



Confirmation Witness Service
Saturday, October 14, 2023, 7 p.m.
Grace Lutheran Church



Sadie Lorraine Berg

*For I know the plans I have for you,
declares the Lord, plans for welfare
and not for evil, to give you
a future and a hope.*

Jeremiah 29:11

I love the word “plan” because I am a person who loves to be organized and to always know what’s going on. So that’s why I love this verse. Because what I hear in it, is that God has the best plan for me and for all of us. It shows me how God personally cares deeply for every one of his children. This lets me trust that he will keep us out of evil and help us become our best selves.

When I was younger, I did ballet and let's just say, it just wasn't my thing. Eventually I quit, and started doing Taekwondo, and realized that this was my thing. It was a better path for me. There were times though, especially through the pandemic, when I really felt like I wanted to quit. But I didn't. I prayed to God to help me and give me strength to keep reaching towards my goal. Well, five years and a lot of patience later, I'm finally a black belt. God helped me realize that doing Taekwondo was the best thing for my life.

Now, I'm not saying that God always gives us a clear answer right away. I went to my four-week sleep-away camp this summer, and around the middle of the third week, something very unexpected happened: I got Covid. No one else in my cabin, just me. How I got Covid, I'll never really know, but my bed was immediately moved from my cozy cabin to an isolated cabin on the other side of camp, away from all my friends. Those first nights, I talked to God. I remember being so confused and mad and asking God, “Why am I here? I'm the most social

person in this camp!” (Probably not true, but it felt that way in the moment). It really felt like God was punishing me for something I didn’t do.

In my first two days of complete isolation, I felt upset, confused, and really bored. But, on the third and final day of my completely quarantined days, God helped me view this time as a blessing and not a curse. This was my personal time to be by myself and rest. I also had privacy, which is something that we don’t get a lot at camp. It was my time to speak with God and feel his presence, even in my times of loneliness. I realized that God was not punishing me, but in fact giving me precious time. Through this crazy experience, God taught me new ways to appreciate what I’ve been given.

This verse also comes to me when I think about the end of our life’s path, in heaven. In God’s plan, suffering happens, but it will never have the last word. He will welcome us into his wonderful kingdom with open arms. God sent Jesus to be sacrificed for us, and through his death and resurrection, he has given us eternal life now and forever.

I take away an important message from this verse, and that is to always trust in God. To know that even when it seems like God is punishing us, or when his actions are confusing, it's part of his perfect plan. In baptism, God has shown us his plan for all of us: to love our neighbor and serve one another. Some of the ways I plan to do that are continuing to attend worship, helping my neighbors who are in need, and continuing to speak with God and thanking him for all of his wonderful gifts. I realize that times will continue to get harder, but I will always have this verse to look back on and I will always have God to lean on.



Vera Chizzo

Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 1: 8-9

This verse reminds me that there are times where we all feel alone. Like God has abandoned us. Either we are angry at God about something bad that happened, or we are scared that he has walked out on us. However, when we are feeling this way, God reminds us that he will always be with us no matter what, and that he loves us more than anything.

School can be very challenging for me. I often underestimate the amount of work I have or stress about not having enough time to finish my homework. This causes me to get stressed almost all the time. I always get in my own head about being a perfect student and keeping up perfect grades. When I get anxious about something it's difficult for me to come to God with my troubles. Because I don't look towards God for help, I feel distant from him. Yet he still provides things in my life in order to bring me joy and peace.

Camp Luther is a Christian summer camp in Three Lakes, Wisconsin. My family has gone every summer for the last twenty years. It is a great place to rediscover your relationship with God after a long school year. You can wake up early to go to Bible class or sing devotions around a campfire at night. Every time I return, I feel flooded with the love of my counselors, family and friends. Whether we stay up late to watch Disney Channel movies, or get whipped off

tubes while tubing on the lake, everyone there not only supports me, but brings me immense joy.

This is an example of how God reminded me that he was always there for me. After a challenging school year, he helps me overcome my stress by having me go to Camp Luther with my family.

