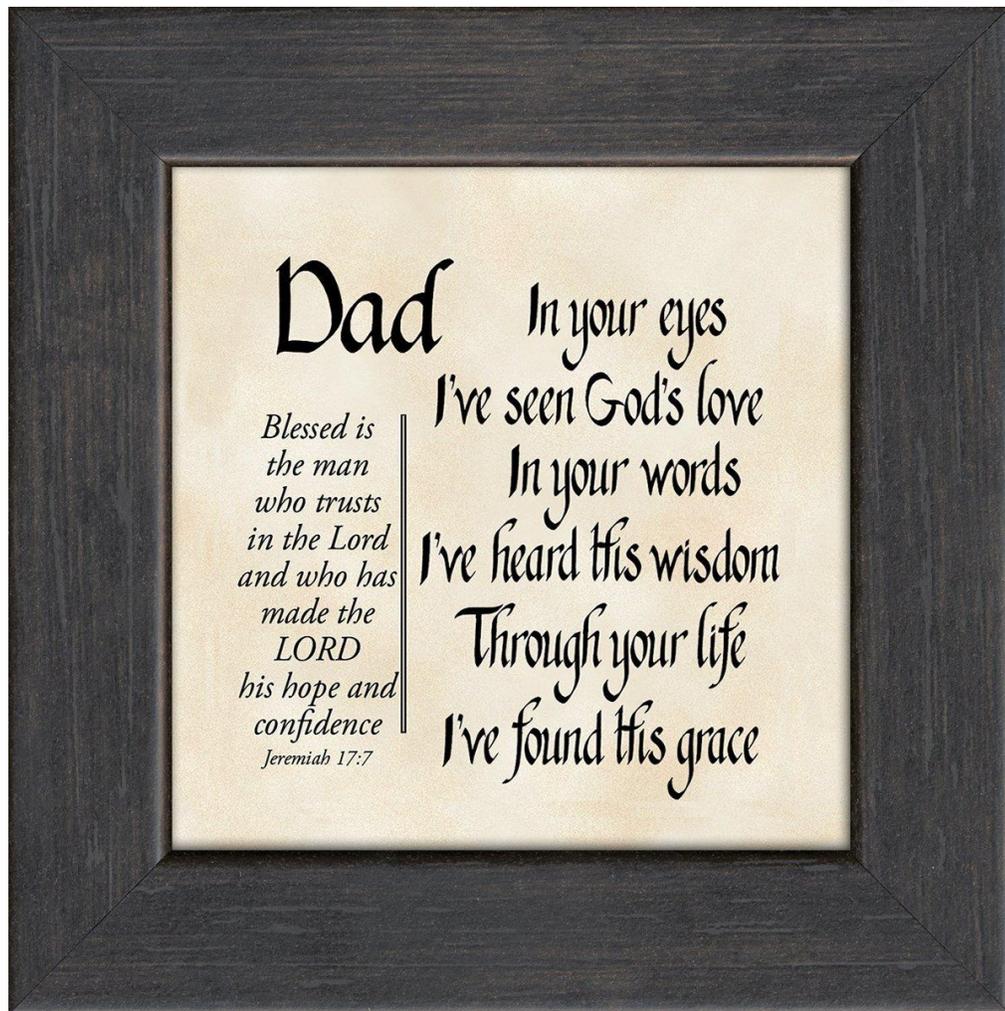


Salem

Salem Lutheran Church



June 2021

Pastor's Page

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

April and May have been busy months. We started April with our celebration of Easter. We are about to finish May with Trinity Sunday before we embark on the season of Pentecost. The long season of Green in the church. Between Easter and Trinity Sunday, we will have had two garage sales which supported our Childcare Center and a Drive-Through Fish Fry. I want to thank all of you, who donated of items or time to make these fundraisers a success. During this time frame we also hired our Childcare Director. You will find an introduction and biography to Jenn in the newsletter as well.

We were not just focused on our Childcare, here at Salem we also had the Public Examination of our confirmands and then the Rite of Confirmation. These were days of great joy. I have also been working through my five-part bible study series on the Family-Centered, Church-Supported Paradigm for raising children in the faith. That will wrap up on Trinity Sunday. Yes, many things have been happening here at Salem and with that I give thanks after many months of being on a stand still.

Now we turn our attention to the summer months. Starting in June as you have been hearing we are going back to one service at 9 AM. I give thanks for this as well as we work towards being one united part of the Body of Christ again. In June we will also hold our Vacation Bible School. You will see more information on that later in the newsletter as well. I am looking forward on going on this Rainforest Exploration with you all and the children that come into our midst.

