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all of us. God hates false testimony so much, to not only call it an abomination, but to command us not to use it in the eighth commandment.

In Luke 11:28 it says "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it." Even without this verse, we should always listen to and obey God's word. However, with this verse we should bless each other with kindness, because God blesses us. Even if our neighbor has not been keeping the eighth commandment towards us, it is important that we do not do the same thing, but still show them nothing but the utmost kindness. Just because they break the commandment doesn't mean we should. In fact it will only make it worse.

We should not break the commandment as revenge on someone. We should still be nice to them and trust God to take care of the issue better than we could.

In the eighth commandment, God requires us to defend our neighbor, speak well of our neighbor, and to explain our neighbor's actions in the best possible way. There is no reason to break the eighth commandment.

I wait for the LORD, my SOUL waits, and in HIS WORD I put my HOPE.

Psalm 130:5

***"Have I not COMMANDED you?
Be STRONG and COURAGEOUS.
Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged,
for the LORD your GOD will be with you
WHEREVER YOU GO."***

Joshua 1:9

Your WORD is a LAMP to my feet and a LIGHT for my path.

Psalm 119:105

Whatever you do, WORK at it with all your HEART,

as working for the LORD, not for men,

since you know that you will receive an INHERITANCE

from the LORD as a reward.

It is the LORD CHRIST you are SERVING.

Colossians 4:23-24

***But GROW in the GRACE and KNOWLEDGE of our LORD and SAVIOR JESUS
CHRIST. To him be GLORY both now and forever! Amen.***

2 Peter 3:18



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BUILD THE HOME, CHANGE THE WORLD.



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2015



The GOD of all grace,
 who has called us to HIS
ETERNAL GLORY
 by CHRIST JESUS,
 make you perfect, equip, strengthen, guide,
 and keep you
 in ETERNAL LIFE.



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 2015 CONFIRMATION CLASS (left to right, from top): Allison Butler, Isaac Fleck, Scott Frazier, Braden Havener, Andrew Jones, Grant Karsten, Gabrielle Koslofski, Megan Leighton, Brandon Likins, Jacob Melton, Tyler Peterson, Emma Phillips, Aaron Templeton, Macey Wilkins, Jay Willis, and Lydia Wright.

JAY CRAIG WILLIS

What has the Holy Spirit done for me, and how does He work in my life now?

The Holy Spirit helps us follow God's commandments. He reminds us what we've learned about God so that we can make good decisions. He will help us take the right path and make Christian choices which are not always easy. Mark 14:38 says, "Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak". The Spirit works through my conscience to make me aware of my sins. And there is sin. I don't always listen to my parents. I'm not always kind to those around me. Some days my phone is more important to me than anything else. The Holy Spirit is in me and reminds me that sin is not what God wants from me. Sometimes I pick the self-serving, easy, and fun choice, but other times the Spirit gives me strength to make better decisions.



Even though I am a sinner, I have good qualities too thanks to the Holy Spirit. He fills me with joy when I do something nice for a friend, help my parents, volunteer in the community, or sing a praise song. During 40 Days of Community I went with my parents to New Life's Thrift Store. I helped move books and boxes. It wasn't very hard and only took a few hours. I knew I was doing an important service that day and it made me feel great. Other days the Holy Spirit works more quietly in me. I played Minecraft on the iPad with my little cousins. They destroyed everything, but it wasn't a big deal. Later, my aunt told me she appreciated how patient I was with the little kids. The thing is I didn't even know I was being helpful. The Spirit has filled me and some kind choices have become automatic! The Holy Spirit is in me while I'm working in the Feed My Starving Children assembly line or sharing with my brother. It's our job to read the Bible and listen in church then the Spirit will help us see the truth and teach us how to live. Galatians 5:22-23 says, "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." These are all qualities I like in myself and those around me. The Holy Spirit can also comfort us when we're hurting and He can bring us peace. When I have a big test, I study, pray, and put it in God's hands. As I'm writing this paper, I'll prepare and do my best, say a prayer, and know God will give me peace. The Third Article of the Apostle's Creed, What does this mean, says, "I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith". John 14:26 says, "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you".

