



*Service of
Confirmation*

**Redeemer by the Sea Lutheran Church
June 14, 2020**

- *For this service, the following convention is used:*

P: Pastor

C: Candidates

A: All, including congregation

- *After confirmation testimony videos, confirmands gather in front of the altar. The pastor then addresses the candidates and the congregation:*

P: Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Our Lord Jesus said to his disciples in the last chapter of Matthew: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.”

- *The significance of Confirmation is considered:*

P: Jesus said: “Whoever confesses me before men, I will also confess him before my Father in heaven. But he that denies me before men, I will deny him before my Father in heaven.”

- *The candidates are then addressed:*

P: Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts which God gave you in your Baptism?

C: I do.

P: Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

C: I do.

P: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

C: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

C: Yes, 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

C: Yes, 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.

P: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

C: I do so intend with the help of God.

P: Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?

C: I do.

P: Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to this divine Word, to be faithful in the use of God's Word and sacraments, which are his means of grace, and in faith, word, and action to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

C: I do so intend by the grace of God.

• *The catechumens kneel. Parents and any family present are invited to stand around each candidate and lay hands on them as the pastor speaks the following blessing to each catechumen along with a selection of Scripture ("confirmation verse") chosen by the candidate.*

P: ...May God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, give you His Holy Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge, of grace and prayer, of power and strength, of sanctification and the fear of God.

• *Concluding the individual prayers & blessing:*

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when they receive the crown of righteousness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose Name we pray,

A: Amen.

• *After all catechumens have received the blessing, they stand and face the congregation. The pastor says:*

P: Now that you have made confession of your faith, I do now in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church invite and welcome you to share in our call and commission to love the Lord and one another and to receive all the gifts our Lord has for his Church and to live them out continually in His worship and service.

• *The congregation responds:*

A: We welcome you and receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, to work with us in His kingdom.

P: The Lord bless you (+) in all your ways from this time forth and forevermore.

A: Amen.

What Being a Christian Means to Me ...



“If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”

– Matthew 21:22 (NIV)

What is life's greatest moment? Some might say it's getting your PhD. Others may say it's getting married or having children. But I would argue it's getting confirmed. While those other events are important milestones in earthly life, confirmation celebrates that God has given me the gift of eternal life in heaven

with Him forever.

Personally, I see Jesus as my savior, protector, and friend. I have witnessed His work in numerous ways; He provides me with everything I need; He gave me a loving and kind family and He saved me from original and actual sin. Jesus is my guiding light and my compass. In times of turmoil He has shown me the right path. Alongside Jesus, the Church has helped guide me through my youth by teaching me what it means to be a good Christian. And might I say there are many examples of good Christians in this church. Not to mention, my parents have also impacted my faith by driving me to Sunday school, confirmation, and church, as well as praying with me every day. They have also instilled in me to do the right thing and in times of question, how to act. My parents have said “what would Jesus do?” and encourage me to seek the wisdom of God through the Bible and in prayer.

I have witnessed God's work in my life and the Bible verse that best describes this is Matthew 21:22 “If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.” I'm very proud to profess my faith today as I am confirmed. But I also know that confirmation is just the beginning of my adulthood and living the best Christian life possible. Moving forward, I know non-believers will be observing me and it's important to be a good example and Christlike leader.



Ryder

*“O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.”*

– Psalm 34:8 (NRSV)

Confirmation is a big part of being a Christian. One verse that I think describes being a Christian is from Psalms 34:8 “O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.” This verse is special to me because it helps me remember that even when we cannot feel God He is always there for us. It also helps

me remember how amazing it is to be one of God’s people. For people who say they do not need Jesus, I respond by mentioning how Jesus saved us from Hell. Jesus changes our lives by forgiving our sins and letting us into Heaven. To say you do not need Him would be like saying you do not need water and food to live.

I have seen Jesus working in my life by providing me a wonderful family, giving me a wonderful home, and guiding me. Jesus means everything to me. Jesus is my savior and protector. He provides for me and keeps me safe every day. Being a Christian means a lot to me. It is as simple as believing Jesus Christ, God’s Son, rose from the dead to forgive us of our sins. Christians thank God by worshipping him in every way as possible. Being a Christian means being one of God’s many chosen people.

An important step in the life of a Christian is being confirmed. I want to be confirmed because it is my duty to worship God . Part of my journey of faith is to be confirmed. Being confirmed is an important rite of passage and I want to be the best Christian I can. Being confirmed is not the end of my Christian learning. In fact, confirmation opens up new doors for service and growth in the future and changes your life for the better.

