

My name is Matthew Holje. I'm a sophomore at Eden Prairie High School. I would like to start in prayer. Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for giving me the strength to be able to share my faith statement and to speak from the heart. Amen.

I believe that God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, gives all of us faith, strength, and wisdom. I understand that God first said yes to me. I now say yes to God because he helps me in everyday life as he protects me and loves me. I also say yes to God because he gives me strength and wisdom. He guides me in the light he has given me.

Living an active faith in Jesus Christ is important to me because he guides me in everyday life and strengthens me. Jesus impacts my relationships by giving me wisdom that family and friends are very important. God makes a difference in my everyday life by giving me the strength to go through the days even though they may be hard, and he guides me in the path he has given me.

One of my activities in school is cross country and I think life is like a cross country race in many ways. For example, there are physical and mental ups and downs in cross country races and also in life. Like tough times in life, everyone has struggles. But there are people helping you through life such as family, friends, and God. God gives me strength during these obstacles. I know God will always be with me, will forgive my sins, and will love me with all of his heart.

My faith in Christ has helped me in times of struggle. God has carried me through a time when I was struggling with school. God gave me the strength to keep on going and focus and get back on track. God has given

me strength in the ups and downs of having dyslexia, which makes school not always easy for me and sometimes requires me to need help.

My relationship with God has given me the strength to overcome obstacles. "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me." Philippians 4:13. This Bible verse reminds me that I can do so much with God and he will give me strength in multiple ways. Having people around me who are also Christian has strengthened my bond with God by being able to go to them for help or discuss questions about God.

I intend to fulfill my confirmation promise and to be a part of this church in many ways. I will continue to stay close to my Christian friends at this church. I will also actively go to church where I will be present in worship to hear God's word and share the Lord's supper. I will also serve as a student leader for confirmation for the next three years. I will bear Christ's light and spread God's love by volunteering in the community. I will also help others in need. I will speak out against what I think is wrong and be friendly to others.

My confirmation Bible verse is, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you" Isaiah 41:10. This verse is important to me because it talks about how God will give me strength and wisdom during the ups and downs of life. This gives me comfort because it reminds me that God is here to guide me and to give me strength.

I'm going to finish my faith statement with a prayer so may you please bow your heads with me. Dear heavenly Father, thank you for your love, strength and wisdom during this race of life. Please continue to guide me and all of us in the years to come. Amen.