One of my favorite poems is called "Footprints," by Margaret Fishback Powers. I was introduced to this poem when my grandma gifted me a necklace with a line from the poem inscribed on it. It tells a short story about a person who dreamed of walking with God along a beach. And at the times this person needed God the most, they only saw one set of footprints in the sand. Feeling completely alone, they asked the Lord why he had done this. He responded.

My precious, precious child, I love you and will never leave you
Never, ever, during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you.

Although this isn't a Bible verse, it still gives me a great amount of comfort. It paints God in a perfect picture about how he carries us during our time of need. Even when we don't feel his presence, even when we feel alone, God is still carrying us. He will help us get back up. He will help us recover. And as I continue high school, I will get stressed and uncertain in the future. But, instead of turning away from God, I will rejoice in the fact that God is always with me and always there to protect me.

I want to use what I learned from confirmation to help those in need, to share God's love by being kind to others, to use my experiences with stress and anxiety to help others through their sorrows, just as Camp Luther has done for me.

In whatever troubles you are facing, in all the pain you are feeling, have faith and believe in the Lord. For the Lord will carry you through. Just as he has carried you all the days of your life.



Lukas Maximilian Cohen

*I hereby command you:
"Be strong and courageous;
do not be frightened or dismayed,
for the Lord your God is with you
wherever you go."*

Joshua 1: 9

While choosing this verse, I noticed that Joshua 1:6, Joshua 1:7, and Joshua 6:2-5 were very similar verses of God telling Joshua to be brave and God is with us. Repeating a message.

Joshua was told by God to lead Israel out of Egypt to the land that was promised to Abraham. Although Joshua was a charismatic warrior he had his doubts about the weight of what God told him to do. His faithfulness and trust in God were doubted. God's message to Joshua was to be brave, be strong, and have faith in him. It will all be okay. God was right because Joshua did trust him and brought his people out of Egypt to Canaan - even if God had to remind Joshua several times.

This very same message of being brave, being strong, and believing in God has been spoken in times of death, famine, conquering of new lands, and disease many, many times in the Bible, because it is a very important message. This message is not only important for people in biblical times but also in the present day.

The verse Joshua 1:7 speaks greatly to me right now. I first wrote this as an eighth grader heading to High school. This message spoke loudly to me. I had been nervous about the changes and challenges that I would be facing freshman year.

At the beginning of my eighth grade year, I did not know where I would be attending high school. I was on a long journey finding out where I would actually go. I toured several schools, attended quite a few open houses and took an entrance exam. My first choice was Fenwick High School. I had dreamed of attending Fenwick High School since I was in fifth grade. Fenwick High School seemed like an impossibility because of the entrance requirements and the financial responsibilities. I had many doubts. Through prayer and hard work, I was accepted! I truly believe that God put me into his hands and guided me through this journey and will continue to throughout my life.

The message in this verse is a strong message. I believe it will give me comfort in future challenges I will face in my teen and adult life. Being strong and courageous, and turning to God in my time of need. I've also learned that I can help others in their times of need. I've learned the joy of serving others by serving and packing food for those who are hungry. God can use me to help others find strength and courage. I hereby command you: "Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."



Elliot Harris Engebretson

*Happy are those who do not follow the
advice of the wicked
or take the path that sinners tread
or sit in the seat of scoffers,
but their delight is in the law
of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate
day and night.*

*They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its
season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.*

Psalm 1:1-3

This is the opening chapter of the Book of Psalms in the Bible. This psalm sets the tone for the rest of the book by presenting two ways of life and contrasting their outcomes. It teaches us about the importance of choosing our paths wisely.

The meaning of the verse is a person who avoids the advice of evil people, the company of sinners, and the ridicule of mockers is considered blessed. In other words, someone who chooses to follow a path of righteousness and avoid sin will be set on the right path and be blessed in their life.

The psalm continues to describe the characteristics of the blessed person, saying that they "delight in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night." This means that the blessed person finds joy in studying and obeying God's teachings, and they make it a priority to think about them constantly. By doing so, they will be rooted in God's truth and find success in their endeavors.

