy Spirit is our voice inside, the voice of God, who helps us know good from wrong and gives us the strength for helping others and the strength to get through hard times.

Baptism means to me, that I'm accepted into being a part of God's family. The people who have been the most influential to me about God would be my mom and grandma. They give me a lot of support and help. I think the more faith and belief in God a person has in them, the happier they are in life and the more they can enjoy life and realize how they're blessed. God is a huge part of life. He means a lot of things. He gives me hope and courage for what's ahead of me, and when you have no one to turn to God is always there and He always will be no matter what.

Communion is important to me because it reminds me that our sins will be forgiven and that even when we make bad choices, God still loves us and forgives us.

Hannah Eckblad

One of my favorite memories as a little kid in Sunday school, I don't remember exactly how old I was but that doesn't matter to much. I was in Sunday school, and it was during music. We were talking about creation and Loraine (I'm really sorry if I spelled your name wrong) said, "I like to picture God sitting there next to Jesus and saying, 'Watch this.' Then, he took some Play Do and created the Earth." and she went through all the stages how God created the Earth. I remember sitting there, smiling at how cool that was, even if I had been way past the Play Do playing age.

Did you know Jesus told corny jokes? He did. Do you remember the story where Jesus turned water into wine? He was at a wedding. A party where he was enjoying himself, just as we do. Jesus was human, just as we are. He experienced good, fun things human experiences like corny jokes and parties. He also experienced bad things. Still today, hanging on the cross is the most painful way to die. Jesus knows what it's like to be human. He's been here. Yeah, him dying for us is important, but I think him living for us was almost as important. He needed to live on Earth for us to understand. Then he had to die for us so our sins would be forgiven. I learned that at Luther Dell, a place that completely revolutionized my faith. Jesus died for all of us; the least we can do is live our lives or him.

Christopher Paolini is an author who wrote the Inheritance series and I instantly fell in love with the quote one of his characters, Saphira, "Live in the present, remember the past, and fear not the future. For it doesn't exist and it never shall. There is only right now." I instantly fell in love with this quote for a couple reasons. Mainly, just because I've never thought of life that way. Tomorrow was just something that was almost here. Really, it'll never be tomorrow. When it is, it won't be tomorrow anymore, it'll be today. I've also had to explain to people this doesn't mean to put something off because "It'll never be tomorrow." That's not what this quote was going for. In the context, Eragon, another character, was worked up about this fight he'd have to have with a corrupt king and Saphira was just telling him not to worry, when the time comes, he'll be ready. It's the same thing with God. I know I for one, am not somebody who likes to hand my problems over to God, scratch that, I don't like to hand my problems over to anyone; I'm like a stubborn 3-year-old who likes to do everything herself, but like a 3-year-old, I can't do everything myself. There are things we need God's help with, things that are out of our control. Yes, we need to do all we can to ready ourselves but there's no use worrying about what we can't control. God will take care of us.

Ben Grimsrud

Benjamin's Beliefs

I, Benjamin Lawrence Grimsrud, believe in God who we call the Holy Spirit, the Father, etc. I believe in Jesus Christ, and that he died for our sins by means of crucifixion on the cross. I won't bother to tell you how he created us because that would take too long, but I will tell you how my journey to become a full-fledged member of this church has been. I was baptized, went through many years of Sunday school, I took my first communion, went through a couple long years of confirmation class, and now I am here before you. Being a good Christian to me means that I help people who need help when I can, but don't let them make me do everything for them, and help people who don't necessarily know they need help. Also it means to try to go to church more than twice a year. I figured out praying is like talking to God, which can be a casual talk or just straight to the point of what I want. In some of my learning I learned about the Pentateuch, and that it is these books in the bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, and stuff like that. I won't remember half of it in ten years, but I hope to remember important stuff like that the Bible has an area in front that says where all the books of the Bible are. Another thing would be that Jesus died before Easter not on it, and rose three days later on Easter. What I find funny is that a bunny rabbit giving out candy is the mascot for Easter; I mean come on it's a rabbit doesn't anybody find that a bit weird. Back on topic, my biggest influences in becoming a Christian are probably my parents, and my little brother Will's middle name. Will's middle name is Christopher, and would have been Christian if he were born four days later on Christmas, which I always find just a little bit funny for some reason. My Parents because they always took me to Sunday school, confirmation classes, and church when I needed to go. So basically a short summary of this is: God is our savior, Jesus Christ is his son who died painfully for our sins on the cross, and that we all must face God's judgment one day when eternity comes a-knocking, and that my family, and I want me to be a Christian.

