



*Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

Confirmation Sunday

May 15 & 16, 2022

ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

FOR OUR GUESTS

Thank you for being here. During your visit today, you will see and hear what we're all about: God's *eternal love* for us through his Son, Jesus Christ! Any directions for speaking or singing, standing, or sitting will be indicated in this folder or projected on the wall in front of you.

- Restrooms are available just outside the chapel doors down the hallway to the left.
- If you have young children with you today, great! We encourage families to worship together. We do have a nursery area available just outside the chapel near the bathrooms, should you feel the need to step out of worship with your child for a moment. Activity sheets for your child are available from the ushers as well.

CONFIRMATION: God Blesses our Confirmands; God Blesses Us

Confirmation as we practice it isn't commanded in the Bible. But the principles of studying God's Word, becoming familiar with the main teachings of the Bible are very much a part of God's will for us. So, along with the spiritual modeling and training that takes place in the home, Christian parents partner with their congregation and pastors to provide faithful teaching of the Christian faith to their children and encouragement and support in that growth.

Each one of us, child or adult, sees ourselves in *Sarah, Emma, Caden, Reese, and Elia*. Each one of us has learned about Jesus and has so much more to learn! Each one of us is a dearly loved child of God like they are. Each one of us has been given God's holy Word, his revealed plan of salvation for us. Each one of us has been given Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection as our own, so we are heirs of eternal life!

Confirmation is not graduation, but a celebration of the beginning of maturation and ongoing growth! They've been briefly introduced to the 6 main teachings of the Bible as covered by our small catechism. As new communicants of our church family, they—just like we all—need our prayers, our encouragement, and our partnership in glorifying God by growing in his Word and going into all the world with the message of his eternal love.

Our five confirmands will demonstrate throughout the service today their understanding of and appreciation for one of the six chief parts of Luther's Small Catechism by reading an essay they have prepared.

GATHERING RITE ON THE WORD OF GOD

In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

EXPRESSION OF FAITH ESSAY ON BAPTISM (10:45 AM)

Reese Reichelt, confirmand

STAND

HYMN

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word *ST. 1*



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your Word; curb those who
by de - ceit or sword would seek to o - ver - throw your
Son and to de - stroy what he has done.

Oh, how I love your law!
I meditate on it all day long.

Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,
for they are ever with me.

I have more insight than all my teachers,
for I meditate on your statutes.

How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

(Psalm 119:97-99, 103)

HYMN

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word *ST. 2*

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your Chris - ten - dom that
we may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness,

so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Yet so often we have despised God’s Word and failed to gladly hear and learn it. For this and all our sins, we bow before God and humbly ask his forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

God gave his Word so “that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (*John 20:31*). The Scriptures testify about Jesus, who lived a perfect life for you, died on the cross to pay for all your sins, and rose again to assure you of your salvation. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

HYMN

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word *ST. 3*

3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal
strife and lead us out of death to life.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The lyrics '3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and' are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes: C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3. The lyrics 'u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal' are written below the second staff. The third staff concludes the melody with quarter notes: G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2. The lyrics 'strife and lead us out of death to life.' are written below the third staff. The piece ends with a double bar line.

BE SEATED

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, you always cause your church to grow, and with your light and grace, you strengthen the hearts of those to whom you have given new birth through water and the Spirit. Let all who have been instructed in your truth continue to increase both in faith and knowledge, that they may rejoice in their baptism and grow as members of the holy body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

EXPRESSION OF FAITH ESSAY ON BAPTISM (10:45 AM)

Elia Rodriguez, confirmand

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Ephesians 6:10-18

Our God gives us everything we need to stay safe and stay close to him. Paul describes this equipment as “The full armor of God.”

