

First Lutheran Church - Affirmation of Baptism (2021)

Statement of Faith

Students who wish to participate in the Church Rite of AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM in 2021 are required to first submit a written "Statement of Faith" to Pastor Todd to read, and then schedule a "Confirmation Conversation" with Pastor Todd. The Statement of Faith and Confirmation Conversation must be completed before the candidate will be scheduled for the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism. Please submit your Statement of Faith for Pastor Todd to review at least 1 week before you wish to have your Confirmation Conversation.

For those who are now in 8th grade, we hope to celebrate the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism during the worship service on Pentecost Sunday (May 23, 2021). For those who are now in 9th grade, this Rite could be scheduled earlier in the year, if the candidate's requirements are completed. This of course will depend on where things are with COVID on the intended dates.

The Statement of Faith may be submitted on paper to the Pastor or the church office, or by email attachment to pastortodd.flc@gmail.com. This paper will be a springboard for the Confirmation Conversations, and will be read only by Pastor Todd (and possibly one other adult leader). The paper will be returned at the end of your conversation.

What is expected in your STATEMENT OF FAITH (your rubric):

1. Formatting: Minimum of one page in length, typed, readable 12 pt font (i.e. Arial, Helvetica, Courier, or Times-New Roman), one inch margins, single spaced. Each paragraphs should be about 3-5 sentences. Microsoft Word, Google Docs, plain text file (.txt) or PDF are all fine.
2. Begin with your favorite Bible verse. Choose a verse you find meaningful or special. At the beginning/top of your paper, please type the verse, where it is found in the Bible (book/chapter/verse), and which translation you used (NRSV, NIV, ESV, The Message, etc.).
 - a. Example: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." John 3:16 (NRSV)
3. The first paragraph of your statement should be an explanation of why you selected that verse. Tell what it means to you, why you like that verse, and how you can apply it in your life.
4. The next paragraph or two should be your faith story. What is your faith history? When did it start? What is it that you believe about God – about the Creator, about Jesus, about the Holy Spirit? You can discuss examples of times you have felt or seen God's presence in your life and in the world around you, you can talk about your beliefs, and you should mention how you live out your faith in your everyday activities. This section should give an indication that you have thought about your faith journey so far and where you want to go next with your faith.
5. The final paragraph should be an explanation of why you feel you are ready to be responsible for continuing your faith journey on your own. Remember, when you are confirmed you are taking responsibility for the promises your parents made at your baptism to help teach you about God. You might want to review the words of the Affirmation of Baptism liturgy found on pages 234-237 in the front of the red ELW hymnal. Give some ideas of how you plan to continue your faith journey so that your relationship with God will continue to grow.

Writing your statement of faith provides you the opportunity to spend some time really thinking about your faith, and to demonstrate that you can articulate your beliefs. There are a lot of people in the world who have no exposure to Christianity or to church. YOU may be the only example of the Bible, the only example of Christianity that someone will ever see. Over the past two years of this confirmation program, you have attended church, reflected on Bible verses and sermons with your sermon notes, learned bible stories, church history, Christian doctrine, and the Lutheran Catechism. Refer to those things as you write your paper.

As Jesus repeatedly told his disciples, "Do not be afraid." I don't expect that you will have all the answers, but if you try to demonstrate that you have given some serious thought to your faith and you will do fine. If you have questions or need guidance, please contact me at church 228-4862, or email pastortodd.flc@gmail.com.

Blessings and peace as you learn how to tell your faith story.

Pastor Todd Wright (228-4862 Church / 228-4762 Home)