

# PREPARING FOR THE NEXT MINISTRY YEAR

## OPEN FORUMS AND ANNUAL VOTERS MEETING

At our annual meeting on Wednesday, May 20, at 7:00 pm, the Ministry Board will present our Ministry Financial Plan for the congregation's approval. Behind the numbers is gospel ministry that is giving life and hope to thousands. Join us at one of the open forums to learn more, ask questions and make suggestions for improvement:

- Sat, May 2, after service in Sanctuary
- Sun, May 3, at 8:00 am in Grace Chapel
- Sun, May 3, at 9:00 am in Grace Chapel
- Sun, May 3, at 10:15 am in Grace Chapel
- Thur, May 7, at 7:30 pm in Grace Chapel
- Sun, May 10, at 9:15 am at The Bridge MKE
- Wed, May 13, at 1:00 pm at Stoney Creek

## A THANKFUL LOOK BACK: PASTOR BONACK'S FAREWELL SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, JUNE 28

With Pastor Bonack's accepting the call to Christian Family Solutions, we are setting aside June 28 as a day to give thanks for Pastor Bonack's 30 years among us as a pastor. Pastor Bonack will preach in the Traditional services that weekend. There will be a concert/program that Sunday at 2:00 pm followed by a reception in the Commons to give us all a chance to thank him for his faithful service.

## LOOK FORWARD WITH TRUST IN THE LORD OF THE CHURCH – CALLING OF ANOTHER PASTOR

The Annual Voters meeting on Wednesday, May 20 will also include the calling of a pastor.

- Pastor Italiano joined our team last June in answer to our prayers. As Pastor Panitzke prepares for retirement, Pastor Italiano will gradually assume the duties of Ministerial Team Leader.
- Assuming Pastor Strobel declines his call to St. John's Milwaukee and remains among us, he will transition from Resident Missionary to Member Care Pastor.
- At the May 20 Annual Meeting, we will extend a call for a Resident Missionary.
- There is a pastor whom our District President and our called and elected leadership feel would be a good fit for our team as School Pastor. When he is eligible for a call this fall, we will schedule a special voters' meeting to give the congregation an opportunity to consider him for the School Pastor position.

## BEGIN WITH A THANKFUL LOOK BACK – OUR FINANCIAL PICTURE

The generosity of God's people at St. Paul's is amazing. Rejoice in these amazing financial milestones that can give us courage for the future.

- Summer 2022 – There was a Mortgage of \$1,108,871 on our 2010 Trinity Gym/Café addition
- March 2026 – Our building fund offerings total \$4.39 million. We have made prepayments of principal of \$780,000. The mortgage on our \$10 million school and church additions has been reduced to \$6.07 million.

That is a change of \$5.5 million in less than five years. To God be the glory!

## LOOK FORWARD WITH TRUST IN THE LORD OF THE CHURCH – OUR FINANCIAL PICTURE

As part of our dedication ceremony, we invited God's people to prayerfully consider their two-year plans for giving. Over 160 individuals and families participated, totaling more than 42.5% of our anticipated offerings. That large sample indicates that the Holy Spirit is continuing to work amazing generosity among God's people here at St. Paul's.

As a result of those plans, the Ministry Board is presenting a financially conservative ministry plan for the next year with the hope that we can reduce our mortgage to \$5 million by the time we refinance in September 2027. If the Lord of the Church provides us with the financial resources we anticipate, after refinancing we will be able to focus more offering dollars on ongoing ministry rather than mortgage reduction.

## THERE IS SO MUCH MORE TO THIS STORY!

Be sure to pick up a *Messenger* after worship today that includes more information about our financial ministry plan and calling plan. Then join us at one of the Open Forums.

# ST. PAUL'S NEWS

## CALL NEWS

Pastor Nate Strobel has received a call from St. John's Milwaukee to serve as Lead Pastor and Outreach Pastor.

Our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher and Vice Principal, Kurt Steffen, has declined his call from St. John's Lutheran in Watertown, Wisconsin, to serve as Athletic Director and part-time teacher.

## KNOWN TO BE HOSPITALIZED

Karen Grenie (West Allis) and Darlene Kurth (St. Luke's).

## BAPTISMS

Brittany Faith and Everly Faith Helm, born October 15, 2001, and August 5, 2024, respectively, were baptized in a private ceremony on Saturday, May 2.

Beau Thomas Gaudynski, son of Jacob and Emily (nee Krug) Gaudynski, was born April 13, 2026, and will be baptized at The Bridge on Sunday, May 3.

