

I would like to thank God for giving me this wonderful church, and all these wonderful people to help me grow in my faith.

Hello, my name is Boden Larson, and I am a sophomore at Minnetonka high school. I love to wakesurf, hang out with friends, and am on the Minnetonka swim and dive team.

I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I believe that Jesus was God in human form. I also believe that he died on the cross so that all of our sins would be forgiven. I believe that Jesus was put on this Earth as an example of how we should love one another.

I became a part of God's family, and specifically, Immanuel Lutheran Church on the day of my baptism, October 9, 2005. Now as I enter into adulthood in the congregation, I understand my confirmation commitment is to have God present in my life, and help support and guide those around me.

To me, being a Christian and carrying God with me in my daily life, means keeping the mindset of "doing unto others". Some days it may be as simple as holding the door for someone at a store, or saying "Thank you" to the delivery person. It may be a generous tip, offering to pick up something for a friend, or doing an extra chore around the house. In my friend group, there are the times when someone may take a comment too far, or cross the line. I often try to calm things down and diffuse the situation before feelings get hurt. These are some external ways that I try to walk in God's light.

My faith in God has helped me through some challenging times in my life. Over the last 10 years, both of my grandmothers were diagnosed with cancer. This was a challenging time for me as I was in grade school at the time, and the word "cancer" was serious and scary. They both had to go through major surgeries and chemotherapy where they both were very weak and lost all of their hair. It was hard to understand why they had to suffer and struggle. They were wonderful grandmothers and people. I found myself asking God to make them well and cure their cancer. It was a tough time for me. Over the months, and subsequent years, cancer remained a part of our family. While one of my grandmother's cancer went into remission, my other grandma continued to struggle and eventually passed away due to cancer. It was, and is hard to understand God's grace. How one life can be spared and another taken. While I did pray to God frequently during this time, I learned that faith is not term or condition based.

I am coming to the conclusion, that the way God works can be difficult to understand, especially during hard times. It is easy to have faith when everything is going your way, but when times change and become challenging, this is when talking about God and faith with my family became an important time in my development of what those elements meant to me.

“Come to me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

I intend to fulfill my confirmation promises by worshiping on zoom, taking holy communion, and having discussions with my family about my developing faith. I will spread Christ’s light by volunteering at Feed my Starving Children. One way for me to express my gratefulness, is by annually participating in the Toy’s for Tot’s program. This helps me to remember to think about others needs, and to appreciate my life and family. I will always try to be mindful and respectful of opinions that differ from mine, and open to listening to a different perspective. I will try to speak out in voice and action if I see a situation that is unjust. I will read about current events, and discuss them with my friends and family.

**Deuteronomy 31:6**

**6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”**

I chose this verse because it reminds me that God is ever present. I know there will be many times in my life that I will be scared, lonely, insecure and afraid. I know that I will not be able to get through all of the adversity that growing up throws at me, without the belief that God is my constant silent partner. I can reach out to him whenever I need to, regardless of the situation, and I can do this without judgement or questioning.

(Share my expression of faith with my group].

Dear God, thank you for surrounding me with my church family and my immediate and extended family, who over the years, have helped to develop and guide me during my faith journey. Thank you for being present to me, especially when times were hard and

challenging. Lastly, thank you Lord, for your unchanging love and the promise of everlasting life. Amen