

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

CALLED HOME TO HEAVEN

Paul Westendorf, born December 17, 1946, entered eternal peace with his Savior on April 27, 2024. His funeral is scheduled for Saturday, May 11, at 12:00 pm, with the visitation starting at 10:00 am, at Crown of Life in Hubertus. May our God of all peace and comfort be with Paul's loved ones.

KNOWN TO BE HOSPITALIZED

Ralph Morbeck (LindenGrove New Berlin), Carol Constantineau (Waukesha), Karen Grenie (Hales Corners Care Center), and Dora Jahnke (Heritage Square). Sherwin Beyer, John Strobel, and Craig Schwartz have been discharged from the hospital.

ATTENDANCE

The following attended last week's services: 27 on Thursday, 126 on Saturday, 113 on Sunday 8:00 am, 218 on Sunday 9:30 am, 224 at The Bridge, and 92 at The Bridge MKE.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers beautifying the altar were given in honor of Jon and Mary Pier's 40th wedding anniversary, which is Sunday, May 5.

ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING – WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

The Spring *Messenger* includes all the reports and business items for our annual voters meeting. Pick up a copy at the Welcome Center.

PUBLIC SCHOOL CATECHISM INSTRUCTION

Do you have a child attending public school and going into the 6th grade next fall? St. Paul's Public School Catechism instruction starts at 6th grade and goes through 8th grade. Email Family Minister Paul Schuessler at pschuessler@stpmuskego.org for more information and to get enrolled.

ST. PAUL'S NURSERY – HELP WANTED!

St. Paul's nursery works to care for children during worship. They are looking for help at The Bridge on Sundays, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, but may need assistance at the main church from 7:45 to 11:00 am. This is a paid position. If interested, email Jennifer Simons at jsimons@stpmuskego.org.

DIVORCECARE SUPPORT GROUP FACILITATOR

The St. Paul's DivorceCare Support Group is looking for another person to lead this group in discussion and Bible Study. This is a Christ-centered, 13-week program that takes place on Mondays, at 6:00 pm, in the Faith Room. If you are interested in learning more about being a facilitator, contact Pastor Bonack at 414-422-0320, ext. 119.

OWLS HOST SENIOR SAFETY PROGRAM

The St. Paul's Organization of Lutheran Seniors invite you to their May 8 meeting to hear important information on Senior Safety. Bring a lunch to the Grace Room at 12:00 pm, and hear Mike Seasny offer essential knowledge to help you be careful, cautious, and make your life more enjoyable.

JAMMIN IN THE PARK – JUNE 7

Do you want to promote St. Paul's Church and School within our community? Consider helping at Jammin in the Park on Friday, June 7. The event runs from 5:00 – 9:00 pm and will be located at Veteran's Park in Muskego. Volunteers are invited to load up vehicles, set up the booth, run children's games, answer questions, and take down. We also need volunteers to load up the truck on Thursday, June 6. Short shifts are available. If interested, please mark your interest on your Connection Card or contact Sally Wallner at 414-218-5197 or swallner@stpaulmuskego.org.

NEWS CONTINUED

REV. KEITH SCHLEIS CALLED TO BE PASTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP



The St. Paul's Voters' Assembly has called Pastor Keith Schleis to serve as our Pastor of Discipleship. This call is part of our process of succession planning as both Pastors Kuehl and Panitzke approach their retirement in the years ahead. Because of the number of pastoral vacancies in the synod we may need to call a dozen or more times for this position to be filled. If Pastor Schleis accepts the call, we will enjoy more than a year of overlap between the time of his arrival and Pastor Kuehl's retirement in October 2025.

Pastor Schleis is 39 years old, a 2011 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. He is married to Dawn. They have three children (12, 9, 6). He began his ministry at St. Paul's in Menomonie, Wisconsin. In 2015 he was called to Abiding Faith in Smyrna, Tennessee. Abiding Savior is a congregation of 192 members with an average worship attendance of 125. This school year he is also the supervising pastor for Vicar Nathan Wranovsky, a son of St. Paul's members Steve and Amy Wranovsky.

If you would like to let Pastor Schleis know you are praying for him, you can contact him at keith.a.schleis@gmail.com.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

With this letter I humbly acknowledge receipt of your Call to serve as your Pastor. Thank you for the privilege to consider working in a new harvest field and one that God has blessed in the past and seems ripe for more growth. I ask your prayers and advice as I deliberate where God would best use me, in either Muskego or Smyrna.