Ember Lou Maze, daughter of Aaron and Emma (nee Pond) Maze, was born January 12, 2026, and will be baptized at The Bridge on Sunday, May 3.

## ATTENDANCE

The following attended last week's services: 19 on Thursday, 142 on Saturday, 259 on Sunday 9:00 am, 79 on Sunday 10:30 am, 301 at The Bridge, and 55 at The Bridge MKE.

## GRACE CHAPEL BIBLE STUDY – SUNDAY AT 8:00 AND 9:00 AM

Beginning May 10, Joel Smith will be leading a new Grace Chapel Bible study that will explore The Old Testament and its concepts, including names, places, and cultures. "Connecting Sinai to Calvary" will help relieve confusion by explaining important concepts in simple terms.

## FOLLOWING THE PROMISE MEMBERSHIP BIBLE CLASS

Join Pastor Nate Strobel for *Following the Promise* on Tuesdays, 7:00 – 8:15 pm. Track the promises of the Savior from the Garden of Eden to your own heart and life. You may attend in person or online. For information, mark the back of your Connection Card or contact Pastor Nate at 414-426-8236 or [nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org).

## LADIES AFTERNOON FELLOWSHIP

The next Ladies Afternoon Fellowship will take place on Wednesday, May 6, at 12:00 pm, in the Grace Chapel. There will be a potluck lunch. Please bring the dish you signed up for. This will be the last meeting until fall.

## ORGANIZATION OF WELS LUTHERAN SENIORS

The St. Paul's OWLS invite seniors to their Wednesday, May 13 meeting, at 12:00 pm, in the Grace Chapel. Bring a lunch and hear our Campus Minister Zach Klement lead a short Bible Study and give an update on The Bridge MKE and Lighthouse Youth Center. If you have any questions, please call Charlene Pingel at 262-490-2579.

## NEW SERVING OPPORTUNITIES IN KIDS CLUB

With some transitions that will be happening next fall in our children's ministry, we are looking for some new volunteer teachers to join our team. If you have a heart to serve, love kids, and are in 6th grade or above, reach out to our Youth Minister Katie Klement at [kklement@stpmuskego.org](mailto:kklement@stpmuskego.org) to observe a session before summer starts.

## INTERNATIONAL WELS YOUTH RALLY

Teenagers are invited to attend the International WELS Youth Rally in Bowling Green, Ohio, July 14-17. Our group from St. Paul's has space for 4 more people to come along. Registration closes at the end of May, so if you are interested in learning more, please contact Youth Minister Katie Klement at [kklement@stpmuskego.org](mailto:kklement@stpmuskego.org).

# WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of May 4, 2026

<b>MON</b>	9:30 am	Walking Group (Commons)
	6:30 pm	String Ensemble Rehearsal (Church Basement)
	7:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
<b>TUE</b>	8:30 am	Full Armor of God Bible Study (Faith Room)
	9:30 am	Walking Group (Commons)
	4:30 pm	Public School Catechism
	6:30 pm	Adult Handbell Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	7:00 pm	Following the Promise Bible Class (Garage)
	7:30 pm	Woodwind Ensemble Rehearsal (Church Basement)
<b>WED</b>	12:00 pm	Ladies Afternoon Fellowship (Grace Chapel)
<b>THUR</b>	8:15 am	Rooted to Rise Bible Study (Commons)
	9:00 am	Quilting Fellowship (Grace Chapel)
	9:30 am	God's Gals Bible Study (Garage)
	9:30 am	Walking Group (Commons)
	10:00 am	Small Group Communion (Sanctuary)
	6:30 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	7:30 pm	Open Forum (Grace Chapel)
<b>SAT</b>	8:00 am	God's Guys Breakfast Bible Study (Trinity Café)
	9:45 am	Brass Ensemble Rehearsal (School Rm #15)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
<b>SUN</b>	8:00 am	Grace Chapel Bible Study
	9:00 am	Grace Chapel Bible Study
	9:00 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:00 am	Kids Club
	9:15 am	Open Forum (Bridge MKE)
	10:00 am	The Bridge MKE Communion
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	10:30 am	The Bridge with Holy Communion
	10:30 am	The Bridge MKE

## SCHOOL TEACHERS' AIDES NEEDED

St. Paul's is looking for two aides for next school year in 4K (7:45am-3:15pm) and 3K (11:30am-3:00pm). Pay range is \$15-\$20 per hour based on experience. If interested, contact Principal Fitzsimmons at [sfitzsimmons@stpmuskego.org](mailto:sfitzsimmons@stpmuskego.org).