The Holy Spirit reminds me of Acts 16:31 "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved". I will only have eternal life through Jesus Christ's death on the cross. The Holy Spirit helps me hold that in my heart and know it's true. That's how He helps me each and every day.

LYDIA RAE WRIGHT

What does the 8th commandment say and how should I guard my tongue?

The eighth commandment says, "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor." This means that we should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way. In other words, hold our tongues.

Do not gossip or spread lies about your neighbor. Never betray him or her with untrue words, a sharp tongue, or a smart mouth. Don't slander him for your own personal benefit. You should not hurt his reputation in even the slightest way.

Instead, when others seek to persecute your neighbor, help defend his honor. Always speak of him or her to others in the way you would like for them to speak of you, that is, in a respectful manner. If your neighbor needs your help, or doesn't understand something, explain it to them in a helpful and compassionate way.

When I'm at school, and my peers ask for help I will try to explain their question in a helpful way. Although many times I will turn back to those same peers with a sarcastic comment I need to learn to follow God's commandment and reel it in. I try to the best of my ability not to participate in any gossip (be it speaking or just simply listening) but I often fall flat in that aspect as well.

In Proverbs 6:16-19 it says, "These six things the Lord hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him; a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren." For that reason not only should I hold my tongue but



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must put God first and how if we worship one other than Him, we will grow to hate the Lord. God sent his only son to die for us on a cross. He put us first, but we still struggle to do the same for Him.

Another verse to go by is Matthew 6:33 which reads, "But seek His kingdom and righteousness first, and all these things will be added unto you." This verse really helps me understand that we all have a need for God and that we need to allow him to work in our lives.

I am fully aware of the fact that I am a sinner and I desperately need Jesus in my life. I believe that with the help, love, and guidance of my friends, family, and the congregation of the church, I can always try to put God first in my life.



AARON LLOYD TEMPLETON

What does it mean to "covet" and when does the desire for things become wrong?

The 9th commandment says you shall not covet your neighbor's house. This means we should fear and love God that we may not seek to get our neighbor's inheritance and house. The 10th says you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, his man-servant, his maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. This means we should fear and love God that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

Here is an example of coveting. Your friend buys a new shirt that you really like. You tell your friend you really like his shirt and you wish you had something like it. That is not coveting. Coveting in this situation would be if you did anything to get the shirt such as lie or cheat to get the shirt from your friend. Coveting also goes along with loving your neighbor as yourself. God wants you to do good to your neighbor even though sometimes it is hard. Sometimes we may sin and covet our neighbor's possessions. This commandment is a big one because I think this is the one people break the most. A lot of times we break this commandment by taking what doesn't belong to us. More than 508 million dollars' worth of items were taken in robberies in the year 2009. This number shows we covet almost every day. In Hebrews 13:5 it says "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, never will I leave you, never will I forsake you." We forget about the big picture which is God. Our society today revolves around having the coolest things like having the new pair of Nikes. God does not care with what you have. God judges you by your faith in him. In Matthew 6:33 it says "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well." This verse means you need to trust in Jesus for all your daily needs and you will be blessed with many different things. If you do not trust in God and covet your neighbor or any of his possessions, you will not be blessed by God. That is why we need to trust in the Lord so that we receive our rewards in heaven.



MACEY RENEE WILKINS

What does eternal life mean to me and how do I plan to get there?

Eternal life means that God has given me a free ticket to Heaven. Eternal life begins in our hearts when we are baptized. When I was baptized, Christ redeemed me so that I am now His child, I'm free from sin and free to serve God, and I can honor God with my life here on earth. In baptism we receive forgiveness of sins, "Repent and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38) Baptism gives us eternal life. "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." (Mark 16:16) Believing means faith, trust, and willing to give your whole life to Jesus, live by his teachings; make Him Lord of your life.

I plan on receiving eternal life by only trusting in God, confessing my sins before God, believing in the Lord Jesus Christ and obeying the word of God. "God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son, whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have Life" (1 John 5: 11-12)

When I die because of my faith and trust in Jesus as my Savior, God will bring me to heaven with all the believers and I will forever enjoy being with God. "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Revelations 2:10)

***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.

Isaiah 41:10



CONFIRMATION

WALKING BY FAITH...