When you are baptized you are planted as a tree by the river in which, as you help others, your leaves grow and prosper. As you bear fruit the tree is sustained with the forgiveness of God and Jesus.

A way to help others with decisions is being a monument on a path, a good example to others taking the path. You can help them make sure they do the right thing. This has happened to me many times in my life as both of my parents are monuments to me. They have been monuments in faith helping me with my beliefs and religion. They have helped set me on the right path. When my grades go down they are always there to help me get back on the right path. I also strive to be a monument for others such as my brother and sister. I do this by helping others as when I participate in food drives and making welcome baskets. I hope they can look at me helping others and they will want to do the same.

My journey in faith hasn't always been on the right path as I would put off going to church or Sunday school, but God would always forgive me and put me back on the right path. During this journey of confirmation the biggest thing I've learned is that even though you will do bad things you have to be able to pick you head back up and keep on walking on the path that God has placed us on.

In conclusion, Psalm 1 teaches us that the choices we make in life have consequences. We must choose to follow the path of righteousness and avoid sin to help others. By delighting in God's teachings and meditating on them, we will be better off as people and human beings. Therefore, let us make wise choices based on others and follow the path of righteousness to receive God's blessings.



Nicholas James Greig

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13

Almost a year ago, I suffered an injury while playing basketball. I sustained a partial tear to my ACL. For the next five to six months, I was ineligible to play basketball or any other sport. I had never really been hurt this much before and didn't know what to do. Throughout this time, I was angry. I was angry because I was physically unable to do anything. During this time, I strayed from God. I continued to be angry because the one thing I loved most in life, basketball, I couldn't do. I was determined to return as quickly as possible. I attended physical therapy three times a week. Weeks in, things were getting better for me. I still had anger in my life, but my mindset was getting better.

I was outfitted with a brace in order to return to play or to any type of physical activity. Six months from the injury, I returned to the team. I was joyful! I was joyful to be back on the court and to be doing the thing I love the most in life, basketball. When I returned, I noticed my skills were not the same as they were before. This caused me to grow more angry. I wasn't the player I once used to be. I wanted to give up. I felt I would never be the player I once was. Everyone around me offered help and support to overcome this obstacle in my life. One person that helped and supported me the most was my coach, Coach Corey. Coach Corey was there for me every step of the way. He was there for me during training sessions. During training sessions, he helped me build back my skills and

grow in strength dramatically. He taught me numerous things. But, the one thing he taught me that has left an indelible mark on me is to not ever stop believing in myself and in everything I do.

As the season went on I grew better and better and honed my skills. Moving forward in my life, I have had a positive mindset. I am not letting this injury affect who I am. I once thought I would never be the same player. With the help of family, friends and Coach Corey, I always believe in myself. This was the motivation I needed.

Looking back on my Journey of faith, my mindset has changed dramatically. My chosen Bible verse, Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me," best reflects my journey of faith and this time in my life. This verse shows me that even in my lowest point, God is always there for me. He is strengthening me physically, mentally and spiritually. My journey of faith is not over yet. I plan to take opportunities in life where I can share and teach young children about the Lord and all things possible. I plan to do this through teaching sport and hopefully one day coaching. I also plan to delve deeper into my faith and help children that may have strayed from God. For I can do all things through him who strengthens me!



Andrew Dillon Gullo

*They that go down to the sea in ships,
that do business in great water;
these see the works of the Lord,
and his wonders in the deep.*

Psalm 107:23-24

As a freshman, I often find myself questioning my purpose and place in the world. Through reflecting on this verse, I am reminded that God is actively present, not only in my life but also in the world around me. I see God in our community when we share our time and money to help people less fortunate than ourselves.

I also see God in the emotions of people of all ages. During the children's sermons I feel the Holy Spirit active in the innocent responses from the children, which often bring laughter. I experienced many emotions and felt God at Lutherdale during our confirmation retreat. Camp provided the opportunity to strengthen our friendships and faith while having fun in nature. This constant involvement in the affairs of people is evident, even in the most challenging and complex situations. This understanding gives me hope.