*May God continue to shower His blessings upon our churches.
Pastor Keith Schleis*

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Did you know that one in five adults in the U.S. lives with some sort of mental health disorder? As compassionate Christians, we can extend support, resources, and access to Christ-centered care. Christian Family Solutions is a WELS affiliated ministry that offers evidence-based mental health care practices integrated with the healing power of the Gospel. To find resources or learn more about services, visit ChristianFamilySolutions.org. For more information about St. Paul's Counseling and Care Center, a Christian Family Solutions satellite site, contact Pastor Bonack at 414-422-0320, ext. 119.

ASCENSION DAY SERVICE AT ST. JACOBI LUTHERAN

St. Jacobi Lutheran Church (8605 W. Forest Home Ave) is inviting you to their Ascension service on Thursday, May 9, at 6:30 pm. All are invited to join in worshipping our risen and ascended Savior.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT STONEY CREEK

If interested, contact Stephanie Albert at 414-422-4686 or stephanee@stoneycreekmuskego.org.

- Wednesday, May 15, 2:00 pm – “End of Life Issue and Ethics” presented by Christian Life Resources.
- Wednesday, July 31 – Discover “America's Little Switzerland” by taking a day trip to New Glarus. Cost is \$95 and includes lunch with chef demonstration, visit to the Swiss Historical Village and Museum, and a stop at Bailey's Run Vineyard.

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 175-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Everyone is invited to the 175-year anniversary celebration of Grace Lutheran Church (1209 North Broadway) in Milwaukee. On Sunday, May 19, anniversary worship services will be held at the church at 7:45, 9:00, and 10:30 am. A catered meal and program will follow the 10:30 am service at the Marcus Performing Arts Center. RSVP by Wednesday, May 1, by scanning the QR code.



WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of May 6, 2024

MON	9:40 am	Walking Group (Trinity Gym)
	6:00 pm	DivorceCare Support Group (Faith Room)
	7:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal (Main Church)
TUE	9:40 am	Walking Group (Trinity Gym)
	4:30 pm	Public School Confirmation Class
	6:00 pm	Adult Handbell Practice (Main Church)
	7:00 pm	Following the Promise Bible Study (Grace Room)
	7:30 pm	Woodwind Ensemble Rehearsal (Main Church Basement)
WED	9:45 am	Reading Buddies (Trinity Café)
	12:00 pm	OWLS Meeting (Grace Room)
	7:00 pm	Cancer Support Group (Hope Room)
THUR	9:00 am	Full Armor of God Bible Study (Off Campus)
	9:30 am	Thursday Ladies Bible Study (Hope Room)
	9:40 am	Walking Group (Trinity Gym)
	10:00 am	Small Group Communion (Main Church)
	5:45 pm	TempleLoveFitness Bible Study (Grace Room)
	6:30 pm	TempleLoveFitness Pilates Class (Grace Room)
	6:30 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
FRI	8:15 am	School Chapel (Main Church)
SAT	8:00 am	God's Guys Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
SUN	8:00 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:30 am	Kid's Club
	9:30 am	Grace Room Bible Study
	9:30 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	10:00 am	The Bridge and The Bridge MKE Communion
	10:30 am	The Bridge and The Bridge MKE

JOIN US FOR SPECIAL SERVICES

- Muffins for Mother's Day services are next week. We are making a gift available for mothers: *Lord, Help Me Pray for My Kids*. You can also purchase by visiting store.focusonthefamily.com.
- Our two outdoor services on June 16 and August 18 at 10:30 am.
- The 1905 Church Building Decommissioning service on Sunday, July 21, at 9:30 am.



Our vision is that by every possible means we bring every person in our area of influence closer to Christ through regular worship, small groups, and serving together.



CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2024

Sunday 1:30 pm

Brooke Dougherty
Cole Morris
Mason Navarrete
Norah Ochsner
Andrew Potter
Justis Rehbein
Beckett Scheuerman
Nathan Schlevensky
Avery Schoeneck
Evelyn Sorum
Owen Sughroue
Katelyn Triplett
Tzion Unz
Payson Vahovick
Tyson Walz
Sadie Watry
Wheeler Wirkus
Hudson Zahn

Sunday 3:30 pm

Nora Abramowski
Madyson Belanger
Evelyn Bennett
Liam Darling
Jacob DiGiorgio
Andrew Grimes
Ian Guhr
Rose Heffelfinger
Emerson Hendrix
Connor Hering
Raygen Just
Gabriel Krill
Jonah Lamp
Trinity Magner
Morgan Martinez
Logan Paschke

Together with their parents, the confirmands selected their confirmation verse and were asked what this verse meant to them. This gave them the opportunity to express their faith. What follows is each confirmand's name, confirmation verse, and profession of faith. We thank our gracious God for the life-giving and life-sustaining gift of his Word, and we pray that he would send his Holy Spirit to keep these young people faithful, even to the point of death, that they might receive the crown of life.

Both the 1:30 and 3:30 pm confirmation services will be livestreamed and will be available for viewing after the services.



Our vision is that by every possible means we bring every person in our area of influence closer to Christ through regular worship, small groups, and serving together.

Nora Ann Abramowski

John 16:33 “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

I have chosen John 16:33 as my confirmation verse because it reminds me that no matter what happens in life, nothing can take me from Jesus. I have had troubles throughout my life, and I know I'll have more. Many things have rocked my boat in the last couple years of my life, but remembering Jesus' words has helped me get through them. The song, "Take Heart," by Matthew West is a song I first heard in 2020. In the midst of the pandemic, we were all struggling to comprehend how our school year and our lives would turn out. The song lyrics remind me to give my troubles to God and he will take the weight off my chest. After hearing that song a number of times, I decided to choose John 16:33 as my confirmation verse. This verse will help me get through life, and I hope to encourage others with it.

Madyson Finley Belanger

Exodus 14:14 “The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

I chose Exodus 14:14 as my confirmation verse because it assures me that even through my troubles I can look to God for guidance and trust that through him everything will be okay. Another reason why I chose this verse as my confirmation verse is because I know that I can go through my hard days without worry, because the Lord is fighting for me. I can just be still. I may have many terrible days and go through many hardships, but I can just look and trust in God and live knowing everything is in his control. This verse is a huge comfort to me and it makes all of my bad days so much better. I need only to be still, everything will be alright.

Evelyn Iris Bennett

Acts 4:12 “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

I chose Acts 4:12 as my confirmation verse because it not only talks about the law but also the gospel. It tells the law in ways that say salvation is found in no one else, but explains the gospel in saying that we have salvation through Jesus Christ. This passage shows me that when I'm acting boastful and proud, I can look back to this verse and see that I am not perfect enough to save myself or even come to faith by myself. Through this verse, I know that I need to be humble and not boast or be proud in myself but in the Lord. Although sometimes I can be proud and boastful, sometimes I am the complete opposite and think that I don't deserve anything. When I am in this stage of discouragement I get caught up in my sin and think that there is no way that I can have eternal life, and it scares me, but this verse reminds me that through Jesus I will have eternal life and rejoice in heaven with him forever.

Liam Mark Darling

Psalms 103:1 “Praise the LORD, my soul: all my inmost being, praise his holy name.”

I chose this as my confirmation verse because this verse reminds me I will always have something to praise God for, in good or bad situations. In any bad situation I am in, every part of me should be praising God because there is always a reason for what happened. My grandmother passed away recently, and this verse really helped me through my struggles. Even though I may struggle to see any upside to what happened, I know what happened was the best thing. I know to rejoice in the name of the Lord when anything happens, because he did, and continues to do, what was best for me. I should never get frustrated with God but always praise him. Every single part of me, everyday, should be praising God.

Jacob Joseph DiGiorgio

1 John 4:9-12 “This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”

I chose 1 John 4: 9-12 because it expresses God's steadfast, unconditional love for me. Because of my wrongdoing and shortcomings, I deserve nothing but eternal damnation. And yet out of his love, God sent his Son to redeem me, even though I can't ever give him anything in return. Jesus lived a perfect life, took on my punishment, suffered more than I can comprehend, and died, just to save me, not because I am worth saving, but because of his undying love for me. This passage reminds me that the reason for my salvation is not my worthiness, but God's boundless love. And it reminds me that, as a response to his love, I am to strive to reflect his love and to live to his glory. Through his salvation I am empowered to fulfill God's love in me. Just as I live through his redemption, I now can live for him, and make his love complete in me.