Dylan Johnson

I **believe** that God created everything on earth including us. He saved us from the time of trial. We are saved through God's grace by the giving of his son, Jesus Christ. I **believe** Jesus answers our prayers all the time. He listens and will always be there for us. The beginning of my faith started with my baptism. I learned a lot of things that I know about Jesus in Confirmation, Sunday school and at home. I **believe** that Jesus will forgive our sins no matter what happens. I'm still learning about how God will forgive our sins. Jesus died on the cross and he rose again, so that we can have forgiveness of our sins and eternal life. I **believe** we cannot go through life without Jesus in our lives; Jesus will help us through thick and thin in our lives. I **believe** there are many paths we can take in life; Jesus will help us on our journey and he will help us until we reach our destination of eternal life. I **believe** that everyone should take time out of there day and pray to him and thank him. God does so much for us every day.

I **believe** that God is our protector, and Jesus is our savior, and that the Holy Spirit guides us into our new life after we die. I **believe** that I am a child of God and a speaker of his word, and that no matter what I do God will love me, and I will love him. I **believe** in the Holy Spirit as unseen force that helps you ask the question "What would Jesus do?" And if you keep Jesus in the center of your life some of his qualities will rub off on you; graciousness, courage, honesty, and respect for others. I **believe** that as we are confirmed we are confirming our faith in Jesus Christ, God and the Holy Spirit.

I **believe** that we should all **believe** in Jesus Christ our Savior and everyone have the opportunity to know who he is.

Mitch Magnuson

The story of my faith begins with my baptism on the Easter Vigil service of 1997. From there I learned in Sunday School about the Bible, the stories within and my relationship with God. The next step was my confirmation classes. Here I learned in depth about God's unceasing love for us, the Ten Commandments, the meaning of the Lord's Prayers, the Old and New Testament, and the Apostle's Creed. I also learned more about Pastor David, and my fellow Confirmands. and it wasn't until now that I realized that I have been with these men and women all my life and have hardly known them until now. Even though I'm about to get confirmed, this is not even close to the end of the story of my faith. I believe God has a plan for us all and that he presents us everyday with choices that can affect our journey and how we get there. I believe that God created the universe and all that lies within. I believe he breathed life into Adam and Eve, and has watched over human kind since then. I believe that baptism is the beginning of our personal faith journey, and that it is the very first forgiveness of our sins. I believe in the Holy Trinity, the great three in one, and that Jesus, God's only son, died on the cross to for us. I believe that God loves us no matter what we do and no matter if we love him back or not. I also believe that God chose us to be God's people, the sheep of his pasture, and I believe that God will provide everything we will need in our life, for it says in Psalm 23, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures: he leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul: he leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake." I believe God can do anything and through God I can also do anything, for it says in Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Through Christ I will accomplish much. I want to thank all the people who where encouraging in my journey. First, I want to thank my parents, who always guided and taught me to always say my prayers before each meal and bed. I want to thank Pastor David for teaching and preaching and helping me understand God and all God does for us. Another person I want to thank is my mentor, Chris Cain, for encouraging me in my journey. Also, I want to thank one of my best friends, Isaiah Ondler, for teaching, encouraging and being next to me in my journey of faith. I also want to thank my fellow Confirmands in being there beside me the entire time, and I cannot wait to spend more time with them on mission trips, during youth group on Wednesdays, and anywhere else I might happen to see them.

Jamie Rowe

Hi my name is Jamie Rowe and I am going to tell you my faith story. I am going to talk about the times we had in confirmation. I remember when we all went to Good Earth Village and we were playing ultimate Frisbee and I was running for it and I tripped and fell in the weeds and every one laughed at me and they said that they wished that they had a video camera so they could get that on video. Then we went to bed and we turned off all the lights, one of the lights was flickering so Ben, Mitch, and DJ thought that I was crazy. Now I will tell you some things about Jesus and church. What Jesus sacrificed means to me is that he gave his life to us so we can live to tell God. We thank him for that. We pray and go to church and we also go up and get wine and bread for his sacrifice. Throughout my confirmation years we have been learning about God and his people. Jesus loves us all even if we do something wrong and bad. Jesus is always with you at all times and every day. What Holy Communion means to me is that the wine is Jesus blood and the bread is his body. During confirmation everybody had fun and Pastor Dave always tried to make it as fun as he can and I always had fun during confirmation and church and Good Earth Village when we went to it. What my baptism means to me, is that you all were celebrating for me when I was born and celebrating it every year on my birthday for 14 years now.