This passage emphasizes the importance of acknowledging God's works and presence everywhere. It reminds me to remain attentive to the signs of his presence and intervention in my life. These signs may not always be grand or immediate, but they are present nonetheless. I look for God in other people and in the world around me. I am reminded that God is with me always.

The psalm mentions people who traveled to the sea in ships, symbolizing individuals embarking on their own journeys. Just like those sailors, I face

unfamiliar and unpredictable waters in life such as running cross country and difficult school subjects. I know that other things will be unpredictable in life too. This also brings to mind the challenging situations that I and many others encounter as we navigate our Christian journey. Just as God answered these sailors' desperate pleas, in response the Lord brings peace in the midst of their turmoil and brings about joy at the end of their struggles. God promises many things during baptism such as his eternal love and our place in heaven. Baptism is a reminder that there is joy at the end of struggle, much like the sailors.

By trusting in the Lord, I can find peace and assurance in his guidance. I will continue to trust in the Lord and grow in faith by attending worship and serving others. This Bible verse encourages me to surrender my worries to God, recognizing His wisdom and understanding. By growing a heart of gratitude and seeking opportunities to witness his works, I am able to experience God's faithfulness.



Nora Michelle Isenberg

Once Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, "The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed, nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There it is!' For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you."

Luke 17: 20-21

When I imagine the kingdom of God, I imagine a place full of marble palaces and an eternally blue sky. While that's a beautiful image, it's not what Jesus says the kingdom of God is. This verse reminds me that the kingdom of God, and, by extension, God, are not distant or inaccessible. When Jesus first said these lines, he meant that he, the Son of God, is among us. Even though Jesus does not walk the earth now, God's work continues through the Holy Spirit. While I cannot know all the ways that God does his good work, I do know that he does them through us, with us, and by us, not from some throne in some distant land.

It's been easy for me to feel God's presence in nature. Yes, God is with me when I stand before the mountains or the ocean. But God is also with me when I look at the leaves on the tree outside of my bedroom window or at one of the flowers in my backyard.

A second place where God's presence is more easily felt for me is church. For instance, at the beginning of last year's Christmas Eve service, the sanctuary unlit but for the candles that we carried, I was one of a hundred voices in the dark. In that moment, I knew that God was with me.

As another example, one sermon I remember very clearly was given two summers ago at Grace by a pastor from Martin, Slovakia. She spoke about how mortal peace is a tenuous, temporary thing while God's peace is eternal.

Similarly, this verse speaks about how God's kingdom will not be tangible. Instead, I believe that God's kingdom will come through God's peace and love. However, I don't think that God wants me to go home after church and say, "I've done my time for the week." Yet finding God in places that are not explicitly about God is a little harder.

Sometimes, I can't feel God. I'll be working on something for school, and I'll think I've got this. I'll be confident in my ability to do it alone, but I don't have to do it alone, because God is by my side.

The world can be scary. I'm constantly wondering, "Am I doing the right thing?" or "What could I have done better?" How can I live up to Jesus — Jesus, who performed miracles, Jesus, who quite literally rose from the dead? Here's the thing — I can't. I know that I haven't made any large sacrifices the way Jesus or even his first disciples did. Even so, God is among us, and his kingdom is here.

After all, Jesus doesn't say, "The kingdom of God will be among you." He says, "The kingdom of God is among you." I know that God is with me today and every day, and I will do my best to serve him.



Emily Marika Jones

Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

Mark 12:43-44

This verse is showing us that sometimes, it does not matter how much you give. It is more about the sacrifices you make to show and live your faith. These sacrifices are what show your faith to the world. Giving large sums of money means much more if it affects lives. The poor woman in this verse had given all the money she had, proving her faith in the God that provides.

At the time of writing, we were in the season of Lent. This time is about us giving up something for the season because Jesus gave his life for us. Jesus gave everything for us, forgiveness, love and life that never ends. In response to that gift we find joy in giving to others. However, this Bible verse shows us that we should not only make sacrifices during the season of Lent because it is Lent. There wasn't anyone telling the poor widow to give all of her money to the church. She did so of her own free will. We should also try to help others throughout the year out of kindness, not just because of it being a certain season.