During the summer months we will also be working towards getting our Childcare ready and open. Pay attention to future newsletters and bulletins for Open House Dates and a Dedication Sunday along with our congregational picnic.

I was looking back at prior newsletter articles that I have written and I read the article that I wrote in June 2019 at my six month mark of being your pastor. In that article I told you all that this is the first place that I could really call Home in quite some time. The same holds true. I am so thankful to be amongst you all. The last year and half has had some difficulties, but we are working through those difficulties together as the Body of Christ.

With that being said, thank you for helping make this our home. Thank you for your support as I worked with all sorts of thoughts and opinions over the last year plus. I love you all very much and I look forward to the days ahead as we enter into a new chapter of ministry together.

One more thing, as we do enter the summer season, and as many of you are eager to do some traveling, camping, boating, and fishing, remember that Sunday is still the Lord's Day, remember that we are still here. Remember to be in the Lord's House receiving His gifts. It's important no matter if it's during the school year or in the summer season. If by chance you aren't here for a Sunday or two, please don't forget to remember your church in your offerings as well, you can double them up on a Sunday or even mail or drop them off at the Church Office. We are still here serving God's people and the Barron Community.

Blessings to you all,
Pastor Nielsen

P.S. Also in this newsletter you will find the Faith Statements that the Confirmation Students wrote.

Council Meeting 05/11/2021

Present: Trustee Tom Lipke, Treasurer Stan Koenig, Pastor Michael Nielsen, Secretary Sarah Duncan, Board of Ed MaryAnn Thompson, President John Steele, Vice President Josh Millerman, Head Elder Paul Millerman.

President John Steele called the meeting to order. Pastor Nielsen led us in devotional and prayer.

Secretary Report: Secretary Sarah Duncan read the council meeting minutes from April 9, 2021. A motion was made by Josh Millerman to accept the minutes as read and seconded by Paul Millerman and motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Stan Koenig advised the April 2021 financial summary as follows: General Fund Balance (4101) as of April 30, 2021 is \$45106.83. Checking account at Sterling Bank is \$44984.25. Savings account at Sterling Bank is \$14206.42. The LCEF: \$23922.36. Missions \$591.00. Sunday School \$0. Building Fund \$404. April Choice Dollars \$562.00. Daycare Project Fund \$30526.69. General Fund envelope giving YTD is down about \$8000 from last year's balance. Amazon Smile money can go toward Salem. Thrivent choice dollars need to be disbursed for 2019 & 2020. A motion was made by Josh Millerman to accept the report and seconded by MaryAnn Thompson and motion carried.

Elders Report: Paul Millerman advised that Bob Harbaugh membership has been accepted as a new member. Beginning on June 6th, we will be going back to one service at 9am. Hymnals and cushions will be put back in the pews by the May 16th service. Reminders need to be sent out to ushers and greeters. Offering will be moving back to the front of the church. An idea was brought to have a high school class taught by church leaders to begin in the fall. Organist job description was presented, and a possible sub was found. Discussed Built on the Rock. A motion was made by MaryAnn Thompson to accept the report and seconded by Tom Lipke and motion carried.

Trustee Report: Tom Lipke advised that as of today, the electrical is done in the shelter. City of Barron was able to bury the cable. The shelter is now ready for use. It will cost an additional \$800-\$900 to fix up and paint in the fall. We need families to sign up for lawn mowing. As of today, there are still 14 weeks open for lawn mowing. A motion was made by Josh Millerman to accept the report and seconded by Paul Millerman and motion carried.

Board of Ed: MaryAnn Thompson advised that 9 college & 2 military cards were sent out. Jen Swanson accepted the position of day care director, has signed a contract, and starts May 17. There will be information in the newsletter about donations and volunteering for the daycare project. Daycare schedules discussed. Discussion of budget for daycare. Wil is researching washer/drier/fridge. Garage sale raised over \$3200 for the daycare, and the fish fry raised over \$2000 for the daycare. A motion was made by Josh Millerman to accept the report and seconded by Paul Millerman and motion carried.

Pastor's report: Doctor of ministries bible study is going well. Working writing sessions 4&5. Men's bible study is working through Isaiah. Thursday bible study is working through Skeptics. Confirmation questioning will be May 16 & confirmation is May 23. Working through 2nd round of visits. Karen declined the call to serve at Salem in the daycare. Jennifer Swanson has been hired as director. Visiting with the Barron Kiwanis on May 19 to talk about childcare. CWS has been hired to do security system for daycare. Building committee is going to meet soon. A motion was made by Stan Koenig to accept the report and seconded by Josh Millerman and motion carried.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Fix fan in the kitchen.

Cleaning day mid-June.