Now that confirmation is over I will always remember the good times and the bad times, the trips and confirmation itself, the games were fun during confirmation and on Wednesdays when we got milkshakes. Confirmation was always fun and everything in it.

Emily Smith

My life has been a journey through Christ. It all started when I was a little baby at my baptism. After that, I went to church with my family and when I got older, I started going to Sunday school, attended summer camps at Good Earth Village and at Luther Dell, sang in choir and participated in Christmas programs. I also became a Shepherd, went to confirmation class and learned more about God and what I have been raised to believe in. Well, all of this was actually my parent's idea. They decided to have me baptized, go to Sunday school and go through Confirmation class.

A couple months ago when I really started to think about what this was all supposed to mean and the whole point of confirmation...well the word kind of says it all. I am **confirming** what has been done for me by my parents. This is my time to say, "Yes, God, I do want to be a part of your family and I want you to be in my life forever."

It has taken many years for this day to come. Many people have been a part of this journey. These people inspire me to learn more about God and they help me to strive to be an over-all well-rounded person. My brother's sponsors, Amy and Mark Bronner, have been a huge part of this journey. They have shown me that life isn't about things and stuff people have. They show me the God is #1 and that He gives us everything we need, plus a little more. My Uncle Greg is my sponsor. He loves to sing and I think he sings like an angel. When we go to church with him and his family, I like to sit by him because I love to hear him sing! My Uncle is very successful in life and this is a blessing from God. I look up to my Uncle and think, "What a wonderful God we have!" My mentor is Karen Heimer. She encouraged me when I was in choir. She has come to my home and we have played our flutes together. Karen is my "go-to" person when I have questions. She has helped me make my stole and write my faith statement during confirmation classes. She even took her weekend off to spend time in a cave and sleep on a bunk-bed at our confirmation class retreat! Karen is a very patient person and very knowledgeable when it comes to talking about God.

Confirmation wasn't always completely "serious." In 7th grade, I remember Pastor David saying, "What happens during confirmation stays in confirmation." I kind of liked this rule, because it made confirmation class much more fun. You don't have to think about asking a question that might sound stupid to everyone else, because more often than not, the question would have many answers and it would get us way off topic! There have been many highlights during confirmation, like going to Luther Dell with Hannah and others. I would encourage all youth to go to camp! It is lots of fun...unless you get hurt every year...(cough, cough) Dani! We have had many good laughs. Especially when Jamie fell in the weeds at Good Earth Village while playing ultimate frisbee or when we were going to Luther Dell the first year and Jamie Tierce looked out the window and shouted, "Look! The ocean" when it was really just a lake!

My journey through Christ has been full of adventures. Lots of happiness and some tears, but those were because we were leaving camp! My journey, never the less, has just begun and I have so much more to learn. Yes, God, I welcome you into my life.

Lindsey Thompson

I believe that when my parents baptized me I was marked with the cross of Christ, and I officially started my Christian journey and faith. I am happy that at a young age I started being involved in church by going to Sunday school. In Sunday school, I was able to make new friends and to start learning about God and Jesus, and the Bible. God and my family have taught me values that I will carry throughout life, such as being a good person, being respectful, and keeping my Christian faith. I hold Jesus close to my heart because of the sacrifice he made for us on the cross. I know that whenever I am scared, or not sure, or just want someone to talk to, God and Jesus are there, and as bad as times could get in the future, God will never give us more than we can handle. I could not count all the memories I have had through the church. My first day of Sunday school, my first communion, and now my confirmation. Being a Christian is a comforting feeling. That way I know that God and Jesus are there, and when I pass away, I will be welcomed into Gods kingdom. Prayer is very important to me. I take it as a bonding experience between God, and I. I think that is needed in a person's life. When my grandpa passed away, prayer really helped me get through that time. Prayer is also good in my life to just thank God for all he has done for my family and me. This is only the beginning of my life with God. I am going to continue to be active in the church community. I look forward to the day I have my own family and involve them in the Christian faith. I would like to thank my mom, dad, and sister, Amanda for being there for me, and helping me through Sunday school, first communion, and everyday life. I would also like to thank my mentor, Jackie Tutewohl for guiding me through my last year of confirmation, and Pastor David for teaching me about God and Jesus, and the Bible during Confirmation, and at church.