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can stand against the schemes of the Devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ For this reason, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to take a stand on the evil day and, after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand, then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness fastened in place, ¹⁵ and with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace tied to your feet like sandals. ¹⁶ At all times hold up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the Evil One. ¹⁷ Also take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ At every opportunity, pray in the Spirit with every kind of prayer and petition. Stay alert for the same reason, always persevering in your intercession for all the saints.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EXPRESSION OF FAITH ESSAY ON THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (10:45 AM) *Sarah Anderson, confirmand*

GOSPEL

John 8:31-32

To remain with Jesus means to remain in his Word.

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples. ³² You will also know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

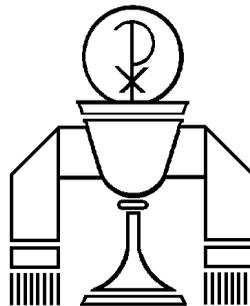
Praise be to you, oh Christ!

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Young children may come forward for a brief devotion.

EXPRESSION OF FAITH ESSAY ON HOLY COMMUNION (10:45 AM)

*Caden Mielke,
confirmand*



HYMN OF THE DAY

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to
 2 Hith - er - to thy love has blessed me, thou hast drawn me
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con -



sing thy grace; streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,
 to this place; and I know thy hand will lead me
 strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter,



call for songs of loud - est praise. Teach me some me - lo - dious
 safe - ly home by thy good grace. Je - sus sought me when a
 bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee: prone to wan - der, Lord, I



son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise his
 stran - ger, wan - d'ring from the fold of God; he, to
 feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my



name, I'm fixed up - on it, name of God's re - deem - ing love.
 res - cue me from dan - ger, bought me with his pre - cious blood.
 heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

SERMON

Proverbs 3:5-6

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own understanding.
⁶In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight.

EXPRESSION OF FAITH ESSAY ON HOLY COMMUNION (10:45 AM)

*Emma Bodway,
confirmand*

STAND

NICENE CREED (8:00 AM)

BE SEATED

OFFERING

The members of Eternal Love congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our church's ministry. However, we do ask that everyone take part in completing the connection card. Whether you are worshipping in person or watching online, please fill it out now or later at www.eternal-love.org/onlineworship or scan the provided QR code to do so now.



RITE OF CONFIRMATION (10:45 AM)

The pastor speaks to those being confirmed:

My dear young friends, when you were baptized, your gracious Lord forgave all your sins and covered you with the robe of Christ's righteousness. Through water and Word he created faith in your hearts and adopted you into the family of believers. As you matured and heard and studied the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit enlightened your minds and preserved you as children of God.

You have expressed the desire to confess the truths you believe before your Savior, your family and friends, and this congregation. You are ready to say with St. Paul, "I believed; therefore I have spoken." You have learned to examine your thoughts, words, and actions in the light of God's law, and you have experienced the comfort of forgiveness in the Savior's gospel. With this preparation you are eager to receive the Savior's body and blood in the sacrament.

As we worship with you on this day, we are filled with joy as we see how the Lord has grown your faith and love. We are bringing our prayers to the Savior's throne of grace and imploring him to keep you faithful to him and his Word until you join us and all believers in the glories of heaven.

I now ask each of you:

Are you ready and willing to confess your faith before the triune God and those who are worshipping with you today?

I am.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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. Amen.**

Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

I do reject him.

Do you believe that all the books of the Bible are the inspired and inerrant Word of God?

I do.

Do you believe that the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know them from Luther's Small Catechism, are faithful and true to the Word of God?

I do.

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to remain faithful to your Lord Jesus and his Word all the days of your life?

Yes, and I ask God to help me.

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to live a life that pleases God, to value his Word and sacraments, and to witness to your Savior wherever you go?

Yes, and I ask God to help me.

The pastor speaks to the congregation:

Friends in Christ, the Word of God urges us to pray for one another and especially for the youth of the church. On this special day, it is fitting that we bring our prayers before God, firmly believing that he alone is able to strengthen us by the power of the Holy Spirit and keep us faithful to the Savior until we die. Let us pray.