June 6th congregational meeting will be a brunch potluck and will immediately follow the service.

Discuss high school bible study led by congregation leaders.

Summer fires on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm. Bring dish to pass. June 16, July 21, August 18

A motion was made by MaryAnn Thompson and seconded by Josh Millerman to adjourn the meeting and motion carried.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer

Minutes by Sarah Duncan

To the congregation,

My name is Jennifer Kazekewicz (formerly, Swanson – we got married on May 29th!) and I'm originally from near Ashland, WI, but moved to Rice Lake 3 years ago. I graduated from WITC Ashland in July 2015 with my Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education. I have mostly worked in childcare, including being a founding staff member at a new facility, and in school districts as a Special Education Program Aide. I am currently continuing my education to receive my Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education with a minor in Special Education. I have always felt a call to teaching children and watching them grow.

My husband, Mike, and I have two beautiful children. My son, Easton, is 2 years old and my daughter, Preslee, is 5 months old. We enjoy spending our time outdoors with our two dogs.

I am looking forward to this new venture in helping spread the Gospel to children and families within the Barron area. I look forward to working with and meeting the congregation. Thank you all for your support and efforts to making this facility grow.

If anyone has any questions about Salem Childcare and Preschool, please feel free to email me at: jkazekewicz@salemchildcareandpreschool.com



Thank you,

Jenn Kazekewicz

Director – Salem Childcare and Preschool

“Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him.” Psalm 127:3

1360 E. LaSalle Ave.
Barron, WI 54812

Salem Lutheran



State Licensed

Assistance Accepted

Childcare and Preschool

Offering high-quality, Christian based care to the Barron Area!

NOW ENROLLING FOR OUR GRAND OPENING FALL 2021!

INFANTS | TODDLERS | PRESCHOOL | BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL
6 weeks to 11 years 11 months

Open 6 AM – 6 PM, Mon-Fri!

We offer:

- * A Christian-based environment
- * Quality caregivers
- * Two healthy snacks per day
- * A clean, safe environment
- * A 4-hour preschool core learning class for more academic readiness

* \$50.00 ENROLLMENT FEE

* \$25.00 ENROLLMENT FEE
FOR ADDITIONAL CHILDREN

ENROLLMENT EVENT

June 14-16, 2021, 9 AM – 5:30 PM
Come meet the director of Salem Lutheran Childcare and Preschool, Jenn Kazekewicz, and fill out an enrollment packet!

- * See the preschool space
- * Ask questions
- * ENROLL!

Visit us online at:

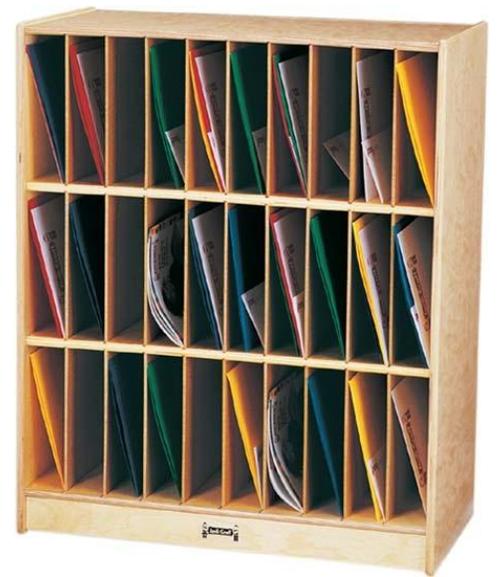
<https://sites.google.com/salemchildcareandpreschool.com/salemchildcareandpreschool>

Phone: (715) 537-3011

Email: Jenn Kazekewicz – Director

jkazekewicz@salemchildcareandpreschool.com

**Church Mailboxes are being redone.
Names may be in different spots so
check before you grab your mail.**



ATTENTION

**Wednesday, June 16th we will be having an
informational meeting about the National Youth
Gathering at 6:30 PM**

Needs List:

Catechisms \$13/book

Study Bibles \$40/book

Certificate Frames \$4/frame

Air Conditioning

Lamp for organ \$250 - \$400

Church Computers - \$600 per computer (replacing 1 every 2 years)

Faith Alive Bibles \$26/book

Additional Hymnals \$27/book

Baptism Frames \$4/frame

Convex Mirror \$50 - \$200

Music Stands \$50 - \$200

Please see the church office before ordering/purchasing any of these items. Any amount of money can be donated toward an item on the needs list.