## JAMMIN' IN THE PARK – JUNE 5

Jammin' in the Park is being held on Friday, June 5, at Muskego Veteran's Park, 5:00 – 9:00 pm. This event is organized by the Muskego Area Chamber of Commerce to foster interaction between our business community and area residents with activities, food, and live music. Join St. Paul's in interacting with the residents of Muskego by helping run our booth and play games. If interested, contact Karen Anderson at [hospitality@stpmuskego.org](mailto:hospitality@stpmuskego.org) or mark the back of your Connection Card.



## CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2026

### Sunday 1:30 pm

Chesney Clark  
Emmett Fechtmeyer  
Lily Gaulke  
Clayton Knapp  
Samuel Krill  
Luke Lesperance  
Allison Meseck  
Lacey Nowak  
Kate Ochsner  
Audrey Potter  
Kyle Redmond  
Eva Rentas  
Madison Roessler  
Elizabeth Schmidt  
Graham Schuessler  
Hailey Sughroue  
Kiefer Tonn  
Lydia Unger  
Jevan Volbrecht  
Riley Wicinski  
Sienna Wirkus

### Sunday 3:30 pm

Abigail Abramowski  
Andrew Abramowski  
Evan Abramowski  
Peyton Alexander  
Cooper Altreuter  
Graeme Darling  
Joseph DiGiorgio IV  
Tanner Dooley  
Addison Futh  
Harper Gaengel  
Eleni Gebreyesus  
Kennedy Johnson  
Erin Knetzger  
Kent Magner  
Samuel Martinez  
Amelia Mortenson  
Bailey Mortenson  
Luke Paschke  
Seth Schutten  
Evelyn Scott  
Dylan Weaver

Keiandre Dean (unable to attend)

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.

**Abigail Grace Abramowski**

**Psalm 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 gives me comfort. God being my strength and my shield gives me reassurance because God will always be with me and protect me. I know that in the hard times God will watch over me and help me through it. I trust that God has a great plan for my life. God will also shield me from danger, the devil, and his temptations. This verse reminds me to thank God for everything and to find joy in his word. I love to sing and praise God using the gifts he has given me. Song is also a way I can thank him and share my joy and love of Jesus with others.

**Andrew Steven Abramowski**

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

I have chosen this verse to be my confirmation verse because it reminds me that when I put my trust in God, he will help me accomplish hard things. I know that I can trust God because he has never broken a promise. This especially gives me comfort when I am struggling with something and it's hard to overcome it. Jesus is always there for me whenever I need him to strengthen me. I find God's strength through time spent hearing and reading God's word. This verse helps me know that no matter where I go or what happens, Jesus will strengthen me. Philippians 4:13 will help me throughout my entire life, guiding me through the struggles and always redirecting me back to God. Someday this verse might help me bring someone closer to Jesus.

**Evan Ryan Abramowski**

**Psalm 46:1 “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”**

I have chosen this verse to be my confirmation verse because it reminds me that God is always with me and that he is a strong refuge I can go to in times of trouble. This verse is important to me because I will face many troubles in my life. It gives me comfort to know that I am not alone if I am in trouble and that God is always there to help me. These words guide me to not doubt God's power, but instead trust in him and that he will lead me through problems I face. I believe God always has a plan for now and the rest of my life so I can live eternally in heaven. I trust that he will lead me to make good choices and that I don't fall off the path he has for me.

**Peyton Lee Alexander**

**Psalm 46:1 “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”**

I have chosen this verse to be my confirmation verse because it shows God will always protect us. I appreciate this verse because I love the constant reminder of God's love and grace that he protects us always. I think of this verse whenever I worry about the future and present troubles. This verse says God is our refuge. God does not only keep us physically safe but, he protects our mind and gives us peace that only God can provide. Because of this promise I can confidently move forward in life knowing no matter what struggles I will face, God will always keep me safe and continue to be my strength and refuge every day.

**Cooper Talon Altreuter**

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

John 3:16 is meaningful to me because it expresses the core of what I believe: that God loved the world so deeply that he sent his only Son to save us. This promise is given to everyone, and it assures us that whoever believes in Jesus will not perish but will have eternal life. It reminds me that Jesus willingly sacrificed himself so that we could receive forgiveness and the hope of heaven.

This verse is powerful because it shows that salvation isn't limited or exclusive--it is offered to anyone who believes. It reassures me that faith in Christ means I will never be separated from God. Instead, I can look forward to eternal life with him.

