



Confirmation
May 1, 2021

CONFIRMATION

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**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and instruction. *Proverbs 16:9***

Holy Baptism is the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, which God poured out on us abundantly through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Justified by his grace, we have been made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. In this Sacrament our loving God receives little children into his covenant and rule of grace, working faith in them and making them members of the invisible Church and temples of the Holy Spirit.



As our Lord faithfully keeps his covenant of mercy, he also promises those who are his own: "Be faithful to death, and I will give you a crown of life!" To the end that his will might be accomplished and his children may grow in grace and Christian knowledge and wisdom as they advance in years, he commands parents to "bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." He directs his church to do what he told Peter, "Feed My lambs!"

According to his promise and command, children are instructed in the Christian faith. When they reach an age of discretion and understand God's covenant of grace into which his Spirit called them at the time of their baptism, they promise to daily live according to his will. They do this not because they "have to," but because they want to serve him out of love and thanks. Now able to examine themselves and to recognize our Savior's true body and blood in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, they should also receive this Sacrament often along with their fellow members of the family of faith.



To encourage such growth in Christian knowledge and faith, the rite of **CONFIRMATION** is maintained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The catechumens publicly profess their faith in Christ, confirming their covenant with God. Assured that they possess such knowledge of biblical doctrine to warrant the worthy reception of the Lord's Supper, our elders invite them to receive it in true faith. We ask the Holy Spirit through his Gospel in Word and Sacrament to cause them to grow in grace, to remain steadfast and immovable in trusting their Savior's love, to become increasingly fruitful in all good works, and in the end to receive the promised crown of life.

***THIS DAY THE FOLLOWING CATECHUMENS
PRESENT THEMSELVES FOR THE SOLEMN RITE OF CONFIRMATION***

PAXTON MICHAEL CLEMENTS
MADISON MARGARET DONNELL
MICHAEL McLEOD DONNELL
ANDREW JOSEPH GAHAN
OLIVIA ANNE HARWOOD
SAWYER AIDEN MILLER
ABIGAIL JEAN RUSSELL
SOPHIA ROSE SMITH
JONATHAN JAMES SPIETZ
RYAN CHAD THISTLE
GRACIE LOU WARGOLET
JANE ASHLEY WITTE

WORSHIP NOTES: *We extend a warm welcome today to the family and friends of our confirmands. Through this rite of “passage” these students will confirm the faith which the Holy Spirit implanted in them by baptism. As they have demonstrated the ability to learn the truths of God’s Word, today we encourage them to keep growing in relationship with their Savior each day. We walk with them down the road of Christian maturity, asking ourselves, “How precious is Christ, the divine Teacher, to me? Do I let him serve me as Savior and lead me as Lord?” During this time each year we listen and learn along with our confirmands to love him more. Together we recommit our lives to him, which is our faithful response to his love and grace. (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)*

**"Be faithful, even to the point of death,
and I will give you life as your victor’s crown."
Revelation 2:10b**

ORDER OF WORSHIP

INVOCATION

- P:** In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Lift up the name of the Lord with me:
- C:** **And let us exalt his name together.**
- P:** Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praises:
- C:** **Let us be thankful as we worship him.**
- P:** For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting:
- C:** **And his truth endures for all generations.**
- P:** The law from his mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.
- C:** **His hands have made me and formed me; O Lord, give me understanding to learn your ways, for I have put my hope in your Word.**

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and there is no truth in us. But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to purify us from all unrighteousness. In that hope and confidence, let us humbly confess . . .
- C:** **Lord God, Heavenly Father, I come before your throne and admit my sins. Throughout my life, including this past week, I have been incredibly selfish. The old sinful nature within me judges everything for my own advantage. As a result of my selfishness, I often experience sinful thoughts and desires such as greed, jealousy, covetousness, rebellion, the desire for revenge. And as a result of my sinful thoughts, I often speak and act in ways that hurt and offend you as well as my fellow human beings. Heavenly Father, I know that nothing I do or say can ever earn your forgiveness. Yet I also know that you are a good and gracious God. I know that you sent Jesus to carry my sins, together with the world's sins, on the cross. He died for me! Let me hear your words of forgiveness so that my heart and soul might be reassured. Let me experience the peace and joy of salvation that comes only through faith in Christ.**
- P:** Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, I stand before you as God's representative to proclaim to you his love and forgiveness. Jesus kept the law, suffered and died in our place. Out of love, he fully and freely gives to you and to me his righteousness without any merit or worthiness on our part. He says to us:

"Though your sins are like scarlet,
They shall be as white as snow;
Though they are red like crimson,
They shall be like wool." (Is. 1:18)

May God enable us to believe his message with all our hearts, that by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, it may transform and renew our minds and our lives.