June 1: Hunter Nelson, Marcia Elliott & Jonah Nielsen

June 2: Amelia Weise

June 5: Rita Herman & Taylor McGowan

June 6: Roxann Espeseth

June 7: Sarah Forehand

June 9: Kelly Cornelius

June 10: Nathan Duncan

June 11: Ethan Kobernick

June 12: Tim Dennis & Marlene Snyder

June 16: Benjamin Wheeler

June 18: Kaitlyn (Church) Klimek

June 21: Wyatt Weise

June 22: Brian Miller

June 25: Melissa Weinert

June 28: Elsie Splett

June 29: Hannah Millerman





June 12: Will & Kathy Schuettpelz

June 17: Steve & Marlene Amdall

June 18: Mahlon & Barb Maas

June 20: Mark & Amy Dennis

June 25: Rick & Kelly Cornelius

**June 27: Aaron & Amy Beckendorf
Fred & Linda Riebe**

How to Contact Us

Pastor Michael Nielsen – (218) 280-0999

Pastor's Email – rev.mike.nielsen@gmail.com

Office – (715) 537-3011

John Steele – (715) 769-3133

Preschool – (715) 537-3011 ext.14

Mary Ann Wheeler, Parish Musician – (715) 205-1158

Church Service Phone –1 (888) 505-1870

Church Email: salemmos@chibardun.net

Salem's New Web Page Is: <https://www.salembarron.com/>

Click on enter the following link and follow the prompts to support Salem.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-6137330>

June Greeters

6 – Will & Kathy Schuettpelz

13 – Aaron Beckendorf Family

20 – Steve Amdall Family

27 – Shirley Hehl

June Altar Guild: Nancy Koenig & Marcia Elliott

June Elders

6 – Stan

13 – Trevor

20 – Paul

27 – Josh

May/June Leaders

Carol Shearer 715-822-4375

Lucille Wood 715-637-6606

Steve & Marlene Amdall 715-637-7758

Daniel Dennis 715-637-4604

Shawn Dennis 715-205-1807

Tim & Paula Dennis 715-837-1708

Mary Oscarson 612-790-5464

Holly Johnson 715-637-2258

Sue Weise 715-837-1555

Chris & Amber Queiser 715-641-1054

Tom & Debbie Lipke 715-458-4712

Rusty & Melissa Weise 715-764-2084

Scott Queiser 715-837-1371

Melissa Miller 715-641-0263

Earl & Aimee Starck 715-637-3482

Debbie Church 715-637-4744

June Ushers

Aaron Beckendorf

Zach Beckendorf

Sam Beckendorf

Will Schuettpelz

Steve Amdall

Hunter Nelson



Coffee Schedule

6 – Chris & Jolene

13 –

20 – VBS Kick off

27 –



June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:30 am Bible Class	2	3 11 am Bible Class	4	5
6 Green 9:00 am Communion Worship 10:00 Potluck 10:30 Congregational Meeting 	7 7:00 pm Elders	8 7:30 am Bible Class 7:00pm Council	9 7pm YFM	10 11 am Bible Class	11	12
13 Green 9:00 am Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 Bible Class	14	15 7:30 am Bible Class 6:30 BOE	16 5:30pm- Food Fire Fun, bring a dish to pass	17 11 am Bible Class	18	19
20 Green 9:00 am Communion Worship 10:00 VBS Brunch 10:30 - Noon VBS Activities	21 VBS 5-5:30 pm Family Supper 5:30-7:30 pm Activities	22 7:30 am Bible Class VBS 5-5:30 pm Family Supper 5:30-7:30 pm Activities	23 VBS 5-5:30 pm Family Supper 5:30-7:30 pm Activities	24 11 am Bible Class VBS 5-5:30 pm Family Supper 5:30-7:30 pm Activities	25	26 Pastor gone-----
27 Green 9:00 am Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 Bible Class -----	28 -----	29 -----	30 -----	-----	-----	Pastor back home



Sunday, June 20st

9:00 Worship Service

10:00 Brunch

VBS Activities 10:30-Noon

Mon–Thur: June 21-24

Family Suppers 5:00-5:30

VBS Activities 5:30-7:30

Welcome to all Ages 3 – 6th Grade
Call Jolene Severt at (715) 296-0339



Salem Lutheran Church
Vacation Bible School
1360 E. LaSalle Ave., Barron

Please check Salem's website, facebook page, and email for an easy, convenient way to register your child for VBS.

Dear Salem Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about a few exciting things regarding this year's VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL. On Sunday, June 20th, there will be **SERVICE at 9:00 AM**. We are having a Congregational VBS "kick-off" which will include a provided brunch following the service, as well as activities. Any or all will join Chris Severt for fun and games outside; weather permitting.

We would also like to take the opportunity to ask for your consideration in donating items for decorating for VBS week. We are in need of:

Gazebos, monkeys, parrots, frogs, and green plants (fake), snakes, jelly jars with lids and bubble wrap.