We honor and encourage our young confirmands as they make a very important commitment to their faith and to St. Paul's Lutheran Church - to continue to grow in their faith and live according to God's will for their lives.

Through much prayer and support from their own families, and the St. Paul's family, we can all continue to encourage and teach these confirmands about their faith and the impact they can have on others around them. Please continue to keep them in your prayers, and ask our Lord to spur them all on in love and good deeds.

***"For I know the PLANS I have for you," declares the LORD,
"plans to PROSPER you and not to harm you,
plans to give you HOPE and a FUTURE."***

Jeremiah 29:11

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

God has commanded us to instruct children and adults in His truth. Confirmation instruction imparts the basic teachings of the Lutheran faith, and it provides the knowledge necessary for growth toward Christian maturity. Confirmation classes lay a foundation upon which the confirmand will build on over his or her lifetime. Before being confirmed, we strive to ensure that the confirmands have a sufficient understanding of scripture and are also maturing in their faith walk. The Rite of Confirmation is intended to give those who have received basic instruction in the truths of God's Word and Lutheran Doctrine the opportunity to publicly confess their faith before the church. The Rite of Confirmation is intended to remind everyone what God has done in Baptism, and that He has given us spiritual life and made us His children. The Rite stresses the importance of Christian instruction and continuing in God's Word. It points to the glorious gift of salvation which we receive through believing in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. It reminds us that He gives us His very body and blood to assure us of His forgiveness and to strengthen our faith. The congregation should continually pray that the Holy Spirit will preserve the confirmands in their faith walk. Confirmation is not to be viewed as the end of spiritual growth or a "graduation" from the church, but rather as a milestone or stepping stone in a lifetime of spiritual formation and growth. Today, the St. Paul's Lutheran Church family celebrates with each confirmand, and also prays for blessings and strength in his or her continued faith walk.

TRAIN a child in the WAY he should go, and when he is old he WILL NOT TURN from it.

Proverbs 22:6



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 26, 2015 - 10:30 AM

PASTOR DOUG BENDER PASTOR WRAY OFFERMANN

Prayer Before Worship

Almighty God and Father, we know that we cannot believe and follow You by our own reason or strength. But Your Holy Spirit has called us back to You by the power of the gospel. We pray now for a full measure of that Spirit, that we would be enlightened to the power and magnitude You hold over our lives and that, to us, You are everything. Equip us to trust fully in Your presence over us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Praise and Procession

There Is A Kingdom

Invocation

I Will Not Be Shaken

Scripture Reading

John 20:24-29

Worship Feature

"Everything"

Message

"Expect Doubts to Rise"
Hebrews 11:1-6, 39-40

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (Silence for personal reflection)

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

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gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast." If we believe in Him it's like receiving something in life you have always wanted, but have never actually been able to call your own. To have faith in Jesus is not just to be a fan of Him, but a follower. The things I have learned in the classes I have had with pastor Bender have had a great effect on my life.

I think gospel is more important because it shows us what Jesus has sacrificed for us. It shows us that without Jesus we would have no purpose in life. It also show us his grace especially in the world renowned verse John 3:16 "For 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."

TYLER NATHAN PETERSON

How do I believe I came to be and what is God's will for my Life?

Psalm 139:13-16 answers this question of how I came to be. It reads:" For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them." God knew who I was to be, how I was to be and where I would come from. I have been written in His book of life from the beginning.

Another way of knowing how I came to be is from the first article of the Apostles Creed. It states, "He made me...He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them." And in Genesis 1:27 it tells us, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." If God has given me all this and created me in His image, than I came to be because of God's will and plan.

God's will for my life is to be a faithful servant to Him. In Matthew 22:37, Jesus says, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." He strengthens and keeps us firm in His word and faith and helps us lead God-pleasing lives. However, I do not know how that looks or where it will lead me in life. However, Jeremiah 29:11 states, "I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." God only has my best interest at heart. 1 Peter 1:5 tells me, "Through faith I am shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time." If I learn to depend on Him and trust Him, than my life will be what He would like it to be, as long as I stay in His will.