Brooke Marie Dougherty

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.”

I have chosen John 8:12 as my confirmation verse because Jesus is our Savior and died on the cross for us. We can be with him in heaven and not in the darkness of hell if we believe in him. When I sin and feel alone, I know that I can call to Jesus in prayer and be comforted by his forgiveness. He takes me from a “down” of hopelessness to joy, making me want to follow his Word. Going to church helps me to stay focused on Jesus and his Word. Reading the Bible and sharing his Word with others will help keep me from straying. By God's love and grace, he will be the light of my life. If something bad happens to me, I know God will never leave me. I have hope in the love of Jesus and his promise that he will never leave us when we believe in him.

Andrew Thomas Grimes

Philippians 4:4-7 “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

I have chosen this as my confirmation verse because it speaks about our relationship with God and our behavior as Christians--and it reminds us of Jesus. We do not need to worry or be fearful as Christians. Instead, we can pray to God for help and care. We can do all of this because Jesus died for us and made us “at one” with God. This verse reminds me that I can always turn to God. It reminds me of how lucky I am to have a Savior. This verse also personalizes God saying, “The Lord is near.” It shows how the Lord is with us everyday and watching over us. I also picked this verse because it speaks about the joy and blessings that come when being a Christian. That joy comes out in our lives in gentleness to all as an example of Christ. Also, the verse shows that we do not entirely know God but instead marvel in the wonderful peace that he brings us. Our God is caring and powerful; he shapes our Christian life; he brings us peace through Jesus Christ.

Ian Edward Guhr

Psalms 18:2 “The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.”

I have chosen Psalm 18:2 as my confirmation verse because, in the Bible, David uses this verse with three strong metaphors to describe God. He reminds us that a perfect God watches over us in a sinful world. He used the words rock, fortress, and deliverer in one verse. In my opinion, this summarizes my relationship with God on my confirmation day and for the rest of my life. This verse can comfort many people in that all problems are solvable by God. I know that now or in the future, in good times and bad, I can rely on God to hear my prayers. I also know that God will work all things for my good. The symbolism of this verse reflects the strength and power of God to keep and protect me from the attack of my enemies. God is my safe place of refuge and peace, always.

Rose Grace Heffelfinger

1 Timothy 4:12 “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”

I have chosen 1 Timothy 4:12 as my confirmation verse because Paul gives advice to Timothy in a way that I picture my teachers advising me. Because some people are younger than others, I feel they are underestimated. Sometimes, younger Christian role models are some of the best examples because their faith is fresh and they have that childlike spark within them to learn more.

Being kind and loving to others is one of the strongest qualities God has given me. Paul tells Timothy and us to love people from a pure heart (1 Timothy 1:5). If setting an example by speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity means that I can bring unbelievers closer to God, I automatically say, “sign me up!” Since God didn’t give me the opportunity to become a pastor, being an example for other believers and nonbelievers can do just as much.

This passage also feels relatable because I really am still young, and I’m just starting the beginning of my journey with Christ. With all the wonderful teachers here at St. Paul’s, this verse reminds me of how they taught, not just me, but all the confirmands and graduates how to act like great Christian role models.

Emerson Grace Hendrix

Jeremiah 29:11 “‘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.’”

I chose Jeremiah 29:11 as my confirmation verse because it shows God has a plan for me, to give me a bright future, and that anything bad that happens is not to harm me but to make it work for my good. He gives me hope to follow the path he has made for me. The Lord is the powerful Shepherd and I am a helpless sheep; he will protect and lead me in a world of dangerous ditches to reach my main goal in heaven. Every tough situation I face in life won’t be easy to overcome, but I just have to have faith and believe because this is the way he has made my plan. My future is in God’s hands because he knows what’s best for me. God’s gracious love will protect me, hold me, and preserve me through all things. I trust that the Lord will guide me through my life, all the way until I reach my home in heaven.

Connor Logan Hering

Matthew 28:20 “Surely I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

I have chosen this verse to be my confirmation verse because it comforts me by knowing that Jesus will be with me forever even long past the end of the world. Throughout my life, I will return to this passage during times of struggle or happiness to remind me that Jesus is with me forever. This verse will also impact the rest of my life in that I do not need to worry about what comes after this world and life as Jesus will be with me through it all. Knowing that Jesus spoke this sentence to his disciples and then had them write it down for us, only further helps this passage grow within me as Jesus himself stated this promise. Knowing that Jesus is present with me, I know he hears my prayers and will answer them how he wants them to be for my own good.