The donated items will be inventoried and well cared for while on loan. We ask that you **clearly mark** any items you donate, with your name, and they can be placed in the VBS room downstairs. If you wish to leave them upstairs, we will be sure to get them downstairs for you.



Anyone that has an interest in volunteering during VBS, please get in contact with me. We would be thrilled to have you as part of our team!

Lastly, I want to thank you all for your continued support toward this exciting Salem outreach within our community! A very special thanks to YFM, VBS volunteers, and Congregational Members who so graciously give of their time to interact/teach/inspire/monetarily donate/share God's love with the children!

God Bless,
Jolene Severt
(715)296-0339



ANY **FOOD** OR MEDICAL ALLERGIES? OR OTHER MEDICAL CONCERNS:

CHILD'S NAME	ALLERGY

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

NAME:

HOME PHONE: _____ **CELL PHONE:** _____

RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD:

SCHEDULE FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:

MONDAY THRU WEDNESDAY JUNE 21st – 24th

5:00 – 5:30 P.M. - Provided Family Suppers

5:30 – 7:30 P.M. VBS (Music, Bible Stories, Crafts & Activities)

It would be our delight to have you all join us on **Thursday**, June 24th at **7:15 pm**, as GOD'S "MARVELOUS MONKEYS" show their songs of Rainforest adventure. We will have a closing devotion, a mission donation for Salem's new and upcoming Daycare, and closing prayer by Pastor Nielsen. Then "swing" on into the fellowship area for our SSSSuperb Sundae Social.

It is sure to be a "**Tropical**" good time!

Monday June 21st:

"FLOAT THE ARK" Cook-out: Hot dogs, brats, burgers, baked beans, chips, pickles, veggies, watermelon & S'mores Brownies

Tuesday June 22nd:

"TROPICAL" Taco Bar: Soft shells or nachos with ALL the fixings, fresh fruit, veggies & Cinnamon Cream Cheese Bars

Wednesday June 23rd:

"HEALING LEPERS" Wraps: Build a wrap your way: ham, turkey, cheeses, lettuce, tomato, onion, pickles, fruit, veggies, chips, and chocolate chip cookies.

Thursday June 24th:

"RAINFOREST EXPLORERS" Pizza Buffet: Pizzas, chips, fruit, veggies and Chocolate Chip Cookies

**ANY OTHER QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE CALL:
JOLENE SEVERT AT 715-296-0339**

Parent / Guardian Authorization and Liability Release:

I request that **SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH** enroll my child(ren)/ward, as named on the registration form as participant(s) in an activity-based Vacation Bible School sponsored by **SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**. As a condition of participating, I agree on behalf of my child(ren)/ward, as named before to the following:

Known and Unknown Risks:

I understand that Vacation Bible School program and activities are fully supervised by qualified staff whose goal it is to make every experience as safe as possible. I understand that my child(ren)/ward could accidentally incur personal injury or property damage while attending this Vacation Bible School program or activity, and I fully and willingly agree to assume all risks associated with these activities on behalf of my child(ren)/ward.

Medical Release:

I consent to first aid and emergency medical care for my child(ren) /ward and authorize, if necessary, any medical attention for treatment of injuries that my child(ren)/ward could sustain while participating in this program.

I give permission for SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH to provide transportation or arrange for transportation for Emergency Medical Services, if needed, for my child(ren)/ward for medical care.

Publicity Release:

I agree to allow the use of my child(ren)'s/ward's photos, quotes, and / or likenesses in brochures, ads, web pages, video tapes and other media as deemed useful by Salem Lutheran Church for marketing purposes. I waive rights to any royalty or fees that might be applicable for the use of such images, quotes, or likenesses.

Name of parent / guardian (please print) _____

Signature of parent / guardian _____

Date _____

I Believe, Confirmation Reflection Essay – By Wyatt Weise

Over my entire life, I have had the opportunity to learn more about God, faith and church during confirmation”. As students, we have been given the assignment to reflect on our faith. I have belief statements that are personal and are supported by life experiences. Personally, my believe statements are learned by my own physical differences, family directed faith, and coming through bad times that God can make good.

I believe that God exists and is the creator of the universe. I believe that God exists because i have been taught this during Sunday school, church sermons, and confirmation. This is information that we can find in the Bible. I know that God exists because he tells us this at the very beginning of the Bible. According to Genesis 1:1-2, “in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters”.” It is also stated that in Colossians 1:16, “for by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in the earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers. All things were created by him and for him”.”I also read that God created the universe in Psalm 90:1-2 which states “ Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God “. I believe what is written in the Bible. I believe that what the Bible states is true. In science class, I do not have to agree with evolution. I will continue to recognize what God states in the Bible. I will continue to believe that God created the world and all that is in it.