EMMA GRACE PHILLIPS

What does the 1st Commandment say and how can I keep God first in my life?

The First Commandment states that "You shall have no other gods." In Luther's Small Catechism, it adds the words, "What does this mean?" to the end of that. Why do we need an explanation? The commandment itself sounds pretty self-explanatory, but still the explanation reads, "That we should fear, love, and trust in God's above all things." It isn't like we worship Allah or Zeus, so none of us have ever broken the commandment, right? Wrong, we have all broken it horribly.

The truth is everyone breaks that commandment on a daily basis, even more than once! Anything that we put before God is considered the worshiping of our own false god. This includes our televisions, cell phones, friends, and even our families. Have you ever spent the night at a friend's house and then did not go to church the next morning because you were too tired? Or have you ever just not wanted to go? Everyone has done it, but that does not make it right. We put so many things in front of God, and sometimes we don't even realize we are doing something wrong.

I put things in front of God all the time, even without noticing. I mean, come on! I am a teenage girl who is attached to basketball and her phone more than anything, when in reality; I should have a stronger relationship with God than a screen. I am a sinner and I need God's love and guidance. I need to repent and pray daily, and here are a few bible verses that have helped me understand how much I need to fear and respect God and how he needs to come first in my life.

Here is a passage from Matthew 6:24, "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate one and love the other or you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." This verse explains perfectly how we





BRANDON LEVI LIKINS

What is the Church, and what does it mean to be a member of the Church?

In the Third Article of the Apostles Creed we confess that we believe in the holy Christian church. The church is called Christian because it belongs to Christ. All believers in Christ, but only believers, are members of this church. We sometimes refer to this as the invisible church because faith which makes us members of the holy Christian church is invisible to human eyes. This church can be found where the Gospel is purely taught and the sacraments are correctly administered. There is only one church, one spiritual body of believers, whose one and only head is Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:11 says "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ."

We also use the word church to describe a denomination or a local congregation such as St. Paul's Lutheran Church. We also refer to this as the visible church. We join this church when we are baptized and confirmed (or by profession of faith). As a member of the visible church we gather together with others to praise Christ, give offerings, learn the Bible, receive the sacraments, volunteer our talents and our time, and learn to live a good Christian lifestyle. It is good to gather and give each other encouragement and pray together. It is my duty as a Christian to set a good example, invite others to go to church and to love each other. We can also help each other out, pray for each other and to tell others the good news of Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us in Romans 12:4-5 "Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other." And in Colossians 1:18 it says "He (Christ) is the head of the body, the church." We should remain faithful to that visible church or denomination (such as St. Paul's Lutheran Church), which professes and teaches all of the Bible's doctrine correctly and administers the sacraments according to Christ's institution.



JACOB AUSTIN MELTON

What is the difference between the Law and Gospel and which is most important to me and why?

The difference between Law and Gospel are the things they show us. The Law shows us our sins and the Gospel shows us our Savior. I have always learned these two phrases as the acronym SOS.

The Law also tells us what we need to do. If we follow the Law, we will follow God's Law, the Ten Commandments given to Moses. When we follow the commandments, we follow what God says. No one can perfectly keep all the commandments except for Jesus. Jesus is true God and true Man- He had to be true Man to be under the Law and fulfill it for us and to be able to suffer and die in our place. He had to be God to overcome sin, death and the devil for us. There is yet to be a human who has kept these commandments perfectly. This shows that no one is perfect. Until we get to heaven, no one will be perfect, but that leaves just one more thing to look forward to when we get to heaven. The law is what we need to base our lives off of. It is one of the things that will guide us to heaven. If we do this we will be on the right track to meeting our creator. We cannot get to heaven by the Law- only by believing in the redeeming work of Jesus. We can see the law in the bible verse Romans 3:20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. This verse shows us our sin by showing us no one is perfect. Also the verse tells us we are born with a sinful nature during our life on earth. The Law also serves as a guide to how us, as Christians, on how we should live. The Law acts as a rule book we are to follow as we are to do in sports or games. A good verse for this is Psalm 119: 105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

The Gospel is what shows us our Savior. It shows us that Jesus is the way to salvation. That with Him we are saved. If we have belief in Jesus we will go to heaven and do wonderful things. In the verse Matthew 17: 20, He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." shows us that anything is possible with faith in Jesus. This verse says that no matter how small our faith is it will grow into something bigger and better. The Gospel shows us that Jesus has given us new life. He has given us a free ride to eternal life in heaven if we believe in him. A verse that really shows us our gospel is Ephesians 2:8-9 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the

Offering

Our offerings, gifts, and tithes are returned to Jesus in response to His sacrificial love for us. During the offering time, please complete one of the worship cards found in the pew in front of you and pass it to the center aisle.