This verse shows that giving of all kinds can make a difference. Giving isn't about you or your reputation. It is about helping make other's lives better. In giving one should not brag about it. You should be doing it because you are called to be doing it in baptism, not because you feel pressured by society to do

so. This Bible story is meant to teach us to be humble and to not boast about our wealth.

One of the most important lessons in the Bible is to be kind to others. This is shown in the verse Mark 12:31, which states that “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Helping others is a large part of being a Christian. However, donating is not all about giving money. It can also be about giving time. One of my favorite memories of donating some of my time is when I was helping cook a breakfast at church. Making the sausage was extremely fun to do, and I knew that the donations from that breakfast would be going to a good cause.

Another thing that I liked doing in previous years were lemonade stands. My siblings and I made one at some point, and donated some of our profits to a charity. Connecting these two is my love to cook, and so I hope that sometime in the future I can prepare or donate food for a charity.

I hope to take the lessons from this verse into my own life by being more helpful and kind to people, especially those who are in need of support. I also want to use the gifts that I was given to benefit those other than myself, no matter how small those donations might be.



Magdalena Luz Keberlein

*From the rising of the sun
to the place where it sets,
the name of the Lord is to be praised*

Psalm 113:3

My journey to confirmation has been long and windy. Fourteen years. I'm so young yet I have experienced so much. I was eleven years old when Covid-19 was titled a global pandemic. Everybody was struggling and things became ten times more difficult. In past years Camp Lutherdale was supposed to be an amazing summer experience – a whole week spent bonding together, thinking about God in the summer sun.

It wasn't like that for me. Plans changed because of Covid. Instead of a warm summer week, I got a cold 36 hours. I felt upset and annoyed. My sister, who is three years older, had talked about her experience and how it was magical and it really impacted her. I assumed it would not be as impactful for me. It was planned though, and I had to go. My mother had grace-iously offered her service to drive three other girls along with me up to Wisconsin. The drive up wasn't long compared to past 20-hour car rides to Florida or Maine with my family.

The drive was normal, beside blasting Hamilton in the car the whole way up. I still somehow know all the lyrics, even to all the raps as well. But the most magical part of the ride up was the last fifteen minutes. We were driving in farmland and the sky was gorgeous. It was a magically lit sunset like something from a Disney movie. At that moment I knew I needed to stop being Pessimistic Patricia and I needed to start seeing the good in the trip. Yes, it is supposed to be

a fun trip, but it also is about God, learning about him and realizing that he is always there. That is why I chose my verse. "From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised" (Psalm 113:3). God will forever be around me and on that day he was in the sunset. Thank you all for this amazing journey. You have helped me grow so much as a person.





Greta Jane Lyle

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

When I think about my relationship with God, I think about trust. There's so much in the world that I can't control. So much evil in the world that I, being fourteen years old, cannot stop on my own. But there's one thing that I know for sure I can do: trust. Trust in God. And if I trust him, he will take care of the rest.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight." To me, there's a difference between saying you trust God, and saying you trust him with all of your heart. Saying you trust God with your whole heart implies not only that you trust him, but also that you fully believe that he can do anything and can get you through anything. It implies that you can give all of your worries and anxieties to God, with no hesitation. This gives me a huge sense of comfort: knowing that he's there with me and I can take pressure off of myself.

Three years ago, at the beginning of sixth grade, I had really bad anxiety. I was going back to school for the first time after Covid. That was a really dark time in my life, and the most alone I think I've ever felt. But I wasn't alone. God was with me the whole time, holding my hand as I navigated middle school. In those dark moments, reading the words of scripture and praying is what pushed me through. I learned that through prayer, I can always go to God for help.

"In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths." This part of the verse really resonates with me, because sometimes I need

someone else to take the wheel. It means that God has a plan for my life, even when I don't. No matter how bad I screw up, I can always go to him for guidance. And know that I am forgiven. He will always know what's best for me and what I should do next.