Raygen Lynn Just

Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

I have chosen Romans 12:2 as my confirmation verse because it puts an image in my mind. This verse makes me think of my brain as a flower. Flowers turn to the sun (God) when they need nourishment or light (God’s Word). But if the flower turns away (temptation) or the sun is blocked (the devil), it may start closing its petals and withering away. This image helps me remember that the nature of our sinful world can change me. However, with the help of the sun (God) I will not be transformed by what I’m doing or being told to do but, instead my faith will turn to God like a flower turned to the sun and be nourished and renewed by his strong and powerful Word. With this knowledge, I will be able to accomplish anything God wants me to do. This world is full of sin and selfishness, but this passage helps me remember not to change myself for other people or because of the environment but to just be me, with the help of God.

Gabriel Isaac Krill

Psalm 46:10 “He says, ‘Be still, and know that I am God I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.’”

I have chosen Psalm 46:10 as my confirmation verse because sometimes in my life I struggle with letting God lead me. I sometimes get carried away with worries about if I'm going to get good grades or if I'm going to sing well during chapel. I get focused on other things and not on trusting that God is with me. Every time I read this verse, it brings me back to trusting that God has a plan for me. I can believe that he cares for me and loves me even more than I can ever imagine. I love that I can trust that he is always there for me and that I can just be still. He is beside me every step of my life, whether it's right now or fifty years later. I want to remember this verse and the wonderful reason why it gives me comfort and strength through hard times.

Jonah Matthew Lamp

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 your paths straight.”

This verse inspires me to a life goal of always trusting in God and turning to him in times when I am misled. To trust in the Lord with all your heart is a hard thing to truly do. I try to grow the trust in my heart by praying to God and asking him to help me in times of need. It says to lean not on your own understanding because sometimes we don't always understand everything. If you trust in God and acknowledge him, he will help you make any decision and make your paths straight. I hope to live a good and just life; I will need to be ready to ask God for his guidance in any situation.

Trinity Robyn Magner

2 Chronicles 15:7 “But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.”

I have chosen this verse to be my confirmation verse because of the message it gives. Sometimes I feel that I am putting in tons of work for nothing, but this verse assures me that God will bless your hard work even if the results are not what you intended. These words will serve to remind me to not give up on my dreams because God will provide and help me achieve blessings in the things I set my mind to. I am a Christian. As my Savior Jesus teaches me in this passage to be strong, knowing that he always has a plan for me, therefore I should trust in God and his guidance of me and my life. This verse inspires me to a life goal of always trying my best in everything I do, knowing that it will eventually bring blessing with the help of God and his power.

Morgan Kay Martinez

Colossians 3:23 “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord and not for men.”

Colossians 3:23 is a very important verse to me. One of the main reasons is because it reminds me that using my talents and abilities gives glory to God. This has been an emphasis in my life for as long as I can remember. Since I was little, my parents have been reminding me to work hard and do what I can to the best of my abilities. I have had a sign hanging in my room since fifth grade with this verse printed on it. This reminds me every day when I wake up to work hard and use the best of my abilities and do everything for God. Whether I am playing basketball or volleyball, the sports I love, studying hard for a test, or trying to get a job when I am older, I have to remember that whatever I do I will work at it with everything I have. God gives us all gifts and talents, and this passage reminds me that my dedication to achieving my goals honors my Savior.

Cole Joseph Morris

Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through him who gives me strength.”

Many confirmands spend a lot of time contemplating what Bible verse means the most to them. I am fortunate that once I heard my Bible verse, I knew without a doubt this is what mine should be. I chose Philippians 4:13. Many people use this Bible verse to convince themselves that they can do anything in the world. I chose this as my confirmation verse because I believe that the apostle Paul wrote this verse to let me know that under any circumstance, Christ will help me and allow me to have a positive mindset and attitude. Paul was faced with many difficulties and trials before he learned of being content and the joy that comes with contentment. This verse also applies to my life, especially at times like when I was nine years old and I broke my leg. I felt very scared and upset that I was unable to do anything for six months. Also two years ago my grandmother passed away unexpectedly. This not only affected me but also my entire family. I have never seen my family come together as well as we did during that time. Jesus Christ helped me persevere through these tough times by bringing my family closer even though these situations were not good situations. While these situations have caused me trouble and pain, Christ gives me the strength to overcome them and any other tough circumstances that have happened and will happen that are beyond my control.