Vows of Confirmation

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

Youth: I do.

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

Youth: I do.

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

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

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord?

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

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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

Pastor: Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God, and confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from them, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

Youth: I do.

Pastor: Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the Word of God, to be faithful in the use of God's Word and Sacraments, which are His means of grace, and in faith, word, and action to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

Youth: **I do so intend by the grace of God.**

Pastor: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession of faith and God's Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from Jesus?

Youth: **I do so intend with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you desire to be a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church and of this congregation?

Youth: I do.

Prayers of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

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

Words of Institution

Rite of Confirmation and Family Communion

Celebrating the Lord's Supper

If you have not communed with us before, please read "Our Belief: Receiving the Lord's Supper" located on this page. We encourage families to commune together. Prayer Ministers are available at the front and back of the sanctuary to pray with you during this time.

Congregational Communion

Break Through

My Hope

Healing Is In Your Hands

Blessing

Closing Song

My Lighthouse

Now **FAITH** is
CONFIDENCE in what we **HOPE** for
and **ASSURANCE** about what we do not **SEE**.

Hebrews 11:1

Our Belief: Receiving the Lord's Supper

The Apostle Paul wrote, "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup." *1 Corinthians 11:28* In order to examine yourself before attending the Lord's Supper, ask yourself the following questions:

1. Do I believe I am a sinner, and I am sorry for my sins?
2. Do I believe Jesus, by His death, offers me forgiveness for all my sins?
3. Do I believe I receive the body and blood of Jesus in and with the bread and wine?
(They are not merely symbolically present.)
4. Do I truly desire to turn from my sinful ways?

If you are able to answer "yes" to these questions, we invite you to join us for the Lord's Supper. Children and adults who cannot answer affirmatively are invited and encouraged to come forward for a blessing, but should refrain from receiving the bread and wine.*

**For those who are unable, or prefer not to consume wine, cups with white grape juice are located in the center of the communion trays.*

Continued from previous page

me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered!" It is also wrong when we are a part of euthanasia. That is the killing of handicapped or aged people. Life is only to be ended by God. Acts 17:25 says: "He himself gives all men life and breath and everything else." Suicide is also an example of murder. God put us on this planet for a reason. We were made in God's image, so it's not our right to end our life.

There is more to murder than physically hurting someone. When we think bad thoughts or we want someone to get hurt, that is considered murder. Matthew 5:21-22 states "You have heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.' But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell." For example, if there is a girl in your class that always gets straight A's, and you hope she fails her next test. That is an example of murder; thinking harm against someone. Maybe there's a boy on your basketball team that gets to play and you don't, and you hope he gets injured so you can take his place. That is considered murder because you are wishing harm against him. There's a better way than hoping someone fails or gets hurt. Wish them good luck on the test and study more. Or hope they do well in your next game, and practice more.

In God's eyes, all sins are equal. But on earth, we like to say that killing is much worse than teasing or disobeying. Maybe a person who has killed someone doesn't think that taking a life is that bad. But it doesn't matter. Once we all go to heaven and the world isn't there anymore, all those sins are thrown away. But that is only true for those who believe in God and the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross for those sins. And as believers we need to confess those sins before God and receive His forgiveness. And if we sinned against our neighbor, we need to confess to them as well. But it doesn't mean we can go around hurting people then think "It doesn't matter, God will forgive me and I will go to heaven." We shouldn't take what happened on Calvary's Hill for granted. Jesus died on the cross to take away our wrong doings. When we sin against the 5th commandment, God is disappointed in us, because he wants us to love and respect each other. Ephesians 4:32 says: "Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you." But we don't always do that. We tend to put ourselves in front of everyone else, while we should treat everyone the same. All humans are equal in God's eyes, and when we go to heaven, we will all be brothers and sisters reunited in the family of God.

