

Hello! My name is Adam Rickman, and I am a student at Minnetonka High School. I enjoy baseball, skiing, and playing the French Horn in band. Before I begin my faith statement, I would like to thank God for today. Thank you, God, for giving me this opportunity to share my beliefs with everyone who is here today.

I believe in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. I believe that God, the Father, sent his Son Jesus down to Earth to die for our sins. God loves each and every one of us, and He is the Creator. He hears our prayers and helps us with our problems in ways that often go unnoticed. Without God, I wouldn't be the person I am today, as I wouldn't be as kind or motivated to love and accept others. I believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and that He came to this world to save us from sin. God claimed me on the date of my baptism. My baptism solidified the connection between me and God, and cleansed me of sin through Jesus's death. I choose to accept God back, as He has never failed to provide reasons to be faithful.

My faith in Jesus impacts my life every day, and I don't think I would be where I am without Him. He inspires me every day to be good to others, as He is to us. Jesus changes my relationships with family and friends through this, allowing me to be a better friend and family member. God has made a difference in my personal life in many ways. He gives me the strength and motivation to push through school, and encourages me to try my best. Without God, I wouldn't have the energy to complete my work or pay attention. He teaches me His Word here at church and also through the Bible. I have learned a lot from being here, about God and about life, through confirmation and church services. God shows me His love, so I try my best to show love and kindness to my family as well.

My faith leads me to times of greatness, but also helps me through the hard moments in my life. This past spring, my grandfather passed away. This was a very difficult time for me and everyone who knew him, as he was one of the kindest and most humble people I knew. His loss left a deep hole in an already hole-filled year. During this time, I called out to God for guidance and help, so maybe I could start to climb my way back up, and He delivered in many ways. I noticed both subtle moments and events that I knew were a result of His presence. One of the moments I knew was a gift from God was a painting given to our family by my father's coworker. It is a portrait of my grandfather that captures him perfectly, painted by an artist who never knew him. Another gift from God is my incredible and supportive friend group. Around the time my grandfather passed away, I was introduced to a new group of people through a couple of my classes, and immediately I could tell that this was God's work. I got to know each one of them well, and they helped and continue to help me pull through the difficult year, as I do for them.

As I continue to grow in my faith, I will stay close to God by attending worship services and by reading my Bible. I will do my best to stay in contact with my Christian friends from church, even though we are unable to see each other often during the pandemic. I will be present in worship, whether that be virtually or in person. I also hope to play in the brass choir once we are able to. I will continue to spread God's love to everyone, and will go out of my way to spread it to the people who need it most. I will serve as Jesus does by showing kindness to everyone.

The Bible verse I chose to represent my faith is Matthew Chapter 7, Verses 7-8. It reads, "Ask, and it will be given you; search and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks, receives, and everyone who searches, finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." This verse is important to me, as it has represented my year so far. With the many struggles I and the world have faced this year, I have prayed to God for a solution, and He has responded. This Bible verse encourages me to live for Jesus because it shows how He is always there for us. It reminds me that I'm not alone, and I can always rely on Him in tough situations.

My expression of faith is a wooden plaque detailed with a French Horn, my confirmation Bible verse, and the beginning of a famous prayer, entitled "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace." One of the biggest aspects in my life is music. I love to listen to and create it. As I mentioned earlier, I play the French Horn, which is why it is the centerpiece of my expression. I also included Matthew chapter 7 verse 7. "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace." relates to the French Horn as an instrument, and represents my Faith Statement as a whole. Through my expression, I am asking for God to give me the power to spread his peace, both with my words and with the music that I make with my Horn.

As I end my statement, I would like to thank God for everyone who helped me get to where I am today. I am thankful for my family, my friends, my confirmation leaders, the pastors, and everyone else who helped me up to this moment. Most importantly, thank you God for continuing to provide a solid base for my faith, and for allowing us to accept each other in Your Name.  
Amen