

He who loves Me
will be loved by My Father

✠ **St. Paul's Lutheran Church** ✠
Kenesaw, NE

Pastor Paul S. Duffy
Guest Organist: Sandra Mack
Acolyte: Chase Uden
Crucifer: Shelbi Goldenstein

402-752-3421, 3536; 308-216-1254
Sunday School 9:00am Bible Class/9:30am
Divine Service 10:00am

Confirmation Sunday
The Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2020

As We Gather

In Holy Baptism God calls His chosen ones to respond to Him with the gift of faith. Confirmation, a special rite of passage in the Christian life, is one's own affirmation of the gifts given in Baptism - forgiveness, life, and salvation. As our Confirmands openly confess their faith in Christ, may this be a special day of renewal for all of us!

Call to Worship *The Bells*

(Rise)

Processional Hymn p. 913 "O Holy Spirit, Enter In"

The Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: God, our heavenly Father,

People: You have graciously received us to be Your own sons and daughters.

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, true Son of God,

People: You have made us holy by Your death and Resurrection.

Pastor: O Holy Spirit, the Giver of life,

People: You have made us alive to God, and our bodies are Your temple.

ALL: In the Name of the Triune and eternal God we begin this service of Confirmation.

The Confession of Sins

Pastor: People of God, let us confess our sins before our heavenly Father who loves us and stands ready to forgive: O almighty God, we often fail to remember the gifts given to us in our Baptism into Christ.

People: O Lord, have mercy on us.

Pastor: As those confirmed in the faith, we confess that many times we have failed to apply ourselves to the study of Your Word, and have given You second place in our lives.

People: Forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: We confess as parents and sponsors of Confirmands that we have often been negligent in our efforts to surround them with Your Word and a godly example.

People: O, spare us, good Lord.

Pastor: We confess that we have not prayed as often and as fervently as we should for these and other Christians.

ALL: Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Absolution

Pastor: As God's servant, I declare to you that your sins are forgiven on this day of Confirmation and that through the blood of our Savior Jesus Christ you are free to live for Him and for each other in the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

People: Amen.

(Sit)

First Reading Acts 17:16-31

Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbling wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities" – because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward Him and find Him. Yet He is actually not far from each one of us, for, " 'In Him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, " 'For we are indeed His offspring.'

Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent, because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead."

Epistle I Peter 3:13-22

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which He went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to Him.

(Stand)

Holy Gospel John 14:15-21

Pastor: The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 14th chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. Whoever has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

(After the reading)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Confirmation Hymn p. 660 "Stand Up, Stand Up, for Jesus"

Sermon "Honor Christ, the Lord" (I Peter 3:13-15)

Remembering Your Offering (*Back of church*)

The Rite of Confirmation

(Parents and Sponsors Rise)

Pastor: Parents and sponsors, thank you for your faithfulness in insuring that these Confirmands have been taught the Christian faith. Today, they will make a public confession of their faith in Christ. Your prayers and encouragement remain important to them. Will you pray for them and support them in their Christian faith and life?
Parents and Sponsors: Yes, with the help of God.

The Rite of Confirmation

The Confirmands:

*Bridger Christian Irwin Kroos
Blake Andrew Steer*

The Prayers of the Church

✠The Sacrament of the Altar✠

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus (*Spoken*)

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord,
God of power and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

**Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Pastor: Lord of heaven and earth, we thank and praise You for having had mercy on those whom You created, sending Your only begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. We receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Hear us as we pray and as He has taught us.

Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

The Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

Agnus Dei (*Lamb of God*) (*Spoken*)

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace.**

Communion Hymn p. 633 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

****Parents are welcome to bring their children to the altar for a blessing****

Post Communion Collect

Pastor: We give thanks to You, gracious Father, that You have fed us with the very body and blood of our Lord Jesus, given in the bread and wine, to strengthen our faith and impart Your forgiveness.

Guide us each day, we pray, that we may follow Your leading.
Encourage us with Your presence as we seek to share the Gospel of
Jesus Christ in word and deed; through the same Jesus Christ, Your
Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Benediction

Recessional Hymn p. 837 "Lift High the Cross"

(Our Confirmands will await you as you leave the sanctuary. Feel free to wish them God's blessings with a word of congratulations and Christian greetings.)