I believe that the Holy Spirit works in my life. I believe that the Holy Spirit works in my life because my faith has gotten stronger over the years. I continue to go to church and Sunday school. The Holy Spirit supporting faith can be seen by versus in the Bible. John 16:13 states, “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things are to come”. John is telling us that the Holy Spirit will guide us with truth and this is coming from God’s authority. John also tells us we receive the Holy Spirit from God. This is stated in John 20:22, “And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, receive the Holy Spirit”. This tells us that the Holy Spirit is given to us by God, not by our own will. The Holy Spirit is at work in my life

when I continue to go to church, I go to confirmation, and I go to Sunday school. I know the Holy Spirit is giving me faith to continue to learn about God's Word.

I believe that Jesus was the Christ, and he suffered for my sins and redeemed me. I can read about Jesus as my Savior in the book of John as well. John 3:16 states "for God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life". God sent his only Son as a sacrifice for my sins, and if I believe this, I am saved. The Apostle Paul writes about Jesus as my Savior through his death and resurrection in 1 Corinthians. First Corinthians 15:3-4 state, "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures". In this passage, Paul wanted the Corinthians to know the importance of the gospel, which is the good news, that Jesus died on the cross to pay for my sins. My life experience to show that Jesus died on the cross is when I fully believe in professing my faith through praying the Lord's Prayer and the Apostle's Creed. I believe that God loved me so much that He gave me Jesus, who lived and died for me to take away my sins.

I believe that sometimes life is hard and perseverance will get you through. Personally, I have faced many challenges in my life due to physical limitations. Little or fine-motor tasks can be very difficult for me to complete, but I know if I keep trying I will figure out a way to overcome these obstacles. I then thought of Jesus when he was in the desert and was tempted by Satan. Mark 1:12-13 addresses the temptation of Jesus, "The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals and the angels were ministering him". At this time, Jesus was tempted three times by Satan. Jesus did not give up and take Satan's promises. He continued with God's plan for him instead. Mark 2:1-12 tells the story of a paralytic man who was so persistent, he had four men carry him into a home to see Jesus. "And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and they had made an opening they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay". This tells us that the paralyzed man, who must have faced many obstacles in life, did not give up. He had people lower him into a home to hopefully be healed by Jesus. "And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, Son your sins are forgiven". Jesus knew the obstacles the paralytic overcame to get there, and he saw his faith, and

his faith made him well. My personal life experience with perseverance is overcoming physical obstacles and learning how to adapt to situations. I do not have the same number of fingers as most people. I have to learn how to use all of my body parts to get a task done. Sometimes I feel like I am slower than I would like to be, I feel like it can be hard to keep up with my peers. I have learned to use adaptive tools and assistive devices to help with tasks that need to be done. Some examples of this include specially tailored lineman (football) gloves, a forward pistol-grip on a firearm, and lock laces for my shoes. Even though it may take extra time or tools, I know that if I keep going or keep trying, I will be able to complete the job well done. I can use the above examples from the Bible to motivate me to keep going.

I believe that family has influenced who I am and what I believe. I am in confirmation today because my family has taken me to church almost every Sunday and demonstrated Christian love in my home. The verse of Proverbs 22:6 states “train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it”. This verse was important to me because it stated how important it is for parents to teach their children about faith and ways of God. When the child learns about God early in life, it will hopefully stay with them their whole life. I was also able to relate to the verse from Ephesians 6:1-4. This verse states “Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land. Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord”. This shows that both parents and children have a role in living in God’s word. Children are to obey their parents, and parents need to bring their children up in a loving Christ-centered home. Parents need to love and instruct their children. My life example with these verses is in my own home. I have a mom and dad who have a Christ-centered love for each other and us, their children. My mom and dad put church first on Sunday mornings, and they provide a safe home for me, food, and encourage me to have good education at school. My parents have shown what it means to have Christ at the center of my life for love and care.

In conclusion, these examples I have listed with supporting verses show that I am stronger in my faith with God. I have grown in my faith and actions for the Lord. I feel I am ready to be confirmed and be a member of Salem Lutheran church.

I Believe Essay By Alex Millerman

My reflection is about my faith and how I believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and how they fit in my life.