MEGAN MARIE LEIGHTON

Why did Jesus have to die and what does His death mean to me?

Romans 3:23 states "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Because God is holy, He cannot let sin go unpunished. The wages of sin is death. For us to be holy again in God's eyes, a perfect and holy sacrifice had to be made in our place. Not a lamb or a calf like in the stories of the Old Testament. The name Jesus means "the Lord saves." Jesus, 'The Lamb of God', is the one who had to come and die to become the ultimate, final and perfect sacrifice for our sins. God gave his only son, Jesus, to die in our place. Jesus tells us the reason for His birth, death and resurrection is to provide the way to heaven for sinful mankind in John 14:6, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." By shedding His blood on the cross, Jesus took the punishment we deserve and offered us His righteousness. "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45).

I believe Jesus paid the ultimate price and was put to death for our sins. Jesus freely gave Himself out of His love for us and has redeemed us from all sin, death and the power of the devil. It seems that most of the Gospels speak of just a few days in His life, the day's right before His death, the day of His death, and His resurrection. The death and resurrection seem to be the most crucial moments in all of human history. For in His death and resurrection, Jesus Christ, being true God and true man, gave Himself so that we may live. He has paid our debt, taken away our sins and given us everlasting life with Him. In believing and having faith in the reason he came here, as it is written in His Word, we will be rewarded for all eternity. God wants us to have eternal life in heaven with Him just as John 3:16 states, "for 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." I am thankful Jesus gave His own life to save mine and all other believers. I believe that Jesus is my Lord and my Redeemer, whom I love and will serve my whole life.



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The Law acts as a mirror by showing us the sin we have committed. Much like a real mirror, it reflects back and shows us our self and how much sin we have. It can be hard to face all our sin at once, but just remember that God will forgive you all of your sin when you repent. Romans 3:20 says "Through the law we become conscious of sin."

To repent you must confess your sins to God. Then ask for forgiveness of your sins from God. Then He will guide you to not do the same thing again. He does this for us because He loves each and every one of us. He will show you to not repeat those sins that you have committed. God will guide us to do the right thing with our lives. Psalm 119:9 says "How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word."

I think the mirror is the most important use of the Law to me because a lot of people don't like to see their own problems. They don't want to change either. They just want to see their accomplishments. It is absolutely fine to have confidence in yourself, but too much can be a bad thing and we can become prideful. It is important that we see our sin, because that shows us how much we need a Savior. 1 John 1:8-9 says "If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness."

GRANT THOMAS KARSTEN

Why is confirming my faith important and what does it mean to me?

God created the earth and all of us. He sent His son Jesus to the earth many years ago. He died a terrible death on a cross to save all of us from our sins and was resurrected from the grave three days later. The Holy Spirit placed faith in all of us at our baptism and it is our choice to what we do with our faith. Jesus will return one day to save all the living and the dead who believe that He died for them and that He is the one, true God.

Confirmation is important because it gives me an opportunity to publicly make a confession that I am a follower of Jesus. When I was young, my parents brought me to the church for baptism. They and my sponsors publicly acknowledged that I am a sinner and that I need the forgiveness of sins that baptism brings. The seed of faith from the Holy Spirit was planted in my heart at baptism. My parents and sponsors also promised to raise me to know Jesus. They have done that by teaching and modeling for me what it means to know and follow Christ. I've been raised learning to pray, have been taken to church and Sunday school, as well as allowed to attend a Christian school. Now, I have learned for myself in communion and confirmation classes at church and the religion classes we take at school, the doctrine of the church and God's Word which proclaims the Triune God and salvation in Christ. In Joshua 24:15, the Bible says "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord". This verse relates to my confirmation question because my parents had me baptized as a baby and with Confirmation, it is my turn to confess my faith and to decide for myself, with the Holy Spirit's guidance, whom I will follow.