Mason Dan Alejandro Navarrete

John 15:11-12 “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”

I chose John 15:11-12 as my confirmation verse because God tells me that he wants my joy to be complete and he reminds me that love comes from him and that without his love I never could love. Without love this world would be even more cruel and evil than it already is. Another reason I chose this verse is that it shows that even though I sin and will continue to sin God still loves me. He never gave up on his people even though countless times they turned his back on him. God does not owe us anything and yet for some reason I'll never understand, he gave up his Son for evil, wretched sinners. The passage also gives me a chance to give be joyful which should be everyone's goal because this passage tells me that God also wants me to be joyful. God also encourages me to be kind to everyone regardless of how they are to me, It is not that hard to just be nice. John 15:11-12 will always be in the back of my mind.

Norah Eve Ochsner

Psalms 28:7 “The LORD is my strength and my shield, my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.”

I chose Psalm 28:7 as my confirmation verse because it encourages me in many ways. I know that in my life I will go through tough times when I feel completely helpless. I've seen firsthand people go through trials like cancer and heart surgeries. Even through the rough times in life, this verse reminds me to trust in Jesus, and he will help me through any struggle. Not only does this verse encourage me to lean on God for help, but it encourages me always to praise the Lord. There will be times when I feel great and everything is working out. One of the hardest things to do is to remember Jesus in those times. When you're going through trials it's easier to look to the Lord for help, but when everything is good it can be harder to remember to thank and praise him. Overall, this verse encourages me to look to Jesus when things are hard and when they're good. So, no matter what circumstances I find myself in, Jesus will be the center of my life.

Logan Joseph Paschke

1 Corinthians 10:31 “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

I have chosen 1 Corinthians 10:31 as my confirmation verse because it says that whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. I do a lot of activities. I play sports, go outside, and hang out with friends and family. Whenever I'm doing those things I remember that God brought me here and gave me this wonderful life. For that, I should always give thanks back to him by praising him, worshiping him, and going to church. And all those things that I do, I do for God. I always try my hardest at everything I do, because I want to thank God for giving me my abilities. God loves and cares for me and every other human being on this earth. And he has blessed every single one of us by making us all different. Some are good at sports, some play instruments, and some are artists. And even though we're differently made, we should always do whatever we're doing for the glory of God. Even if it is just as simple as eating or walking, I want to do all my things for the glory of God.

Andrew Thomas Potter

John 3:16 “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

The reason why I chose John 3:16 is because it tells me that if I believe in Jesus I will not die but go to heaven with him and live for eternity. This passage reminds me that God sent his own Son to die for our sins. I will live by this passage thinking that if Jesus sacrificed himself to save us from sins then I shouldn't take advantage of that and sin even more. I will always be grateful for the gift that he has given me. What it will mean for me as my theme passage for life is that I should believe in Jesus to help me through the ups and downs, to guide me through life so that I can live forever in God's kingdom. It also tells me that if my life is hard, I should look at what Jesus did so that I remember my future life with Jesus and God in eternal life. This passage means a lot to me now and will continue to be important throughout my life.

Justis Robert Rehbein

Philippians 4:13 “I can do all this through Christ, who gives me strength.”

I have chosen this verse to be my confirmation verse because it always reminds me that anything is possible through my Savior, Jesus Christ. In the near future, I could experience some difficulties or challenges in high school, but it is good to know that Christ will help me through anything. It serves as a source of inspiration that will constantly keep pushing me to never give up, because my Savior will guide and protect me as his child and follower. This passage emphasizes the importance of my deep connection with Christ and that he will always be with me and in my heart even in my college years and in adulthood. My Savior holds a special place in my heart because he will always be with me during my highs and lows. When the span of my Christian life is coming to an end, I will feel comforted that my journey going to heaven is near and I will be able to meet and thank the person who has stayed by my side through the stages of my life, my Savior, Jesus.

Beckett Greg Scheuerman

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 your paths straight.”