What I believe about God the Father is that God is the creator of our world. He has made me and all creatures. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support my body and life. He defends me against all danger and protects me from evil. (meaning of the 1st article)

What I believe about Jesus is that he died on the cross and rose again on the first Easter to take away our sin. And that Jesus was placed here to grant people faith in God. I believe that the Holy Spirit is who guides me in my life and through troubles and tells us what to do and not to do. The Holy Spirit was given to me in my baptism which Christ instituted in Matthew 28:19

I believe that the Holy Spirit works in my life because he tells me what to do and what to not to do. The Holy Spirit is what guides me to do the right things and helps me tell others about Jesus. I believe that Jesus was Christ and he suffered for our sins and I believe that because when I go to confirmation we talk about how Christ/Jesus died and rose again to give us eternal life. Mark 15: 21-16:8

I know that my family has influenced who I am and what I believe. I believe that if I did not have my parents who bring me to church right now I might not go to church or even believe in God and that Christ died and rose again for my sins. My family influences me in their actions too. Proverbs 22:6

I believe that God can make things out of a bad situation into good. Because of this pandemic families have grown closer to God and together in their households. Genesis 50:20. In the bible this is a time when God turns bad into good. Joseph was sold into slavery and he became a powerful leader in Egypt and was able to save his family. Also, when Jesus died on the cross and then he saved me from my sins. Mark 15: 21-16:8

My life has changed because of these things because I would not be baptized and my baptism is what brought me into God's kingdom. If my family did not believe in Jesus Christ and that he died for our sins I

would not have the hope of eternal life. I'm grateful that I am able to go to church and that I can learn more about him and tell others about my faith in Christ.

I am Kailynn Duncan, and for my confirmation essay I chose these belief statements because they all make the most sense in my life. Along with these belief statements, I am providing two bible verses and life examples that fit well with each.

I believe that God exists and is the creator of the universe.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the Earth.

Hebrews 3:4 For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.

God made me and everything that I see. Therefore, I have a house to live in, clothing to wear, and everything that I need to sustain a healthy life. The first article says that God takes care of everything that he created. What God does for us is a great gift.

I believe that the Holy Spirit works in my life.

Romans 15:13 The God of hope fills you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:26 But the helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

An example that fits in my life is that the Holy Spirit brought me to the gospel through baptism and keeps me there. There are people in this world that have chosen to follow the devil's path and are making poor choices. I am a sinner and sometimes I do the wrong things, but with the help of the Holy Spirit, I won't be as easily distracted by the temptations here on Earth.

I believe that Jesus is the Christ and He suffered for my sins and redeemed me.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

One example in my life is that I know I am not perfect and that I am going to make mistakes. I know that Jesus died on the cross, suffered for me, and was resurrected so I could be with Him for all eternity.

I believe faith is the most important thing I have.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

One important example from my life is that throughout the years of learning church teachings through worship, VBS, youth group, Sunday school, and confirmation, I have grown in faith and I

believe that Jesus lived and died for our sins. I have also had many examples in my life of people in our church that have shown me what Christ-like faith means to them.

I believe my family has influenced who I am and what I believe.

Exodus 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

In my life, I know that since birth, my parents understood the importance of Christ in my life. They taught me at home and brought me to church so that I can gain a solid foundation of faith in God. My extended family and church family have supported and led me so that I may continue to live a life in Christ and for that, I thank them.

I believe a relationship with Jesus helps me find my way through life.

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

John 6:40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

My last life example is that I know that life is not going to be easy and there will be temptations. Whenever I stumble, Christ forgives and continues to strengthen my faith. This is why I need to stay close to Jesus so I do not lose faith, and I will use his guidance and teachings to get me through life.

Because of my various life experiences, I believe that I have a solid foundation to be able to continue to live in the knowledge of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

Faith Statement by Owen Metz

I believe God exists and is the creator of the universe because God's created it by an orderly fashion and plan. God made everything in the universe, He made man the most important part of His creation because He breathe the breath of life into Adam.

Genesis 1:26 let us make man in our own image after our likeness and let them have Dominion over the fish of the sea over the birds of the heavens an over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth

Genesis 2:7 then the Lord God formed the man of the dust from the ground and breathed in into his nostrils the breath of life and the man became a living creature

I believe the Holy Spirit works in my life the Holy Spirit guides us through life and brings us to faith in Jesus Christ and the gifts he gives me to keep me in truth faith

John 15:26 but when the helper comes whom I will send to you from the father the spirit of truth who proceeds from the father he will bear witness about me

Genesis 1:2 the earth was without form and void and darkness was over the face of the deep and the spirit of God was hovering over the face of the water

First Corinthians 12:3 therefore I want you to understand that no one speaks in the spirit of God ever says Jesus is accursed and no one can say Jesus is lord except by the holy spirit

I believe that Jesus was the Christ and he suffered for my sins and through his death and resurrection he has bought us back from our sin and has given us the gift of eternal life because he rose on Easter morn

