

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Confirmation Essay, Spring 2020

Dear Confirmation 8th graders and families,

It's time to be thinking about **Confirmation Sunday! It is scheduled for May 3** at the 9 a.m. service. That day, the 8th graders will be reading to the congregation a brief essay that they will write based on a verse they have chosen. Suggestions are below or they may choose another with my approval.

As you know, scripture is God's living Word. It speaks to each of us in a unique way depending on who we are and what is going on in our lives. The confirmation essay, **250 words or one double-spaced typed page** (it can be a bit shorter but not much longer) will give your children the chance to explore a verse that is especially meaningful to them.

In preparing what they'll write, I encourage them to first look at the context for the verse. Where are we in the story and what's going on? What is the particular purpose of that verse? Then they can ask how God is speaking to them through that verse at that moment in their lives. I will meet briefly with each of them to help get started and work alongside them. They may draw on some of the basic things we've been talking about this year:

- From the Old Testament, God never gives up on his people, no matter how rebellious they are, but continues to love them and more than anything wants them to return to him.
- From the New Testament, Jesus as the Son of God was born into human history as "God with us" in flesh and blood, at the same time fully human and fully divine, to proclaim that our sins are forgiven, to give us the assurance of God's love and of eternal life, and to tell the world about the kingdom of God and teach us what it means to live in that kingdom.
- They might incorporate Luther's Small Catechism, in particular the Ten Commandments: The law is not a series of "Thou shalt not's," but instead tells us how God desires for us to live; and that in the gospel (Jesus) we receive God's grace in the form of infinite forgiveness, love, and mercy.

Please look over the following verses and select one **by March 25**. The following week we'll quickly go over these to get them started. I'll be looking for a first draft of their essay by **April 15**. They can email it to me before then at pastor@holytrinity-marshall.com or bring a printout to class. Keep in mind that this is an expression of their faith in God and of what they know of Jesus Christ at that point in their life. There is no "right way" for this essay; they should simply be who they are. As we work on these I may coach them a little but it will be their words and their voice.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Raabe

CONFIRMATION VERSE SUGGESTIONS

Quotation marks indicate that Jesus is speaking.

Psalm 51:10

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Psalm 55:22

Cast your burden on the LORD,
and he will sustain you.

Psalm 118:14

The LORD is my strength and my song;
the LORD has become my salvation.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and lean not on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.

Isaiah 40:31

Those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 43:1

But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.

Micah 6:8

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Matthew 7:7

"Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you."

Matthew 11:28

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:29

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Matthew 11:30

"For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Luke 19:10

"For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

John 6:35

"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

John 8:12

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

John 10:11

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

John 14:6

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Romans 12:12

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 8:28

We know that in all things God works for good with those who love him, who he called for his own purpose.

Romans 14:8

If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Hebrews 12:14

Strive for peace with all people, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.