Confirmation Day

Today marks a very special day in the lives of our two Confirmands. May our prayers ascend to God on their behalf, that they may be faithful unto death and receive the crown of life!



St. Paul's Mission Calendar

Today – 6th Sunday of Easter/Confirmation

☩ 10:00 AM Divine Worship

Mon. 9:00 AM No Bible Study

June Newsletter Due

Tues. 7:00 PM Church Council

Church Council to meet Tuesday, May 19th 7:00 PM

Church officers and board members please plan to attend. If you have questions, contact Pastor or Greg Adams.

May 18th (Mon.) June Newsletter Deadline I understand that it's hard to plan during this time, but Summer is around the corner, please include any activities, special events or anniversaries and volunteer lists to me by Monday, May 18th. Place the info on the desk in the workroom. Contact Debbie Rasberry if you have questions or miss the deadline.

913

O Holy Spirit, Enter In

1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, en - ter in, And in our hearts
 2 Give to Your Word im - pres - sive pow'r, That in our hearts
 3 O might - y Rock, O Source of life, Let Your dear Word,

Your work be - gin, Your dwell - ing place now make us.
 from this good hour As fire it may be glow - ing,
 in doubt and strife, In us be strong - ly burn - ing

Sun of the soul, O Light di - vine, A - round and in
 That in true Chris - tian u - ni - ty We faith - ful wit -
 That we be faith - ful un - to death And live in love

us bright - ly shine, To joy and glad - ness wake us
 ness - es may be, Your glo - ry ev - er show - ing.
 and ho - ly faith, From You true wis - dom learn - ing.

(cont'd)

913 (cont'd)

That we may be Tru - ly liv - ing, To You giv - ing
 Hear us, cheer us By Your teach - ing; Let our preach - ing
 Your grace and peace On us show - er; By Your pow - er

Prayer un - ceas - ing And in love be still in - creas - ing.
 And our la - bor Praise You, Lord, and serve our neigh - bor.
 Christ con - fess - ing, Let us see our Sav - ior's bless - ing.

Praise the One Who
 Breaks the Darkness

849

1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
 3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered

at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
 gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
 in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious

Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
 With the pier - cing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
 That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and

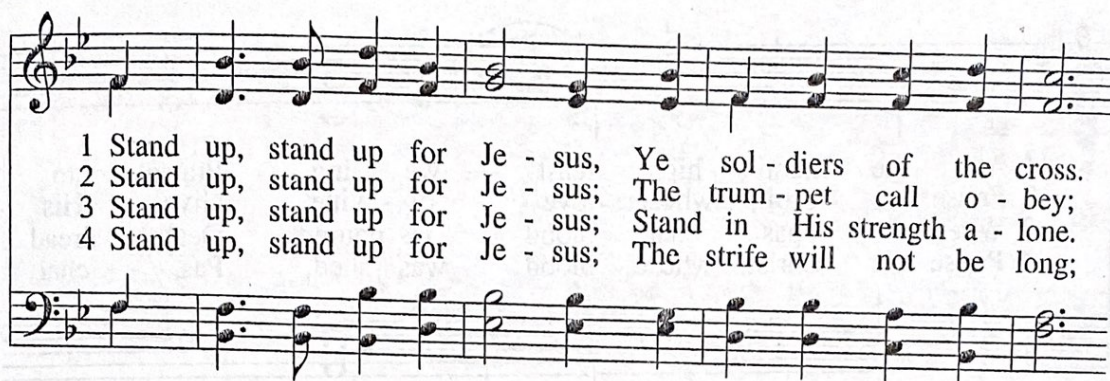
Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
 wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
 glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us

storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
 Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