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes." Romans 1:16. This has been one of my favorite verses since second grade because it means that I should not be embarrassed about being a Christian, but excited to tell everyone I know. That is what I am doing today and will continue to do throughout my life.

GABRIELLE MARIE KOSLOFSKI

What does the 5th commandment say and what issues in the world today do I need to stand against in this regard?

In Exodus 20:13, God says you shall not murder. This means we should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need. Murder can mean a few different things. Taking the life of another human is the common thought we have about this commandment, but also thinking harmful thoughts about someone is also considered murdering. Taking the life of another human being is going against God's 5th command. Abortion is an example of this. Maybe a girl doesn't want her baby, but that doesn't mean she has the right to end its life. She could raise him or her on her own or put the baby up for adoption. We should stand up for these unborn babies- they have a right to be born, grow, see the world and get to know God like I have. Psalm 139:13-17 states "You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2015 CONFIRMATION CLASS!

Allison Gene Butler
Isaac Samuel Fleck
Scott Charles Frazier
Braden Michael Havener
Andrew Trent Jones
Grant Thomas Karsten
Gabrielle Marie Koslofski
Megan Marie Leighton

Brandon Levi Likins
Jacob Austin Melton
Tyler Nathan Peterson
Emma Grace Phillips
Aaron Lloyd Templeton
Macey Renee Wilkins
Jay Craig Willis
Lydia Rae Wright

ALLISON GENE BUTLER

What happens at the Lord's Supper and why do I want to come?

The Lord's Supper is one of only two sacraments in the Lutheran Church, the other is baptism. Sacraments have visible components and give us forgiveness. The body and blood are visible and the act of communion gives us forgiveness and strengthens us spiritually.

This means the bread and wine are not just a symbol. It is the real presence that we receive for with the bread is the true body and with wine is the true blood. Pastor Wray once said a good way to think about this is if you were drowning, would you want someone to throw you a life preserver or show you a picture (a symbol) of a life preserver?

Why do I want to come to have communion? Because I know that I am a sinner and the Lord says if I eat this bread and drink this wine, I will receive forgiveness of my sins which will give me the gift of life and eternal salvation. The Bible says that our sins are not just forgiven, but forgotten. Psalm 103:12 says "As far as the East is from the West, so far has he removed our transgressions from us."

We should, however, consider communion carefully and not just think of it as a free pass. We should be sure that we are sorry for our sins and understand communion. We should take communion as a body of believers who agree, and not take communion with those who believe otherwise about it.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29 says, "Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself".

What does this mean to me? This means if you take communion and do not understand communion or take it in an improper manner, then this could be spiritually harmful to you. Communion and the forgiveness of sins is one of the greatest gifts we as Christians were given by God, and we should remember that every time we take this gift.

ISAAC SAMUEL FLECK

What is the Bible and how do I plan to use this book in my life?

The Bible is a life guide. The word Bible comes from a Greek word meaning 'book', so it is literally The Book. It is the book of life and salvation and through it we are saved.

The Bible tells us about God and how we should live our lives. Since we can't see God, He gave us the Bible to instruct us and communicate with us. If there were no Bible, we wouldn't know God or His expectations. It teaches us God's Law and shows us His love. The Bible also shows us what God has done in the past and promises to do for us in the future. It is the source of true wisdom we have as Christian people.

How do I plan to use the Bible in my life? I plan to use it as the foundation of my life. I will turn to it for wisdom and guidance in times of need and just as a daily reminder of the blessings and



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responsibilities I have as a Christian. I know the Bible will always be there so if I need guidance it is the place to go. Jesus said in Matthew 24:35, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away."

The Bible is the key to living a good life because it instructs you in the faith and a life with God is a good one. I know things will get rough and I will grow tired, but another Bible verse found in Isaiah 40:31 states "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength" so I know my struggle is for a good cause. Things may not seem good to me at the time, but I know God wants what is best for me and only He knows how things will turn out so I just have to trust Him.

The Bible also tells me in Hebrews 13:5-6 "'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we can confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper, I will not fear; what can man do to me?'" I may struggle, but my struggle will only be temporary and my reward will be eternal. I know this because Paul says in Philippians 3:13-14 "Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us."