John 3:16 encourages me to trust in God's love and to live my life following him. It reminds me that my faith is built not on what I can do, but on God's grace, his love and his promise of salvation. That is why this verse is so important to me.

### **Chesney Skye Clark**

**Proverbs 3:5 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”**

I chose Proverbs 3:5 to be my confirmation verse because the world is big with a lot of different paths. A lot of things can happen...and we can't always figure out why they happen the way they do. Good or bad, I know I can put my trust in the Lord without always needing to figure everything out on my own--especially when times get tough. When life gets stressful or when I have a lack of faith, I can hear this verse and remember that God always has a plan for me even when I can't see it. I can put my complete trust in God and he will guide me in the right direction. This verse teaches me to have faith instead of fear as I lean on the Lord for comfort.

### **Graeme Carl Darling**

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

I chose Exodus 14:14 because I know that God is with me no matter what. He provides for and protects me. I realized that no matter what I do God will never forsake me. God leads me through darkness because he is my light. All I need to do is stand there because I know God's heavenly angels are surrounding me. God guides me through the battle against Satan when I am spiritually blind. But in the end, Satan will be destroyed and I will stand on God's right hand rejoicing with him in heaven. Every fight I struggle with, he is standing as my front-line soldier and taking me to victory.

### **Joseph Anthony DiGiorgio IV**

**Matthew 5:16 “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven.”**

This verse serves as a reminder that no matter what I say, do, or think, I am doing it all to glorify my Father in heaven. This passage expresses how we, as believers, are the light of the world; it is our job to shine for others and lead them to faith in Christ. These words inspire me to reflect Christ's love towards us and show my gratitude for the sacrifice Jesus made. Giving to church, working hard, or even just being nice all contribute to putting my faith on display. This verse is special to me because I strive to carry Jesus' love to all people in my thoughts, words, and actions.

### **Tanner Otto Dooley**

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

I chose Philippians 4:13 as my Confirmation verse because the message it conveys will guide me through my life and give me strength when I need it. I know that no matter how difficult the task--how much effort it is going to take--God will give me the strength to complete what he is asking of me. This verse also helps me believe that I can trust God to put me down a path that he knows we will be up to. This verse also leads me to a life without worry because God will give me the knowledge, strength and courage I will need to live my life for him.

### **Emmett Keith Fechtmeyer**

**Isaiah 43:2 “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, 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.”**

I have chosen Isaiah 43:2 as my confirmation passage because it reassures me that God will be with me through overwhelming and troubling times in my life. In this passage God also reassures me that he will be there to protect and watch over me and that I am never alone. God comforts my anxieties and my fears knowing that no matter what stage of life or what circumstances he will always be with me protecting and guiding me. As my savior Jesus inspires, teaches, and challenges me. In this passage he reassures me that he is all powerful and I should trust him in every situation. So in this passage Jesus inspires me to put all my trust in him and that he will never fail me.

### **Addison Marie Futh**

**John 14:6-7** “Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

I have chosen these verses to be my confirmation verses because it gives me absolute certainty in my faith journey. Jesus' words make sure I know in my heart and soul the path I will continue to take is the right way. These words give me comfort when I am overwhelmed and have questions, His truth will continue to guide me. Jesus inspires me to live a life of integrity and his word in this passage challenges me to always follow him. By holding onto this truth, I am confident that I am walking the path that will lead me always in life.

### **Harper Jacqueline Gaengel**

**Colossians 2:6-7** “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

I choose Colossians 2:6,7 to be my confirmation verse because it reminds me to keep my faith in Christ strong and continue growing in him. Even though I have been taught my whole life learning that Jesus Christ is my Savior, I know I am not done growing in my faith. No matter how much I think I understand, I still have a whole journey of faith to continue with God ahead of me. This verse reminds me to stay rooted in God and build my life on his holy word. Christ is the foundation of my heart and this verse motivates me to follow my journey of being more like Christ in my words and actions and live a life that reflects that. I am reminded everyday by this verse to keep growing in faith and always be thankful for all the blessings in my life God gives me, especially my faith.

### **Lily Grace Gaulke**

**Proverbs 30:5** “Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.”

I chose this verse to be my confirmation verse because I can really understand God's love through it. This verse reminds me that God will never provide me with wrong information. All of his words are truly flawless. I can trust every word the bible says. This confirms my faith and grows it to be stronger. The second part of this verse tells me that God will always be there for me in desperate times. Since I am a child of God and a believer in him, I can take refuge in him and he will protect me and guide me along the right path throughout my life--all of the way until I get to heaven, where I will spend eternity with him.