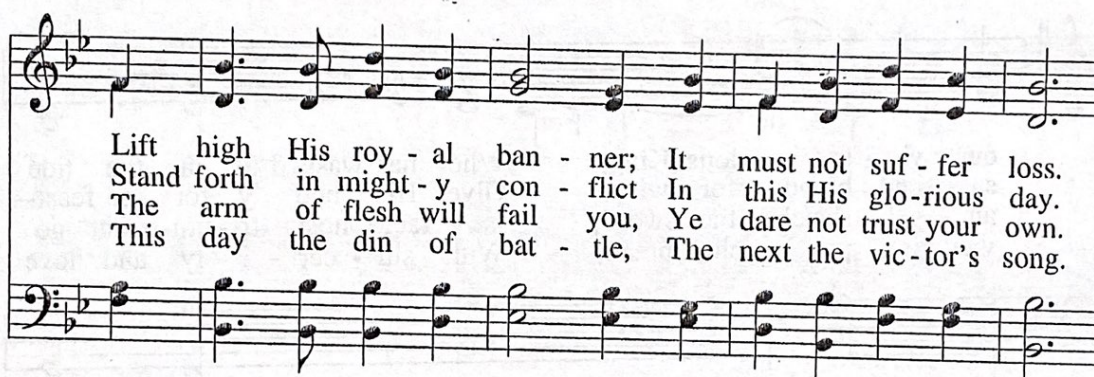
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660

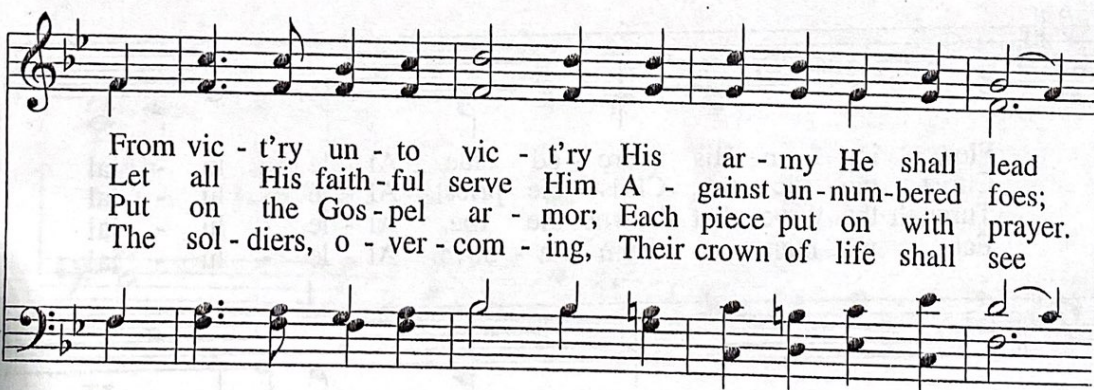
Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus



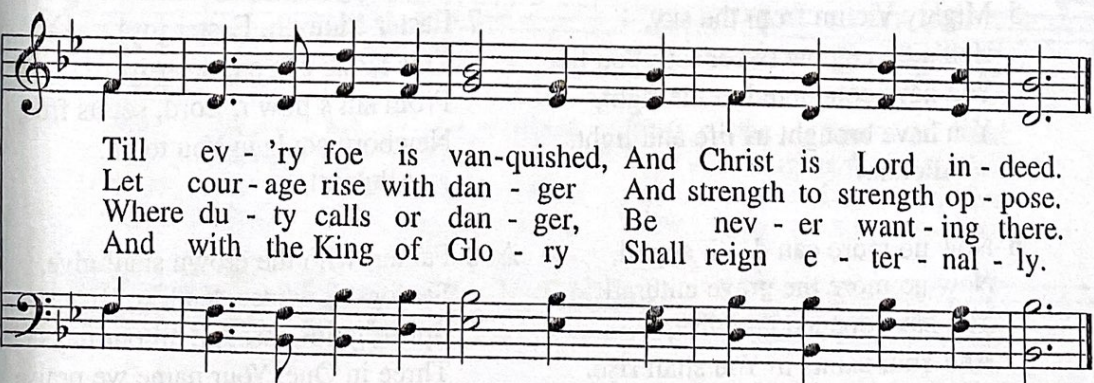
1 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, Ye sol - diers of the cross.
 2 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The trum - pet call o - bey;
 3 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; Stand in His strength a - lone.
 4 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The strife will not be long;



Lift high His roy - al ban - ner; It must not suf - fer loss.
 Stand forth in might - y con - flict In this His glo - rious day.
 The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own.
 This day the din of bat - tle, The next the vic - tor's song.



From vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry His ar - my He shall lead
 Let all His faith - ful serve Him A - gainst un - num - bered foes;
 Put on the Gos - pel ar - mor; Each piece put on with prayer.
 The sol - diers, o - ver - com - ing, Their crown of life shall see



Till ev - 'ry foe is van - quished, And Christ is Lord in - deed.
 Let cour - age rise with dan - ger And strength to strength op - pose.
 Where du - ty calls or dan - ger, Be nev - er want - ing there.
 And with the King of Glo - ry Shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
 2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His
 3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal

our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
 sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—
 an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go
 vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love

Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty Victim from the sky,
 Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
 You have conquered in the fight,
 You have brought us life and light.
 Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
 This alone can sin destroy;
 From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
 Newborn souls in You to be.
 Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,
 Now no more the grave enthrall;
 You have opened paradise,
 And Your saints in You shall rise.
 Alleluia!

△ 8 Father, who the crown shall give,
 Savior, by whose death we live,
 Spirit, guide through all our days:
 Three in One, Your name we praise.
 Alleluia!

837

Lift High the Cross

Refrain
Unison

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till

all the world a-dore His sa-cred name.

Harmony

1 Come, Chris-tians, fol - low where our Cap - tain trod,
2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied tree,
4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,

Refrain

Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com-bine.
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.
As Thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to Thee.

(Cont'd)

5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell.

Refrain

6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory!

Refrain

Please remember these people in your prayers -

Pastor Paul Duffy and family

Birthdays:

May 17	Dusty Augustin	22	Lydia Adams
21	Miles Bittfield	23	Hailey Morrow

In the Service: Austin Applegate, Alec Applegate, Trevor Stickels, Julian Tucker, Hannah Panwitz, Danielle (Burr) Brauner, Darren Woodside

Missionaries: Rev. Brian and Amanda Gauthier, Panama
Rev. Peter Haugen & family, Macau, China

LWML meeting has been changed to an officers only meeting on Tues., May 26th at 7:30 PM. We are close to reaching our district mite goal of \$105,000 but your help is still needed. Please place your mites in the wooden box in the narthex, give to an LWML officer or can be mailed to the district. See the summer Echo for details a copy is in your mailbox.

Our Expression of Love

Sunday, May 10, 2020	Attendance 65
Current Envelope	\$2,649.00
Current Plate	1,770.00
Mission Envelope	30.00
Russian Orphanage	<u>55.00</u>
Total	\$4,504.00



About the Cover: Jesus has extended His loving arms for us on the cross, and now the living Jesus extends them to draw us close to Him. Because we are loved by the Father through Jesus, it is natural that God's love is reciprocated through the work of the Holy Spirit in and through us. We are drawn up into the love of God by our Lord, who first loved us and gave Himself for us.

**OUR
STATEMENTS
OF
FAITH**

WRITTEN BY
THE MEMBERS OF THE 2020
CONFIRMATION CLASS

May 17, 2020

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD
Kenesaw, NE**

Bridger Kroos.....Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."

My faith means a lot to me; it's how I live my life and how I aspire to live my life in my adult years. My faith defines how I look at the world we live in and how I could help it. My faith has shown me how to treat other people with respect and kindness, and also with love and compassion that God showed so many people, including His disciples and even me as a Christian. God showed so many people so much compassion and grace. It has inspired me to be the best person I can be, and try to spread a positive message about my faith to everyone around me.

My faith is who I am inside; it's how I inspire myself to be the best version of me every day. My faith is what will save me someday and give me eternal life where I can spend eternity with God in heaven, because that is the true goal of this earthly life.

My faith has taught me so many things thus far in my life and I hope it will teach me even more as I continue on my journey through my faith.

+ + +

Blake Andrew Steer.....Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

My faith in Christ is like He adopted me and gave me a Father and a home for me to live in, and trust that tomorrow will be there and I have eternal life. Faith will seem like it's gone and I don't love, but in my heart it is always there and will never go. During rough times it seems like God isn't there to help me, but He is. He is just making the path to a great future.

What this (Confirmation) verse means to me is that there is a good future for you, and don't think that God doesn't love you because one thing goes bad. He will always love one even if something he does doesn't go the right way. In the long run that one thing that you were so down about will help you in some way or form.

God will have some plan for you your whole life and it will always work out the right way. Tragic things can happen, but God knows it's the right thing and something good will come out of it no matter what happens. All you have to do is believe and know that God has great plans for you in the future.

+ + +