
CONFIRMATION CLASS

FAITH STATEMENTS

2026



**Bonhomme
Presbyterian Church**

Love God, Love People,
and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ

VADA BESS



MY VERSE - ACTS 17:27-28

God did this so that they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far away from any one of us. For in Him we live and move and have our being.

My faith goals at the beginning of the year included:

- Be bold in my faith, to trust God in the good and bad.
- To spread the Gospel, bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- Love others like Jesus and center my life around Him.

What I've learned this year in confirmation:

- The Gospel can be spread in many ways, and through how I treat others.
- I've learned my relationship with Jesus is personal, and I am closest to Him when I talk to Him, look to Him, not to the world.
- I've learned how to depend on Jesus.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

My name is Vada Bess, and I'm here to share my faith statement. I have had a much easier life than many people in so many ways, and I am forever grateful for that and all God has given me. Despite the wonderful people and blessings He put in my life, there have been plenty of moments throughout my life where I've wondered if I even matter or who I am, and I think over time, I've realized God is the solution to all of that. Fourth grade was a time in my life when it felt like things were beginning to fall apart after being stable for so long. I started to lose who I was, wondered what I was doing wrong, and even at one point considered taking my own life. Everything seemed much bigger to me than it actually was back then, and that factor began to determine the feelings I faced each day. Both fourth and fifth grade brought many changes in my life, from friendships, feelings, and even my identity. I never wished (and still don't wish) anything bad on these people because in the long run, they are the same people who have caused me to know Christ and realize that everybody has their own struggles and flaws, myself included.

Throughout the course of Middle School, I have also dealt with confusing friendships and issues that, in the process, have continued to confuse me about who I am. I've never felt like I fully fit in or have found "my people" yet, but throughout the course of middle school and my life in general, God has made me realize life isn't about fitting in. I've always had test anxiety and been a huge perfectionist, so having God in my life has also made me realize it's not about the grade on the test, the number of friends I have, or if everybody I know likes me. At the end of the day, it's about surrendering my life to God and knowing I don't have to feel those pressures when I spend time with the people He has already given me that love me for ME.



Ever since fourth grade, I have always tried to fit in, please those around me, and live up to standards that I couldn't keep. In reality, these were limiting me from seeing the beauty in my life that I can now confidently say I have experienced. I know there are people in my school/life who still don't like me and others who do, but that doesn't matter to me anymore because I know that God always loves me for who I am. Understanding this is what has allowed me to find my spark again, along with who I am. God has shown me healing, love, and grace, and I don't think I'll ever be able to fully put it into words, so the most I can do is show the love He shows/has shown me to those around me every day.

One of my favorite verses is Acts 17:27-28, "God did this so that they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far away from any one of us. 'For in Him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' This verse has stood out to me because it reminds me that God loves me for who I am, how God never moves away from me and is never far either, and how knowing Him means loving others like He would, which has helped me grow in my relationship with Him. I also want to say how grateful I am for the ways God has changed me drastically and all the ministry He has given me, because without all that I wouldn't be where I am now. My relationship with God is still a work in progress, but I've found that despite how helpful the people, church services, and ministry are, I'm closer to God when I spend one-on-one time with Him. Getting to know God has been hard, and it's never been easy seeing people around me get to know Christ and talk about all these wonderful experiences/feelings, and wonder what I'm doing wrong. I've had to learn that getting to know Him is a personal thing; It's not about what those around you do, it's about what works for you and whether that's worship songs, reading your Bible, or simply just praying at the end of the day. God just wants to know you, not the simplified or normalized version of you.

As I grow more in my faith, I plan on serving at Bonhomme by continuing to attend church service, participating in a Bible Study (whether that's at school, with family, or somewhere else), reading my Bible on my own, and making time for God every day. Making time for God is important to me because I find that I grow distant from Him when I don't, and I think doing these things will help me achieve that purpose. I'm still farther from God than I want to be, and I'm still so far from being perfect, but I'm working on my relationship with Him day-by-day and learning to accept that has been important to me. Sometimes life moves too fast for you to keep up with it, so it's very crucial to learn to enjoy the present you're in right now through all the chaos. I've found that when you do that, you begin to see the beauty in the life God has already given you.

I am excited to be baptized in Modern Service on Confirmation Sunday.