Now as this paper ends I am promising myself a new beginning in this life leading to an eternal life in heaven. I am starting a life with the help of God that is devoted to God. I want to be a living sacrifice, an embodiment of what it means to be a follower of Christ. This is how I plan to use the Bible. This is how I plan to help the world.

*The LORD is my LIGHT and my SALVATION - whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the STRONGHOLD of my LIFE - of whom shall I be afraid?
Psalm 27:1*

SCOTT CHARLES FRAZIER

What does it mean to say, "Jesus is my Savior" and why do we need such a Savior?

The American Heritage College dictionary says a savior is a person who rescues another from harm, danger, or loss. We need a Savior, because we are sinful. Sins are the bad things we do such as lying, and killing. In Hebrews 10:8-10, it tells about why we need a Savior. "First Christ said, 'Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them—though they were offered in accordance with the law'. Then he said, 'Here I am, I have come to do your will.' He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." We need a savior because if we did not have a savior we would be eternally separated from God. We would be separated from God because of our sins.

God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary. She was told by the angel Gabriel that the Holy Spirit will come to her and that God will give her a baby. In Luke 1:32 Gabriel says to Mary, "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David." Jesus was born in a stable, because there was no room in the inn. Luke 2:10-12 is also talking about who our Savior is. "But the angel said to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

While Jesus died on the cross, Jesus asked the Father to forgive those who were crucifying Him because they did not know what we were doing. They did not believe that Jesus was God's son. Jesus died and rose from the dead to save us from our sins. Jesus died to allow us to see Him in heaven. He wants to see us because He loves us. He does not want us to be separated from Him. In Ephesians 1:4-8 it talks about why Jesus died for us. "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us." This means we have been saved by God and I think that means God loves us a lot.



BRADEN MICHAEL HAVENER

Why is verbally confessing our sins to each other in our family important?

Why is verbally confessing our sins to each other in our family important? I have four reasons why it is important.

My first reason is that our family members may be able to help us through times of temptation, struggles, and sin. If you are straight forward with your family when you are struggling with sin, they can help you get through your problem and draw closer to God through it. You may also learn some new ways to battle and defeat your sin through some of your family member's experiences and wisdom. This will only work if you are willing to open up.

My second reason why it is important to confess our sin is to build trust with your family. This will build trust because it will build your reputation for not lying but confessing your wrong doing. The more trust, the more freedom you will have and the more privileges you will get. Families that trust each other are stronger and will be more likely to stick together forever. So by God saying this He is helping you to build a stronger family.

My third reason to confess our sins to our family members is that they may pray for you. It is important for them to pray for you because God says in James 5:16 "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

My fourth reason why it is important to confess our sins is that we need to be cleansed every day so we can feel good and be spiritually clean. God says that repenting will also heal you and cleanse your soul and spirit. I have this knowledge from Acts 3:19 "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." I believe I need to focus on God more than the other stuff in the world. Psalm 51:7-12 says "Purify me from my sins and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me, now let me rejoice. Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you."

It is important to be forgiven by our family and God. It is important to be forgiven by our family because we can mend relationships and grow stronger with them. We also need to have good relationships with our family members so that we can clear our conscience and be able to forgive ourselves. It is important to be forgiven by God so that we can have a strong relationship with Him and receive His forgiveness. We also need good relationship with Him because He can make our lives better. He is the One who created everything in the universe and He deserves our praise.

After thinking about all this I realize that I need to improve on this subject myself. I verbally need to confess more to my family and to God.

ANDREW TRENT JONES

What are the purposes of the Law and which is most important to me and why?

The Ten Commandments are God's Law. God wants us to keep His Law perfectly, but we can't keep it perfectly because we are sinners. That is why God sent His Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior. God's Law does serve several purposes though. It acts as a curb, as a mirror, and as a guide. These three all go together in one repetitive motion.

The Law acts as a curb because it controls. You always want to stay between two curbs when driving. Usually when you hit a curb you back off. This use of the Law as a curb helps to keep order in the world by preventing violent outbursts of sin just as a curb could keep your car from going over a cliff. This use of the Law is primarily used by those in authority over us such as police, firemen, or military. Romans 13:1-5 says "Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience."