### **Eleni Marie Gebreyesus**

**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 have chosen this passage because of the comforting and insightful words of the Lord. His words show his love for us, and inspire us to look to him for help. The Lord quotes, “For I know the plans I have for you”. When the Lord quotes that passage, immediately I feel a sense of relief for I now know that the Lord has a plan for me, and I am not alone on this journey. Also, he is trying to tell me that I can trust his plans and trust what is going on in life; even when it feels like he is letting me down. The primary plan the Lord has for us also is not to cause us pain or to show his anger with us, but to guide us. The Lord says, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” This quote contains a very comforting tone, and conveys to us that God loves us so much as his own children- even as he is all powerful, he is all knowing, and he is everywhere. Since the Lord loves us so much, we can lean on him for help or for guidance for our future that he already has planned out.

### **Kennedy Clara Johnson**

**Proverbs 16:9** “In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.”

I have chosen this verse to be my confirmation verse because it reminds me to take a step back. I like to use this verse as a reminder that I am not in control and I need to trust that God has a plan much better than my own thoughts. Selfishly, at times, I think that I know what is best for my life and I flood my mind with worries. Many times I catch myself “planning” or worrying about something that has not even happened yet. I love this verse so much because it reminds me that I am not in control and that God is really the only one who has a say in my life and the way I should go.

### **Clayton Bruce Knapp**

**Psalm 98:1 "Sing to the lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him."**

I have chosen this verse to be my confirmation verse because it reminds me to do good for God because God has done good for me. He has done marvelous things for us and his right hand and holy arm have worked salvation in us to save us from sin and eternal death in hell. This is comforting because through the salvation he has worked through us we are saved. We are to also do good for God and praise him for saving us, we need to sing him a new song. That is why I picked Psalm 19:1 for my confirmation verse.

### **Erin Lorraine Knetzger**

**Matthew 14:27 "But Jesus immediately said "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."**

I chose this verse because it is a great source of comfort. In this verse it is the story of Jesus walking on water while his disciples thought he was a ghost. Through the years I have always been scared of something from chickens, heights, scary thoughts inside my head, which have always been the scariest. Fear is something natural everybody feels so when I hear this verse and many others saying to not be afraid, it helps me get through it. Through prayers and diving into God's words I have been helped in extraordinary ways that only God can help. God's word has always helped with the fear in my heart and in my head, and sometimes in the moment when fear is at its peak, I remember God's word to take courage and to not be afraid.

### **Samuel Harvey Krill**

**Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."**

I chose this confirmation verse because it serves as a constant reminder that I never have to walk alone. These powerful words will comfort me during my hardest and most uncertain moments, proving that God will always have my back. Whether I'm facing a small daily frustration, like dropping a pencil, or a horrible, life-changing event, such as losing a beloved family member, a friend, or a pet, I know he is right beside me. This promise of his presence gives me the courage to move forward without fear. Joshua 1:9 will continue to guide and comfort me for the rest of my life.

### **Luke Matthew Lesperance**

**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."**

This verse says that you should set an example of a young Christian leader in all that you do. This really stuck with me because I believe that the message is truly important. Sometimes people my age will act sinful and disrespectful for seemingly no reason but to be found funny to peers. This verse wants the opposite of that, everyone else may be doing it, but it is sinful. When you come across a situation like this, it can be hard to make the right decision, and set a strong, Christian example by redirecting the actions happening into something innocent and fun. You should also not be rude to people just because they are different, yet you should be kind to them and share the love of your Lord through your actions. You should not hide your faith, in fact you should share with those who do not know as much as you, and help bring them closer to Christ. I would really love to remember this verse and keep it close to me throughout the rest of my life, as it can really help me set examples for others, and even make the right decision myself. If I keep this verse close to me, it will surely never leave me, and will strengthen my faith in Christ, reminding me to pray and go to church. This should surely stick with me for the rest of my time here on earth and help me keep my commitment to Jesus as a Christian. This is very important to me and I pray that it will never leave me and help guide me in the rest of my journey with him.

**Kent Zachary Magner****Romans 10:17 “Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.”**

I chose Romans 10:17 as my Confirmation verse because it reminds me of the importance of not just hearing the Word of God, but of believing it too! When we believe the Word of God with our heart, soul and mind, the effect is God is really present in our lives. No one can come to faith in Jesus as their Savior unless the word of God touches their heart and mind to understand what the importance of God's Word really is. We should put our best effort into listening and understanding God's Word because this would make our lives a lot easier. I can make lots of mistakes and still go to the best place ever, heaven, all because of Jesus as I learn of him in the Word of God. I believe the Word of God will bring me closer to him as it shows me what I need to follow in my heart, my thoughts, my life.