Acts 10:40-41 God raised him on the third day and made him to appear not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses who ate and drink with him after he rose from the dead

Romans 5:10 for if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his son much more now that we are reconciled shall we be saved by his life

John 14:19 because I live, you also will live

I believe God is love and much, much more because he created mankind in his own image and made them the Crown of his creation and loved mankind so much that he sent his son to save us from the power of devil, our sin and our flesh

John 3:16 for God so love the world that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life

Romans 13:9-10 for the commandments you shall not commit adultery you shall not commit murder you shall not steal you shall not covet and any other commandments are summed up in this word you shall love your neighbor as yourself love does no wrong to a neighbor therefore love is the fulfilling of the law

I believe a sense of humor is one of God's greatest gifts because laughter can bring happiness and joy in difficult times and it can also help to relieve stress.

Proverbs 14:13 Even in laughter the heart may ache and joy may end in grief

Genesis 21:6 Sarah said God has brought me laughter and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.

Psalms 126:2 our mouths were filled with laughter our tongues with songs of joy then it was set among the nations the Lord has done great things for them

I live my faith by reading God's word and respecting God word. I need to treat people like I want to be treated, with respect, kindness and patience.

Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God.

2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith not by sight.

I believe that faith in God can change anybody's life for the better because when a person has faith in God, that person wants to repent of their sin and turn away from the sinful things that they do. Over time that person's life will improve if they stay the course.

Romans 8:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

My name is Maddie Severt. Since my birth, I have been raised in a Christian home. My parents are strong in faith and have been role models for me in my Christian walk. My parents taught me mealtime and bedtime prayers, they take me to church most Sundays, I have grown up attending Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, youth group events and

Bible devotions, and have given me opportunities to serve the church in other ways. They have shown me that they are sinful and need forgiveness. They have shown me how faith and prayer has gotten us through some rough days, and they show me love. I have paid attention to friends that have a different upbringing. I appreciate these opportunities that influence my beliefs.

I believe that God is the God of the bible and the creator of the whole world. "For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything." Hebrews 3:4. "But I am the Lord your God from the land of Egypt; you know no God but me, and besides me there is no Savior." Hosea 13:4

I believe that Christ is the one and only, lamb of God, Emmanuel, our Savior that died on the cross for us because he loves us, he is the Son of God. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" John 3:16 "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." 1 Galatians 3: 26-29

I believe the Holy Spirit is the Lord and giver of life and that the Holy Spirit works in my life. "Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38.

I believe because he makes prayers effective, "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." Mark 11:24. Speaks to our hearts and gives us hope. He also helps me fight against forces of darkness. I remember when I was little one time when I prayed for my mom when she was sick, and a couple days later she was getting better. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13.

They are all three in one. God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are in my life every day, whether it be in my activities in the church or in the world. Like the time when I was asked to go to a friend's house on Wednesday, but I had confirmation and Lenten worship afterwards, so I said no and went to church. Even though I cannot see them I know they are there because I believe.

I believe that my family has influenced who I am and what I believe. I believe this because I know many families that do not take their kids to church. They don't know better and have never been taken to church when they were kids or even now. And that is why I am blessed to have parents that are strong in faith and that take me to church. I know the church is a big part of who I am and what I believe. "God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his son, Jesus Christ our Lord." 1 Corinthians 1:9. "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." Colossians 3:15.

I believe that God exists and is the creator of the universe. I believe and know this because when I walk out, I can see the light, the trees, the lakes, rivers, oceans, animals, insects, everything that God created. I also believe this because in the first two chapters of Genesis talk about God creating the whole world. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." Genesis 1: 1-2. "Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy because he recessed from all the work that he had done." Genesis 2:3

I believe God can make good things out of bad. Like when my great grandpa died it was a very sad time, but I know that he is in a better place now with God. or when my cousin committed suicide, it was a very tough time for everyone but just like my great grandpa, he is in a better place. "The Lord will rescue me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen." 2 Timothy 4:18. "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good." Genesis 50:20.

I believe in living my faith. I believe this because if you do not grow your faith then your faith will start to wither away. I know that my faith has grown a lot in the past years with attending church and confirmation class. I am looking forward to growing my faith in the future. "For we live by faith, not by sight." Hebrews 11:1. "But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind." James 1:6.

These beliefs have changed my life in so many ways. I know that God is with me and will always be with me when I am feeling down and even happy, he is with me always. This is how I intend to live my life. If I didn't have God in

my life, I don't know what I would do without him there to guide me and help me. It is because of my faith that my life has purpose, and without it I don't know where I would be.