- C:** **We glorify your name, O Lord, our gracious God!**

GOSPEL LESSON JOHN 14:23-29

Jesus continues to prepare the disciples for his visible departure. The new command to love one another also means loving him and his Word. Loving Jesus means obeying his teaching. We do not fear at the thought of this impossible task. The gift of the Spirit comes to bring knowledge and peace. With untroubled hearts, we believe.

Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. "All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.

EXAMINATION

Mr. Hering

CONFESSION OF FAITH

C: I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers. On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead; and he will give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

HYMN "I Gave My Life for Thee"

(See p. 11)

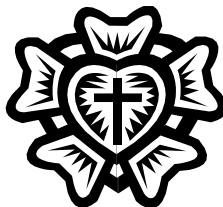
CWS, #454:1-4

SERMON 1 PETER 3:13-22 "Remain True in Faith and Action"

HYMN "I Gave My Life for Thee"

(See p. 11)

CWS, #454:5-6



Martin Luther's Coat of Arms

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

You are here to make a public profession of your Christian faith. The Apostle Paul writing to the Romans says: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved ... For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Therefore, lift up your hearts to the God of all grace and joyfully answer these questions:

P: Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge that in Baptism, God gave you the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation?

C: **I do.**

P: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

C: **I do.**

P: Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

P: Do you believe all the books of the Bible to be the inspired Word of God?

C: **I do.**

P: Do you believe that the teaching of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know it from Luther's Small Catechism, is faithful and true to the Word of God?

C: **I do.**

P: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this teaching and to endure all things, even death, rather than fall away from it?

C: I do, by the grace of God.

P: Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the teachings of God's Word; to be faithful in the use of the Word and Sacrament; and in faith and action remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as long as you live?

C: I do, and I ask God to help me.

P: Since it is God alone who enables us both to will and to do his good pleasure, it is right for us, dear friends in Christ, to call on him for *these confirmands*, that he would graciously complete the good work which he has begun in *them*. Let us, therefore, bow our heads and pray.

P: Lord Jesus, Author and Perfecter of our faith, in mercy you joined *these brothers and sisters* to your Church when *they* were born again of water and the Spirit. In mercy you taught *them* your saving truth. Grant that *they* may offer themselves as living sacrifices to you as *their* spiritual act of worship. Transform *them* by the renewing of *their* minds so that they will not conform to the pattern of this world. Help us live in love and harmony with one another, and work together in serving you. Keep us united in your Spirit and bring us at last to your eternal kingdom where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BLESSING FROM GOD

P: Confirmands, receive His Word of blessing.

P: Upon this your profession and promise, I invite and welcome you, as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation, to share with us in all the gifts our Lord has for His Church and to live them out continually in His worship and in His service.

PARENTS' VOW OF SUPPORT FOR LUTHERAN CATECHUMENS

P: When you brought these children to be baptized, you realized that you were following the will of your Lord Jesus, who said, LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME. At the same time, you understood that your responsibilities had not ended at the Baptism. You knew that the Scriptures also commanded you to BRING UP YOUR CHILDREN IN THE TRAINING AND INSTRUCTION OF THE LORD. This you have done in your homes and by using the assistance that has been offered by your fellow Christians in this congregation. However, your Lord Jesus wants you to remember that your duties to these children continue long past the day of Confirmation. Therefore, I ask you:

P: Do you intend to help these young people carry out the vow they have just spoken?

ANS: I do.

P: Do you intend to encourage them to remain faithful to Jesus and to all of God's Word as it's proclaimed in the Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church?

ANS: I do.

P: Do you intend to continue to instruct and guide them as you have opportunity with God's Word as your only authority?

ANS: I do.

P: Do you intend to bring them regularly to worship services and have them participate in Bible Study, both in the congregational life and their own personal lives?

ANS: I do.

P: Do you intend to encourage them to serve their Lord Jesus throughout their lives in everything they do, especially throughout their lives in their Christian congregation?

ANS: I do.

P: Do you intend to be an example for them of such a Christian life and lifestyle by how you live and how you speak?