Gracious Father, in Holy Baptism you created faith in the hearts of these young people and gave them a new birth as members of your family. Help them remember their baptisms every day and find comfort in your promise that you will never leave them or forsake them. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Give them strength to put down and drown the sinful nature that lives within them so that each day their faith may triumph in their living and loving and in their words and actions. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Lead them to see and believe that in the word of the gospel they find forgiveness for their sins and relief for their guilt. Use the remembrance of your commandments to drive them to the comfort of the gospel and then to guide them as they live for you and others. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Protect them from Satan when he tempts them to be careless with your Word and sacrament, to make plans for this life and not for the life to come, or to find popular theories more appealing than your truth. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Empower them by the gospel of your Son to live in their world with kindness, humility, and patience that others may see their good works and glorify their Father in heaven. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Help us provide fitting examples of faithfulness to your Word and sacraments. Lead us to encourage and admonish them in wisdom and love even after they have left our homes and made new homes for themselves. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

When the end comes and we all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, have compassion on us despite our sins and accept us as eternal dwellers in your royal rooms, through the merits of Jesus our Savior, who became sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

The pastor speaks to those being confirmed:

I now invite each of you to come forward to receive a word of encouragement from the Scriptures and a blessing from the Lord.

Those being confirmed may approach the front with their Christian parent(s), lining up alphabetically by last name, from left to right facing the altar, as listed below. After each confirmand receives their confirmation verse from his/her parent(s), pastor will give a blessing to each.

Sarah Anderson

Your words are a lamp for my feet and a light for my path. (Psalm 119:105, EHV)

Emma Bodway

God is our refuge and strength, a helper who can always be found in times of trouble. (Psalm 46:1, EHV)

Caden Mielke

I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13, EHV)

Reese Reichelt

Indeed, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2:8–9, EHV)

Elia Rodriguez

Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens...” (Daniel 12:3a, NIV)

The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

Those who have been confirmed may be seated.

THE SACRAMENT

Eternal Love Lutheran Church practices close communion. We ask that only members partake of the Sacrament. If you are not a member of Eternal Love or of another congregation in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and are interested in learning more, please speak to one of our pastors.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

This Is My Will



1 This is my will, my one com - mand, that love should
2 No great - er love can be than this: to choose to
3 I call you now no long - er slaves; no slave knows
4 You chose not me, but I chose you, that you should
5 All that you ask my Fa - ther dear for my name's



dwell a - mong you all. This is my will, that you should
die to save one's friends. You are my friends if you o -
all his mas - ter does. I call you friends, for all I
go and bear much fruit. I chose you out that you in
sake you shall re - ceive. This is my will, my one com -



love as I have shown that I love you.
bey what I com - mand that you should do.
hear my Fa - ther say you hear from me.
me should bear much fruit that will a - bide.
mand, that love should dwell in each, in all.

STAND

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Lord Jesus, thank you for revealing your glory to us today, giving us your true body and blood with the bread and wine, and assuring us that our sins are forgiven. Strengthen our faith so that we will do whatever you say, and trust in you for all that we need.

Glorify your name in us and preserve us in the true faith until life everlasting. Amen.

BLESSING

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

BE SEATED

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Liturgist: Pastor Dave Pries
Preacher: Pastor Dave Backus
Accompanist: Lisa Neuberger
Scripture Readers: Dan Wallander (8:00 am)
Bruce Heckmann (10:45 am)

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483–1546 Tune: Geistliche Lieder zu Wittemberg, Wittenberg, 1543, ed. Joseph Klug Text and tune: Public domain.

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt. Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, Harrisburg, 1813, ed. John Wyeth Text and tune: Public domain.

This Is My Will

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Holy Bible

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CONTACT US

Dave Pries, Pastor
920.285.1068
Pastor.Pries@eternal-love.org

Dave Backus, Pastor
920.716.7987
Pastor.Backus@eternal-love.org

Kara Krull, Wee Love Director & Teacher
920.858.3933
Kara.Krull@eternal-love.org

Rebecca Fleming, Office Manager
920.749.9744
Office.Manager@eternal-love.org



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