This past summer, I was part of a mission team that went to Martin, Slovakia, to teach Vacation Bible School. This was an incredible experience and one that I'll treasure for the rest of my life. I was a group leader and I was with kids who were around 5 years old. At the end of every day, we would come together with the other groups and sing songs in English. Even though they spoke little to no English, they would try to sing the lyrics to the songs, and their faces would light up during the refrain. Like I mentioned earlier, I can't do everything by myself. But by doing acts of service, whether big or small, like bringing little kids closer to God, I'm doing my part to make the world a better place and live my baptism.

As a confirmand and a freshman in high school, I'm sort of looking ahead to the future. And I don't know where God is going to lead me, but I can trust that he will lead me in the right direction. As a pastor's kid, I've had plenty of opportunities to attend different types of worship services. I've been to Baptist churches, African-American churches, European churches, and more. All of these churches have had similarities, but also have been very different. The common theme, though, at all of the services was that Jesus Christ died for us on the cross and rose again on Easter. I know that through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, my future is secure, and I can move forward knowing that Jesus will be by my side every step of the way. I hope that throughout my life, I can shine Jesus' light to as many people as possible, in whatever ways God calls me to do.



Zachary Aaron Morgan

Now, discipline always seems painful rather than pleasant at the time, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Hebrews 12:11

Success Starts with Sweat

Work hard, play hard. We all know this common phrase, but I actually prefer to “work hard, work hard again.” The verse I chose teaches me how discipline will pay off and how discipline means to work hard in whatever you are doing and you will see the results. I am a typical teenager who likes to play or have “down time.” Life is about balance, but I also know that I wouldn’t enjoy that freedom if I wasn’t focused on God and dedicated in the classroom or on a field. We all have dreams of being successful and through our faith in God this will happen. Success can come in many forms and mean different things to different people, but you cannot have success without a little sweat. God disciplined Jesus and led him to a life of serving and healing, but it wasn’t easy. Jesus sweated too. We won’t have the result we want if we don’t believe that God can get us there and help us every step of the way.

I know that God has given me many gifts, but I never take them for granted and know that I need to push myself to get the most from them. I have success in the classroom and on the field, but that wasn’t achieved without immense effort, but I also know that I have not achieved anything on my own. There are many pastors, teachers, coaches, teammates, family members and friends who have seen my potential and guided me along the way.

Back in the height of the pandemic I was lucky enough to attend Grace School and we were able to learn in person. Although I am very grateful that we were in the classroom, it was far from normal. Always being at least six feet apart and hiding behind masks sometimes made the days feel almost lonely at times. But God had a plan for our sixth grade class. Mrs. Underhill moved from P.E. to be our teacher. She not only made the classroom a fun and welcoming place, she pushed us academically. I had always gotten good grades in school and enjoyed learning new things, but Mrs. Underhill helped me see that I could do even more. She made me work hard and helped me skip a level in math. I was really proud of my success, but knew it would not have been possible without her and God by my side.

Hard work and discipline don't always have to happen in sports and school. Hard work can also be used in serving others, and I have done that by being a crucifer for two years, helping out my teams in whatever way the coach or players need and even helping to coach younger teams, and serving at school by being an acolyte at chapel or even volunteering at VBS with the little kids. I do very much enjoy those things and plan to keep serving the rest of my life. I am excited that I came from a school and currently attend a school that put an emphasis on service to others. My mom and my grandparents have been serving at Grace and many other places in many ways, so I will likely follow in their footsteps. Serving should be a big part of everyone's life because it teaches you to do good for others and help people in their time of need or just in everyday life. When people serve you and you serve others you get a sense of hope and faith because it brings joy. And with the Holy Spirit I will continue to grow and work hard in my faith and serve others.