OLIVIA BLACK



MY VERSE - ROMANS 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

At the beginning of the year, my faith goals were:

- *To treat everyone with kindness, even my enemies.*
- *To memorize scripture more.*
- *To compliment someone every day.*

What I've learned this year in confirmation:

- *I've enjoyed learning about my church.*
- *I've learned about the ECO Presbyterian faith.*
- *How I am part of the church and can serve Him in the church with my spiritual gifts.*
- *I've enjoyed learning about other Christian denominations and beliefs, and that has helped me understand my beliefs.*

STATEMENT OF FAITH

When I was 10 years old, after attending the Easter Egg hunt at Bonhomme, I asked my Dad if I could be baptized. I knew at this age I believed Jesus was my Savior and wanted to be his follower. I was baptized on July 17, 2022, at Bonhomme Presbyterian Church by Pastor Robby Cella. I am thankful my parents raised me in the church. I have been a Christian ever since I can remember, and for a long time, I just felt like I was going through the motions. But then I started going to Route 66, and I started to understand the Bible more. Then I switched schools, which was really hard at first, but after a while, I realized that it had been for the best.

One of the verses that really stuck out to me, which was mentioned at Kirk Day School, was Romans 8: 38-39, declares that absolutely nothing can separate believers from God's love found in Jesus Christ. "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord". It made me realize that nothing can take me away from God's love, and no matter how much I think I'm not good enough, God will always love me. What has also helped me is realizing that my grades don't define who I am, and they don't define my worth.

Something I love about our church is the worship services, which help me feel connected with God, and I feel like I don't have to wear a mask. Another thing I love about our church is how we're all united in Christ; no matter what race, everyone is welcome. Also, I feel like our church family has a really good way of making people feel loved and cared for. How Jesus has impacted my life is that I take comfort in the fact that he has a plan for me.

OLIVIA BLACK



Bible study at my school has also really grown my walk with Christ because it has taught me about spiritual contentment and how to deal with suffering. I have also learned that I need to love others the way Jesus loved us. Confirmation has helped me because I know I am saved, so I can have a relationship with God, because I can never be good enough. Finally, I want to serve the church by helping out with the preschoolers and maybe going on a mission trip at some point.

KATIE BRANDENBURG



MY VERSE - 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.

At the beginning of the year, my faith goals for this year were to:

- Speak up about Jesus, not be afraid to talk about Him a lot.
- Don't be afraid to invite people to church.
- Read the Bible more.

What I've learned this year in confirmation:

- God is real, and I've learned how Jesus views other people and the world.
- The New Testament was in the Roman Empire era, which makes the Bible seem more real.
- God made everyone in His image, which is why we need to love everyone as ourselves, even if they are different.
- I've learned to trust God when I doubt. I am forgiven and loved no matter what.
- To study my Bible, pray, serve my church family at Bonhomme Church, and follow God's word every day of my life.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

I've always known that God was real, He knows me, and He'll always love me. I've only recently truly believed this, though. I've grown up in this church, and I've known most of the people here since I was little. My parents have brought me to church since I was born, and though it wasn't always Bonhomme, it has been as long as I can remember. They've helped me through various situations in my life when I needed their support or guidance. My friends have played a large part in growing my faith, since most of my closest friends are Christian and go to this church. Every time I see them, I remember how blessed I am to have such amazing friends who help me grow closer to God. The event that's most substantially helped to grow my faith was Camp Generate, both times I've gone. Being in a room full of Christian teenagers who are all there to praise God together is the most surreal thing I've experienced, and it's one of my favorite things I've ever been so lucky to be a part of. Even after Generate finished, and I was back at home, I could feel that God was still with me. All the great things about Generate may not have come home with me, but God always did. Generate encouraged me to read my bible every night and pray to God whenever I can; subsequently, I feel closer and closer to God every day.

Despite all the blessings in my life, I obviously still doubt some things. I'll think about how ridiculous the concept of a greater being is, much less one who will love me no matter what. I often think that Heaven is an odd notion, and wonder if it's really just a nice concept, brought about only because humans can't accept that they'll simply cease to exist one day, and Heaven is just an idea to give one a sense of control. Not to mention all these bad things happen to good people, yet we believe there's still a loving God? When I have these doubts, I often think of my favorite Bible Verse, 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."