**Samuel Aaron Martinez****Philippians 4:13 “I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”**

Paul wrote this letter in a time Christians were being badly persecuted for what they believed. That reminded them to stay strong in their faith and that God will protect them. This verse reminds me that whatever I want to do or accomplish throughout my life, I can do through Christ. These words will serve comfort to me when I'm struggling and I need to be reassured that God will provide and I can do these things through him. As I continue my journey through high school and on, I will remember this passage as assurance that I can do everything through him. As my savior, Jesus inspires me to try to accomplish all my goals and dreams throughout my life knowing that he will guide me through them. One of my goals in life is to play baseball throughout high school and into college. I will remember this passage in my baseball journey because I have it written in the palm of my glove.

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

The verse is a good reminder in tough times. It is easy to be grateful when things are going well. However, in my life, I will need the verse in tough times. Through God's presence, I am not facing any circumstance alone. I must remember God is always with me and provides strength. For example, when I go to serve in a volleyball game, I draw a cross with my foot. I remind myself to take a breath and say a prayer for God's support. I know he will provide. As I see family or friends go through hard times, I can encourage them. Through this verse, I know I am not going through anything alone. God is always with me.

**Amelia R. Mortenson****Isaiah 41:10 “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.”**

I have chosen Isaiah 41:10 to be my confirmation passage because it tells me that God is always with me. I love that this passage reassures me that when I have hard times he is there and when I have good times he is there. This passage tells me that when I have troubles on this earth that he will strengthen me and help me. It tells me not to fear and not to be distressed because he is there and he will help me. This verse reassures me that when I need help he will be right next to me guiding me through my troubles. It helps me know that even though he isn't here on this earth that he can strengthen me. God will support me through my whole life because I know that he is here and with me because that is what he has promised to do.

**Bailey D. Mortenson****Joshua 1:9 “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”**

I chose Joshua 1:9 because it reminds me to always push forward in life. No matter how hard life gets I can always push back stronger. Whenever a little kid falls off their bike they always get right back up and try again. That is what I think this verse is telling me to do. When the struggles of life knock you down, you can get right back up knowing that God is there to help, comfort, and guide you through your troubles. This verse shows me that even if I don't think I can get back up I know God can help me back up. So when I chose this verse I knew it would remind me not to give up when I fall down or stumble, but to get back up and keep trying.

**Lacey Jennings Nowak**

**Isaiah 30:21** “Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”

I chose this verse for my confirmation verse because I think it will help me and others in the struggle with temptation. “This is the way; walk in it,” says the passage. Follow in God's footsteps; don't listen to what Satan says. Listen and trust what God wants you to do and the way God wants us to go. These words comfort me, reminding me that I always have God's protection on my journey. I am a Christian. As my Savior, Jesus inspires me and other believers to follow him on our way to heaven and to spread the word that Jesus loves people. He encourages us to stay committed to following him—challenging us to be obedient and loyal. This verse inspires me to a life goal of trusting my Savior Jesus to provide the steps I need to successfully grow in my faith.

**Kate Naomi Ochsner**

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

These words will serve as comfort in times of uncertainty. My life is like a blank canvas. A canvas can do nothing to make itself a wonderful painting. I can do nothing that will make my life good and perfect. It is the artist that does all the work. The artist draws and paints to create a beautiful picture exactly in his image. I can trust God to take my life and make it into his beautiful creation. I don't need to worry about problems I am going to face because I know that he will use everything for my good. The LORD will use my life to show others how he is a gracious and merciful God. I can trust my life into his hands and his perfect plan. I need to do nothing while the LORD will do everything, all for me.

**Luke Paul Paschke**

**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.

I chose Romans 8:28 as my confirmation passage because it reminds me that God has a plan for everything, even when life feels confusing or hard. This verse says that “all things work together for good for those who love God,” and I like that because it makes me feel less worried about mistakes or bad days. As a 13-year-old, I don't always know what I'm doing or what will happen next, especially with school and growing up. But this verse helps me trust that God is still in control.

Sometimes things don't go the way I want, like not doing good on a test and it's easy to feel upset or stressed. But Romans 8:28 reminds me that those moments can still be part of something good in the end. Like if you do badly on a test, it shows you that you need to study more next time. Of course, the ultimate good God will give me is heaven. This gives me hope and helps me stay positive. That's why I picked this verse—it feels personal and comforting to me.