I love sports and am pretty good at them, but not without trying. While I am not the biggest or fastest, I have many other talents to contribute, and I will never give up because I have a strong faith in God and the attributes he gave me. I always work hard not just for myself, but for my teammates and coaches. Sports have always been a passion, but I'm not sure I would have continued at a higher level if God had not put certain people in my life that fuel that passion. I had a

soccer coach for a few years that from the outside maybe seemed to yell a lot on the sidelines. But his yelling was never screaming. He wanted us to hear him as he saw what we were and weren't doing correctly and was trying to get the best out of us. I always appreciated that, but my favorite part was that two times a year he would write out a detailed letter to each of us explaining exactly what we were excelling at and what we could improve upon. He saw me as part of the team, but more importantly the individual I am and where I could go with what God gave me.

Pushing yourself is always a good thing no matter if the result is what you hope for or not. When we believe in God he gives us the strength to serve or find success in life, big or small. Jesus went through immense pain for us so we shouldn't forget how hard he worked and the discipline he went through to accept his death. God gave Jesus that strength just like he gives us. Success doesn't come without trial and error so we need discipline to keep us going. Putting in the work is not always fun, but being able to take what God has given me and striving to do better each and every time gives me the comfort to know that I will be okay. I am nervous and excited to continue this journey as I am starting this new chapter in high school. I know that if I do my best and lean on God when things get tough I will find my success.



Lucy Elizabeth Williams

*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.”*

Isaiah 41:10

I chose this verse because it makes me feel comforted and I feel like it embodies God's promises to us perfectly. This verse is basically saying that no matter what happens in our lives, we shouldn't be scared because God will always be there to guide us through it and give us strength. I can relate this verse to my life because I was really stressed about dance team tryouts. I was so nervous and scared I wouldn't make it, but then I realized that all I have to do is try my best and I shouldn't be anxious because God is with me and helping me through it. At the time I'm writing this, tryouts haven't happened yet. But I know that if I make it or not, it is all part of God's plan for me.

My faith is very important to me now. It wasn't as important to me before when I didn't strongly believe in God. I went to church and Sunday School. I listened to the sermons and lessons but that was all I did with my faith. I didn't truly understand. About a year ago I wanted to change that. I think I decided to make a change because of my confirmation classes and how they made me really become interested in my faith. I started praying and reading the Bible at home. I started looking for God in my community. I found I experienced God most at church, with a group of people who share the same faith and beliefs and who all join together to praise God. I grew my faith in church and confirmation class where I learned about God and got assurance he was real.

Now, as a person of faith, I try my best to follow the Ten Commandments and the Apostles' Creed and treat others with kindness and respect. I try to uphold good moral values and spread God's word. But I know that sometimes, if I fail to do one of those things, God will forgive me and help me do better next time.

1 John 1:9 reminds us "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I think that God is so wonderful because no matter how bad the sin, he will always find the kindness to forgive us.

Jesus is also very important in my life. The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ motivate me to continue in my faith journey because he rose from the dead for us. He came back to help us and forgive our sins. This makes me feel safe knowing he loves us so much and will always protect us. Knowing that I will always have someone in my life who I can talk to about anything and they'll always support me is such a great feeling.

I am going to continue growing my faith. I will continue to study the Bible to grow my knowledge of God and Jesus Christ. I will continue to go to church. And I will continue to turn to God for guidance and comfort.

**I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.**

Psalm 9:1

Confirmands

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Vera Chizzo
Lukas Cohen
Elliot Engebretson
Nicholas Greig
Andrew Gullo
Nora Isenberg
Emily Jones
Magdalena Keberlein
Greta Lyle
Zachary Morgan
Lucy Williams

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Paulette Reddel
JoEllyn Dorsey-Swanson
James Claud
Kirk Carpenter
Ellie Schnack
Josh Schubkegel
Tina Baird
Leanne Cribbs
Jessica Bullock
Jade Augustine
Justin Martin
Gwen Gotsch

Mentor Facilitators

Linda and Scott Street

Pastors

David Lyle
Troy Medlin
Michael Costello

**Coordinator of
Children and Family
Ministry**

Julie Modrich

Thank you, parents and families...

for getting your children here on Sunday and for making their faith formation an important part of your lives.

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