ANS: I do so intend to do all these things, with the help of God and by his grace.

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

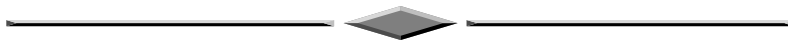
CLOSING PRAYER

BENEDICTION

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

SILENT PRAYER & ANNOUNCEMENTS



LIST OF CONFIRMANDS - A list of our confirmands follows.

Special Thanks - A very special word of thanks to:

- Staff Minister Hering & Pastor Wagner for carefully, sincerely teaching our students the truth of God's saving Word.
- Monica Dierker for playing the keyboard.
- Sarah Smith for producing & assembling all the materials which enhance this celebration.
- Our Teachers (Mrs. Favorite, Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Gronholz, Mr. & Mrs. Grulke, Mr. Hahm & Mr. Trimmer) for their dedicated, prayerful service in the education of many of these students.
- Our Parents who not only bring their children here for Christian education, but also bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. (Eph. 6:4)

FLOWERS

The beautiful flowers this morning have been given to the glory of God by the confirmands and their families. They remind us how, by faith in our Lord Jesus, these young believers have blossomed and matured spiritually.

2021 CONFIRMANDS

PAXTON MICHAEL CLEMENTS

Parents: Paul & Rebecca Clements
Passage: Deuteronomy 31:6 - Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

MADISON MARGARET DONNELL

Sponsor: Cheryl Leet
Parents: Kerry & Emmy Donnell
Passage: Romans 8:18 - I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

MICHAEL McLEOD DONNELL

Sponsor: Cheryl Leet
Parents: Kerry & Emmy Donnell
Passage: Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

ANDREW JOSEPH GAHAN

Sponsors: Kelly Schilling & Kevin Gahan
Parents: Dan & Casey Gahan
Passage: Romans 14:8 - If we live, we live to the Lord; if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

OLIVIA ANNE HARWOOD

Sponsors: Janel Zima & Amy Charles
Parents: Tom & Heather Harwood
Passage: Psalm 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

SAWYER AIDEN MILLER

Sponsors: Brooke Prather & Matthew Miller
Parents: Russell & Hilde Miller
Passage: Hebrews 13: 5 & 6 - God has said "Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"

ABIGAIL JEAN RUSSELL

Sponsors: Angela Chopp & Michael Uttech
Parents: Kent & Jessica Russell
Passage: Hebrews 13:5 - "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

SOPHIA ROSE SMITH

Sponsors: Adrian & LaShawn Smith
Parents: Michael & Sarah Smith
Passage: Colossians 3:16 - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

JONATHAN JAMES SPIETZ

Sponsors: Katie Spietz & Jenni Radtke
Parents: Chris & Candi Spietz
Passage: 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?

RYAN CHAD THISTLE

Sponsors: Jamie & Rachel Luehring
Parents: Chad & Kimberly Thistle
Passage: Matthew 28:20 - Surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

GRACIE LOU WARGOLET

Sponsors: Brianna Kapitz & Ben Kapitz
Parents: Angie Kapitz & Joe Wargolet
Passage: Romans 10:17 - Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

JANE ASHLEY WITTE

Sponsors: Todd Witte & Cynthia Witte
Parents: Luke & Jessica Witte
Passage: Revelation 2:10 - Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

I Gave My Life for Thee

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1 I gave my life for thee; My pre-cious blood I shed
2 My Fa-ther's home of light, My rain-bow-cir-cled throne,
3 I spent long years for thee In wea-ri-ness and woe
4 I suf-fered much for thee, More than my tongue may tell,

That thou might'st ran-somed be And quick-ened from the dead.
I left for earth-ly night, For wan-d'rings sad and lone.
That an e-ter-ni-ty Of joy thou might-est know.
Of bit-t'rest ag-o-ny, To res-cue thee from hell.

I gave my life for thee; Come, give thy-self to me!
I left it all for thee; Come now and fol-low me!
I spent long years for thee; Come, spend thy years for me.
I suf-fered much for thee; Come, bear thy cross with me.

5 And I have brought to thee
Down from my home above
Salvation full and free,
My pardon and my love.
Great gifts I brought for thee;
Come, bring thy gifts to me.

6 Oh, let thy life be spent,
Thy years for me be giv'n,
As I for thee was sent
To bear thee home to heav'n.
I gave my life for thee;
Come, give thy life to me.