I have chosen this verse for my confirmation verse because I need to follow God's guidance more often in whatever I'm going through. Whether in the bad or the good, I just need to follow him. I need to trust him one hundred percent--that's what “trust in the LORD with all your heart” means. Sometimes my own understanding or knowledge can be misleading. That is why I need to realize that I always have God in my corner and that his wisdom is better and higher than my own and everyone else's. When I trust him and let him guide me in the hardest moments of my life, he will lead me to the right decision and “make my paths straight.” So if I just trust in God, in the end, he will forgive my sins in Jesus and get me back on track, because God has wisdom that I can follow. I believe that if I do acknowledge God, he will help me through the obstacles in my life.

Nathan Eric Schlevensky

Isaiah 40:31 “**But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.**”

I have chosen Isaiah 40:31 as my confirmation verse because the passage reminds me that God will always help those who believe in him in their time of need. When I struggle spiritually because of temptations and suffering in this world, he will give me the strength I need to resist the temptations and persevere through trials. Nothing the devil throws at me will keep me from Jesus and the eternal joys I will gain in heaven. Through faith I have confidence that I have been saved by the grace of Jesus and not because I have earned or deserved it. Throughout life's journey, staying close to my Savior Jesus by regularly being in church and studying the Scriptures will strengthen and increase my faith and help me tirelessly soar on the path to heaven.

Avery Aryn Kay Schoeneck

Psalms 28:7 “**The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.**”

I have chosen Psalm 28:7 as my confirmation because it reminds me of God's love and power and of the fact that I want to praise him as my Savior. “The Lord is my strength and my shield.” This reminds me that God is always in my corner, able to protect and keep me, a reminder that we all need sometimes. Like all people, I have struggles, trials, and fears, and it's good to know that I have an omnipotent Lord with me at all times, that I can call on in any trouble for strength and help. “My heart trusts in him and he helps me.” I know that I can trust in him wholeheartedly and have faith in the fact that he will help me with any trouble in the way he knows is best. “My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.” This speaks to me because it shares an incredible message, the gospel. I have comfort and joy in knowing that Jesus died for me and rose again, and I praise God for this sacrifice that has saved me from sin and every evil. This verse reminds me that God is my strength, that I have joy in knowing that, and that I should praise him.

Evelyn Audrey Sorum

Psalms 121:1-2 “**I lift my eyes up to the mountains - where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**”

What does this verse mean to me? It doesn't mean all too much, I suppose, if you're just looking at the surface of the words and not the actual meaning, but there's a lot more to unravel if you really connect and understand what this verse is saying. This verse allows me to understand that if I just look up, I'll know God is there right beside me. If he created something as magnificent as those mountains and this amazing world and knew exactly what he was going to do with them, then surely he knows what he has coming for me. He knows exactly what he has planned for my life, like where I'll end up, who will be with me at the end of it, and how I can make a difference and impact the people around me. I know God will be there to help and guide me through all of it, because he is the source of my help and my successes that come along with it. All I have to do is just look up.

Owen John Sughroue

Isaiah 43:1b-3a “**Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.**”

I have chosen these verses because they spoke to me on a personal and deep level. My family and I have had struggles, like my youngest cousin, Lucy, just went through her cancer surgery (thankfully survived it) and my grandpa needing to get back surgery as well. Even though these trials have happened, there have been good activities that have happened as well. My family and I have gone on a cruise together. We've been able to do road trips and see cousins that I might not have seen in a while. My team and I have ranked as one of the best Lego robotics teams in the state of Wisconsin. Sometimes, I just play Mario Kart with my friends and family. These verses show me that no matter what, God will be with me. I'm thankful that God has stayed with my family and will also be with me for the rest of my life.

Katelyn Amanda Triplett

Philippians 2:13 “For it is God who works in you to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”

I have chosen Philippians 2:13 as my confirmation verse because God works for me as a Christian to fulfill his purpose, also understood as spreading his Word. God did not put me here on this earth to roam around knowing nothing, but to understand that he expects me to preach the good news so more people could know about Jesus as their Savior. God uses Jesus' humiliation and exaltation to help me understand that he is my true Savior. Jesus was conceived, born, suffered, was crucified, died and was buried (humiliation), descended into hell, rose again, ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father to judge the living and the dead (exaltation). Unbelievers also don't understand that God died for everyone, even them. Every single day, he holds out his right hand for anyone to grasp onto when they are in need of God.

