

Jacob Heinzen

My name is Jacob Heinzen, and I am 16 years old, and I am a sophomore at Eden Prairie High School. I would like to begin with a prayer, so would you all bow your heads and pray with me. Dear God, thank you for this day and the opportunity that you have given me to share my faith with my confirmation small group, and to grow in my faith with them. I know that with the virus this has been a trying time for all of us, so may they all make it through this year safely. Amen. My faith journey started just a few months into my life when I was baptized here at Immanuel Lutheran Church. I then started Sunday school at 3 years, and have been part of the ILC youth including confirmation until now. Some of the highlights of my faith journey were: going on mission trips to help people in need, getting to know my confirmation group, and getting to express my faith through music in the holy commotion youth band. I chose to be a student leader, as a way to give back to God and to strengthen my faith. I had also planned to attend bible camp Wapo to become a camp counselor in training, as it would help me grow in my faith as well as I would be helping other young people grow in their faith. I chose to do this because I remembered all of the good times as well as the times I connected with Jesus there. This inspired me to become a counselor to help other children with their faith life. Another thing I picked up from bible camp was all of the songs we learned. This along with my grandfather inspired me to pick up guitar and learn some of the songs we learned from camp on the guitar. This eventually led to me playing in Holy Commotion, a church youth band that would play before every confirmation meeting and sometimes in front of the whole congregation. Playing an instrument has help me to express my faith more openly with others and through the joy of music. One of the songs we frequently play is called Romans 16:19, and it also happens to be my bible verse which I thought of because this song was a big part of my childhood of faith. My

bible verse: Romans 16:19 says “Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I rejoice because of you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil. This verse tells us that we should be excellent at what is good in life, and be innocent about what is evil. Being excellent at what is good is being kind and respectful to others, such as holding the door for somebody or smiling at them as you walk by them on the street, or being responsible for yourself and cleaning up after you make a mess, or being conscious of what is going on around you, like standing up for someone who is being bullied. Going forward I plan to be present in worship by continuing to play guitar in worship and play to stay active in our church community by being a student leader in my confirmation small group. I promise to always listen to what God tells me and to stay active in my church. My expression of faith is the song Romans 16:19 in a frame with guitar picks and an inscription on the frame representing my bible verse and the the music I play, it also has a small guitar hanging from the corner of the frame. I will now close in prayer. I thank God for bringing us here to today to celebrate our faith statements and to thank him for bringing you all here today safely. I hope that we will continue to live out God’s faith in our lives. Amen.