The church impacts your faith and helps you live a faithful life. The church has helped me in my life by providing stability and always being there for me. The church is where you go to confess your wrongs and all of your sins. It also provides you with other Christians to help guide you and strengthen your faith. Another important part of growing your faith

is your parents. My parents have helped guide me in my faith by showing me how to live a good Christian life. They teach me how a Christian should act and what it means to be a Christian. They have given me all the necessary tools to become the best Christian I can. This is why I want to be confirmed and what being a Christian means to me.



Jenna

“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.” – Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

I want to be Confirmed because I want to continue to grow my faith. Over the years, God has become a very important part of my life. Being Christian is who I am and always want to be. To me, being a Christian means so much more than just believing that Jesus is our savior. It means

being kind, genuine, and someone who spreads God’s Word. It means not letting the devil drive you away from God. Christians set good examples. Although we sin, we are forgiven through our faith. God works in Christians to make them the best that they can be.

I chose the verse Jeremiah 29:11 for my confirmation verse. I picked this verse because it is important to know that God has a plan for you. No matter how bad you think your life is getting, God is always there. He will never leave you.

Jesus has worked in my life in many ways. He leads me in the right direction. My walk in the Christian faith has helped me see that God is above all things. Being a Christian is the most important thing in my life. God protects me from bad influences.

To me, Jesus is not only the Messiah. He is the way. He is the right thing. Jesus has changed my life in so many ways. Jesus is the one thing in life that I will never doubt. He is perfect, and unchanging. I’ve learned so much about Jesus by going to church. Redeemer by the Sea is a place where I have always felt like I belonged. I went to preschool there for two years and since then I have continued to learn more about my faith. The people at church have always been so nice and welcoming. They

help me be a better person by setting an example for me. My parents have also helped me in my faith. They were the first people to tell me about God. They have always been so supportive and helped me grow my faith by bringing me to church every Sunday. My parents also encourage me to pray and read my Bible often.

The statement "Confirmation is not the end of anything; it is rather the beginning of something..." tells me that I will continue to grow in my faith even though I will be confirmed. Being confirmed does not mark the end of anything. I'm not ending my faith, I'm just beginning it. I will never stop learning about God. If someone tells me that they don't need Jesus, I would tell them that Jesus gives us everything we have and without Him we would have nothing. Everyone needs Jesus whether they realize it or not. He works in their lives too. God has a plan for all of us. He put my parents in each other's lives and He knew one day I would be born. He knows our future and provides us with everything we need to create that future, but He also gives us choices. My faith helps me make the right choices. I pray for each person to find Jesus because He can bring hope into their life. He makes life better.



Connor

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

– Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)

My Confirmation Verse is Ephesians 2:8-10: ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." For me, this verse summarizes my Christian beliefs. Let me explain. Paul writes how we are saved, through our faith which is made possible by the Holy Spirit. Paul tells us that we are not saved by our works so that no one can become prideful or boast. Then in verse 10, we find that God has

planned good works for us and has designed us to complete those good works.

Speaking of good works, if you look around, you will see people doing great, Godly things. Whenever a Christian does that, Jesus works through them. Because of this, you cannot say that you have not seen Jesus. This is simply because if you have seen a good work done in the Name of Jesus, if you have seen someone showing the homeless compassion instead of disgust, then you have seen Christ. If you have seen parents loving their child, if you have seen the 'outcast' accepted, then you have seen Christ. God is all around us, and as Christians, we can see that it is our job, our duty to do good works so that others can see Christ. Others can see that they are not forsaken, that God is near.

As a Christian, I know that good works will never be enough. My own Confirmation Verse says it. We're saved through faith, which is a gift from God. Our Lord, God the Father, knowing our sinful nature and knowing that we could never reach heaven by our own merit, sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die in our place. Christ came down, became human, humbled Himself, lived, taught, bore our sin, carried our cross, and was hung on that cross as His innocent blood was shed, saving us from our own sinful nature. Christ then died on that cross. He entered hell. Then three days later, rose victoriously. He saved us from death. He gave us new life. He did what no number of good works could do; He saved us. Through that sacrifice and my faith made possible through the Holy Spirit, I am saved.

I have had the opportunity to grow up in a wonderful Church and a great Christian family. I have had great Christian role-models in my life. Due to those role-models, I am who I am today. I have progressed in my faith because of them. I have felt the desire to be like that—to have a beneficial, life changing effect on other people. Because of you, I am here standing in front of you, taking the vows that my parents made at my baptism, as my own and most importantly, professing my faith and offering my life, to Christ and His work. God loved me first. He made me. He blessed me. He protected me. He saved me And now I am here, hoping to grow so that I can act out those good works that God has planned for me, continue in my faith and learn to better know my Father.