Tzion Jacob Unz

Judges 6:12 “The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.”

I chose Judges 6:12 as my confirmation verse because in life you go through plenty of troubles, and the verse says the Lord will always be with you and that you are his mighty warrior. This verse also reminds me of my little brother Gideon who sadly died not long after he was born. In Judges 6 it talks about Gideon being chosen by God to become a judge for the Israelites and, even though he knew the almighty God chose him, he still doubted God. I feel like especially today people doubt God's plan whenever something bad happens and they lose all hope and may start to think God just abandoned them, even though he never did. This is why this verse reminds me that the Lord is with me, he always has been, and he always will be. This is why I want to remember to stay strong in my faith and always trust that God is with me and that he has a plan for me.

Payson Michael Vahovick

Romans 5:1-2 “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into his grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.”

I have chosen this verse to be my confirmation verse because it reminds me of my security in my God's love. These words will serve to comfort me in the fact that God has chosen me as his child to guide me in my long journey in life and to remind me of his love for me. I am a Christian. As my Savior, Jesus, inspires me to love my neighbors as I love myself. He teaches me to share God's Word with others and challenges me in this passage to think differently about the life I'm living in the eyes of my Lord. This verse inspires me to a life goal of sharing God's Word with my peers, sharing the miracles that my God has done, and having other people have peace with God and deepen their faith in the Lord...forever and ever. Amen.

Tyson Joshua Walz

1 John 1:6-7 “If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”

As I get ready to start a new chapter of my life in high school, this hit me as a passage that will be with me for the rest of my life. It makes me think about how I should live my life as a Christian. I must not lie to people about who I am and then act in a different way where others don't see me acting as a Christian. I have a special privilege being a Christian, and sharing God's love, both in word and action, is the best way of conveying that to other people. If I want to be the best person I can be, I can't lie to myself about my character. When I walk in the light of God's Word, I am doing as God commands us to do and can enjoy meaningful connections with others.

I also think about this passage as it relates to the Lord's Supper. If I walk up to the railing and don't actually think about what I am receiving (his body and blood), I am lying to myself about understanding what the body and blood is about. I must remember what the Communion railing and the body and blood means for my life, both now and after death. It means that I can be confident in knowing that I will go to heaven because Jesus, his Son, died on the cross to cleanse me from all of my sins. He gave up his body for me so that I might live both as a strong Christian here on earth and also with him forever in heaven.

Sadie Katherine Watry

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."

I have chosen this to be my confirmation verse because it truly showcases the life God wants us to live. By having faith and a strong relationship with God, our life will be full of love, guidance and understanding. This verse will continually remind me to live for God, looking for him if I'm ever stuck in the dark...to find my way back to him. We are his sheep; he is our shepherd. Without him, we have nothing to guide us through the challenges we face. The unconditional love we are given--the forgiveness of our sins--drives us to understand what is right as well as what is good. Without him we would be confused and lost in the dark. This passage also portrays Jesus as the only option for eternal life; life in heaven through him and only him. We are given the forgiveness of God, through Jesus the Savior, that we are able to live eternally in the light of God.

Wheeler Joseph Wirkus

John 3:16 "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

I have chosen John 3:16 to be my confirmation verse because it is very important to me for a variety of reasons. I love this Bible passage because when my family and I are at my grandparents' house, we play this church game and this is the main passage my grandparents and I study. It makes me happy every time I say this verse because it reminds me of my family and how our Father Almighty sent his one and only Son to die for us and for our sins. This is the number one verse I will always remember and never forget. It also teaches us a very important lesson that God will always be there and help you whenever you need it. That is why I chose John 3:16 as my confirmation verse.

Hudson Charles Zahn

Colossians 3:2 "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."

I have chosen Colossians 3:2 as my confirmation verse because it reminds me not to get caught up with and honor the things that will not matter once I get to heaven. God tells me that heaven is mine and getting too involved with the things on earth could draw me away from him. Setting my mind on things above will lead me to stay strong in my faith up until death or Judgment Day. This verse is a constant reminder to keep my faith in Jesus strong through high school, college, and up until I die. God wants me to follow the path he has set for me by setting my mind on things above and not to create a path of my own by honoring earthly things, so that in all of this, I am able to live with him in heaven.