KATIE BRANDENBURG



I know that God has always loved me, and always will love me, even if it's difficult to believe so much of the time. I know that God has a plan for me, and He won't fail me. I'd like to pursue God's plan, but obviously, I'll have to figure out what He wants for me first. For now, I know He wants me to continue growing in Bonhomme church; I'll go to youth groups and Bible studies. I also know that I should invite my other friends to church, even if they aren't Christians. I'll keep studying my Bible, praying, serving my church family, and following God's word every day of my life. Even when I doubt if God's there, I know that He is, and He'll help me. Ultimately, I know that Jesus is real because I know the difference between me with Him and me without Him. I am excited to be baptized on Confirmation Sunday in the Traditional Service by sprinkling.

KATE COVINGTON



MY VERSE - ROMANS 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, But the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

My faith goals at the beginning of the year were to:

- Read my Bible more
- Make friends at Church
- Attend church more frequently

What I learned this year in confirmation:

- I've learned to dig deeper into my faith through Bible study.
- I've learned who God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are and the role they play in my life.
- I've grown much closer to God and love Him with all my heart.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe that God is my Savior and that He walks with me through every challenge I face in life. No matter what challenges come my way, I know that he is always right by my side, guiding me and supporting me through it all. God is the Father and the creator of everything on earth, and his power is greater than anything in the world. He created both the good and the struggles that shape people into who they are today. I believe that God created the beautiful earth and the highest heaven. I feel that he calls me to share his name and spread his words to live out my faith. God is the reason I am where I am today. He continues to guide me, help me grow stronger, and help me become the best version of myself possible. To me, God is the greatest hero and the creator of the universe.

Jesus is the Son of God, and I believe he once lived on earth among us. He gave his life on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven, showing the greatest act of love and sacrifice for all people. I believe that when we truly repent, we will be forgiven, and he is always there to listen, when we turn to him. I know that Jesus hears me when I pray, whether it's at night when I'm alone in my room, or right before a big test he is always there listening to everything I have to say. I find comfort in knowing that he is always there when I need him. I am thankful to be a true follower of him.

To me being a Christian and going to church is more than just attending, it is about growing closer to God and sharing his love with others. I believe that Christians should talk to others about God and share what he has done for us. I have seen people and heard people say that they don't believe and when people spread love and kindness to them instead of hating them, the outcome is so much more beautiful.

I was baptized in May, 2012 by my parents and am thankful they raised me in the church, taught me about Jesus, and encouraged me to be part of the Confirmation class. This year in confirmation, I have really enjoyed showing up and being a part of the lessons and feeling included by those around me. I have learned so much about God and even other religions that I didn't know before that are so cool. It has been very interesting to learn the things that he has done for me that I did not realize before. I also enjoyed making gifts for people during Christmas and helping the elders donate gifts to people in need. This helped me realize how important it is to spread love and help care for those in need, all while staying connected in faith.



God created every person on this earth to be unique in their own way. I believe that is important because we should never try to change ourselves to fit in because God took his time making everybody beautiful. He is the reason we see beauty all around us. Through my confirmation journey, I have met so many people and learned so much about God and I believe I have grown so much closer to him. The bible helped me be able to understand who God is and the role he plays in our lives, and all that he has done for us. It has completely guided my faith and has helped me see so many things from a much better perspective.

Confirmation has helped me become closer with God and his journey. It has helped me to stay in his faith and dig deeper into mine. I started my faith journey because my parents decided to baptize me when I was a baby. Being confirmed is important because now I can make my own decisions in my faith. I love how in these past few months I have learned so many new fun, and interesting facts about God. It has made me become closer to God. I cherish and love God with all my heart.

CHARLOTTE ERKERT



MY VERSE - ROMANS 10:9

Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

At the beginning of the year, my faith goals were to:

- Try to be the best version of me.
- Greet someone with a high five.
- Be nice to everyone.

What I've learned this year in confirmation:

- Jesus forgives all my sins, and the Holy Spirit will always be there for me.
- He has a path in life for me!
- I've learned to pray more regularly.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

After I have been through confirmation, I have realized that Jesus has always had an impact on my life. He has helped me pray for small things in life and big things in life. He has helped me through rough times and delightful times. Jesus will always impact my life and always be there for me.

People know me as a Christian when I say, "I'm going to church today," or "Can I help pray for you?" It shows my kindness towards others and being there for my friends.