**Audrey Jane Potter**

**Psalms 34:18** “The LORD is close to the broken hearted; he saves those whose spirits are crushed.”

I chose this verse for my confirmation because it reminds me that even in times that I feel hopeless or sad, God is always there for me. Everyone experiences times in life when they feel broken. This verse promises us that God will stay close to us and that he will save us. These words are his promise to me that will comfort me in difficult times. This passage also inspires me to care for others. I am a Christian. My Savior Jesus teaches me that he will save me and that he is close to me, but also that I can share him with others when they are brokenhearted. God loves us and he will save us when our spirits are crushed.

**Kyle Edward Redmond**

**Ephesians 3:16 “I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being.”**

I chose this verse for my Confirmation because it speaks about what confirmation is all about. God’s riches are not money or possessions, but grace, love, mercy, power, and much more. He has generously given to me--more than enough to help me through all of my struggles. The strength that is talked about is not physical strength but strength to resist temptation, to stand up for my faith when someone tests it, and to grow spiritually through hard times. The Holy Spirit guides me, convicts me of my sin, gives courage and comforts me when I need it.

Confirmation reminds me that belief doesn’t come from action but involves heart transformation. Real faith starts on the inside, then shows itself in your life--by your actions and who you hang out with. Confirmation isn't just about the bible, but about the lessons you learn from it--the stories you accept in faith and then apply to your life that make your life better and more pure in thanks to God.

**Eva Marie Rentas**

**Psalm 52:8 “But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God’s unfailing love for ever and ever.”**

I first heard Psalm 52:8 in a sermon a few years ago, and it left a lasting impression on me. So, when I was looking for my confirmation verse with my grandma this summer, I remembered it.

In the Bible, olive trees were among the most valuable trees, symbolizing peace, wisdom, and endurance. Olive trees are incredibly resilient, often living for hundreds of years. As I move on to the next chapter in my life, I hope to carry that same resilience with me in both my personal life and spiritual life. This verse serves as a reminder to me that no matter what trials I face, I can always trust in God’s unfailing and resilient love. I am, and always will be, a child of God.

**Madison Lee Roessler**

**2 Corinthians 5:7 “We live by faith and not by sight.”**

2 Corinthians 5:7 is my Confirmation passage because it reminds me that I love a God I cannot see. It is the Holy Spirit who works faith in my heart so that I receive the good news of forgiveness in Jesus. Even though we have never seen him, we still have to believe in him—that he suffered, died, and was buried to forgive us and free us from sin and death. This passage reminds me to be faithful and confident in my Lord, who is omnipresent--with me everywhere--even though I cannot see him. This passage reminds me that I do not have to see something in order to believe it. This is why I picked 2 Corinthians 5:7 as my Confirmation bible verse.

**Elizabeth Gloria Schmidt**

**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 have chosen this verse to be my confirmation verse because it serves as a constant reminder that God is always guiding my life. God has my whole life mapped out. He knows what is best for me, and encourages me not to worry about my future. I have learned that the challenges I face are not meant to harm me or weaken my faith. Instead, God allows these situations in my life so that I can learn to lean on him more and fully trust his divine plan. He doesn’t want me to feel discouraged; he wants me to be filled with hope for everything he has in store for me. As I go into high school and college, this verse reminds me to always remember his promise. Trusting that he will lead me through every step of the amazing journey he has planned for me. I know his ultimate plan for me is eternal life in heaven.

### **Graham Benson Schuessler**

**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 have chosen this verse to be my confirmation verse because life can be tough, and sometimes I wonder if God is there. My verse tells me that God knows what he's going to do with me, and that he plans good things for me in this life that can be so full of sorrows. He also says he plans to give me a future, and hope, not to hurt or harm me. This verse really spoke to me because sometimes, it feels like God has left me in some tight spots. This verse just reinforces how wrong I was about God. He'll never leave me alone when I'm in trouble, and he knows just what he's going to do to help me out of bad situations. God knows the ultimate plan he has for me: to bring me to Heaven through Jesus.

### **Seth James Schutten**

**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 chose this verse as my confirmation verse because it reminds me that I cannot rely on my own strength alone. I need to depend fully on the Lord to guide me. It calls me to trust him completely--not just in some areas of my life, but in all of them. I seek God's wisdom in everything I do: in my relationships, my school work, my job, and the decisions I face each day. This verse assures me that God will lead me toward what is right and will direct my path throughout my life. These words will comfort me, guide me, and remind me always that I am a child of God.

### **Evelyn Joy Scott**

**Isaiah 43:2-3a** “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 this verse from the book of Isaiah because it is a powerful reminder for confirmation and for life because it shows that God promises to be with us through every challenge. The “waters,” “rivers,” and “fire” represent the difficult moments everyone faces, such as stress, fear, or uncertainty. Instead of promising an easy life, God promises his presence and protection during those hard times. For someone being confirmed in their faith, this verse reminds me that I am never alone and that God will guide me no matter what happens. It encourages trust and confidence when life becomes overwhelming. Knowing that the Lord is our Savior gives strength and hope, helping believers stay faithful and confident as they grow and face the future.

### **Hailey Raeann Sughroue**

**Jeremiah 29:11** “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 because only God knows the plans for me. I have dealt with many things in my life where I questioned God. The reason I have questioned God is because two of my great grandmas passed away in one week. These words will serve comfort to me because even though there will be troubles in my life there will always be something good at the end of the road. The good thing at the end of the road is eternal life in heaven. Jesus died on the cross to save our sins so we could go to heaven. No matter how much I sin I will always be reminded that I still get to go to heaven. God will always be with me and give me comfort even in the hardest times.

### **Kiefer Channing Tonn**

**Matthew 6:34** “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

These words will serve to comfort me by telling me to not worry about what happens in the future. It says that each day has enough trouble of its own. There are going to be a lot of temptations that come my way through my life. Also if I worry about what happens the next day I wouldn't be able to sail smoothly through life. If I worry about each one of my decisions and problems that isn't putting my trust in God. I know I can put my trust in God because he has control of everything in this universe. These words will guide me through the rest of my life.

**Lydia Laine Unger**

**Psalm 46:1 “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”**

I chose this bible passage for my confirmation because it reminds me that God is my strength through everything--my shoulder to lean on when I find myself in trouble. This passage also shows that God is a constant source of protection in life. He protects me from evil. He also guides me through situations in life that can be chaotic, stressful and overwhelming. God is my safe place--the one I can turn to when I face challenges and need extra strength. This bible verse inspires me to trust that God is always there for me to give me that strength and to help me when I am in need. I am never truly alone.

**Jevan Adam Volbrecht**

**Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”**

I am Christian. As my Savior, God teaches me that The Holy Triune God should be the only thing that guides me through my human life. These words will guide me through my entire life, and I will hopefully be able to share it with my children. I have chosen this verse to be my confirmation verse because it is embedded in my brain and heart, as I will always remember Psalm 119:105. Psalm 119:105 is one of my all-time favorite bible verses, and will always remind me that God will always be there to help me make choices.

**Dylan Gerald Weaver**

**Matthew 4:19 “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”**

I chose this passage because I have a passion for fishing, which has taught me many valuable lessons in life. But as much as fishing means to me, I am reminded by this passage what is most important in life. Jesus. Jesus calls on us to follow him above all else since he is our Savior from sin and the Lord of our life. His invitation will be a constant reminder to me as I go forward in life—fishing always...and sharing him with the people in my life.

**Riley Daniel Wicinski**

**Luke 1:37 “For no word from God will ever fail.”**

I have chosen Luke 1:37 as my confirmation verse because it helps to comfort me in hard times of doubting. When I was finishing seventh grade and starting eighth grade, I frowned upon myself. I didn't like the way I looked and I really cared about what other people thought. I was at a low point in my life, so I started acting differently to try to make people like me. I doubted that God loved me. I would think that God made me this way because he didn't love me. But then I stopped caring so much about what other people thought. I now use this verse to remind me in every trouble that God loves me. The bible says it and this verse tells me that God's word will never fail me.

**Sienna Marie Wirkus**

**Matthew 19:26 “With God all things are possible.”**

This verse is important to me because it lets me know that God is with me at all times and all things are possible through him. This passage made me feel safe knowing I have someone who cares about me. "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible," was written to correct the disciples' misunderstanding that salvation and spiritual wholeness could be earned through human effort or wealth. Following the question of the wealthy young ruler, Jesus aimed to demonstrate that while humans are spiritually helpless to save themselves, God's grace makes salvation and transformation achievable. For me, this passage means surrendering my reliance on my own strength and instead placing my hope in God's limitless power. It serves as a reminder to shift my focus from life's invincible obstacles to God's ability to turn desperate, impossible situations into opportunities for miracles.