Whenever I was younger, I would love to go to a traditional church, and I still do. I loved listening to the hymns and the reflecting light from the stained-glass window. It would always remind me of the Holy Spirit being there with me. One example of the Holy Spirit being present with me is when I was asleep, I was wondering about my softball coaches and what gender their baby would be since they were keeping it a secret to everyone, including them. Then all of a sudden, I saw a light and heard a voice saying, "It will be a baby girl," which I knew God's presence was with me, and a few months later, they had a healthy baby girl named Laney. She is adorable!

As a child I never really learned and knew God but I would go to church. Now that I am in confirmation I know a lot more about my faith, as well as about other religious faiths.

I think my mother has helped me grow within the church and has helped me answer the questions I've had. I'm so grateful to have such a wonderful mother to guide me through confirmation. Also, I would like to acknowledge my confirmation leader Julie Logan for helping me through this whole process and also helping with any other questions.

One Bible verse that is special to me is Romans 10:9. It reminds me to always believe in Jesus and how God will help us, as well as show us the road that we should take in life.

In a few years from now, I could see God helping me decide which college I should go to and which career path I should take for the rest of my life. I believe that God's road is always the right road to take in life. He will take us out of a ditch that we are stuck in and help us get back up on our feet. I also believe that he will help me in softball during high school and finding the right people for me!



I want to help the community and show my faith by working with kids in the summer at VBS. I would like to do a Bible study at my school, also once I'm able to drive, I would love to come to church more often since it will open a window for me to use my passion and personality towards me going to church.

I would also like to say I would love to be baptized this year and grow in my faith, I know that I have sinned so, with that I would like to be baptized as it will give me a sense of guidance throughout my life and help me acknowledge that we all have sinned, but in the end we are forgiven by our one true Savior, Jesus Christ. I would like to be baptized in Traditional Service by sprinkling on Confirmation Sunday.

PAYTON FISCHER



MY VERSE - JOSHUA 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

What I've learned in confirmation this year:

- I enjoyed learning proofs of the Resurrection (like he appeared to 500) to show Jesus is the Messiah!
- The Holy Spirit lives in me to guide, lead, and comfort me through my life.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe God is the Father and Creator. I always knew the Lord was real and that Jesus died for my sins, but Confirmation has taught me more about what it's like to be a Christian. That Jesus is the only way to be saved and go to heaven. I enjoyed learning about other people's religions. It is interesting because I have not heard of some of them or understood what they were about or believed in.

I was baptized at Bonhomme Church on May 13, 2012. I don't remember being baptized but glad my parents did it when I was a baby, so I knew as I grew up, I would have a church family. I used to pray on and off, but within the last year, as I learned and got to know more about my relationship with Jesus, I started feeling better and praying more. Over time, I have come to see how praying makes me feel good.

I will grow in my faith by continuing to pray regularly. I believe praying connects me with Jesus and I like talking to Him. I also enjoy listening to Christian music and going forward will listen to it more because it always puts me in a good mood. I want to continue going to church and want to try to prioritize it more because I feel closer to God when I do. I feel safe there. I would like to continue volunteering with VBS and working with the kids in the church.

LUKE HOLUBOWSKI



MY VERSES - COLOSSIANS 3:13 & 1 PETER 3:9

Don't be angry with each other, but forgive each other. If you feel someone has wronged you, forgive them. Forgive others because the Lord forgave you.

Don't do wrong to anyone to pay them back for doing wrong to you. Or don't insult anyone to pay them back for insulting you. But ask God to bless them. Do this because you yourselves were chosen to receive a blessing.

My faith goals at the beginning of the year were to:

- Grow stronger in my faith.
- Help poor people.
- Learn about other faiths.

What I've learned in confirmation this year:

- I learned what it means to follow Jesus in everyday life.
- I've learned to pray and how important prayer is.
- I've learned to trust God with my life in good times and hard times.
- I learned a lot from my mentor's faith journey.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe that God has a special plan for my life and that He loves me more than I can fully understand. I know that I am created by Him, and that He made me to be kind, to care for others, and to use the gifts He has given me. I try to show that kindness every day in how I treat my family, my friends, and my teammates.

I see God working in my life through the sports I play. Whether it's basketball, football, or baseball, I know He is with me in every game and practice. He gives me strength, confidence, and the ability to keep going even when things are hard. Playing sports has taught me to work hard, be a good teammate, and stay positive. I believe the talents I have are gifts from God, and I want to use them in a way that honors Him.

My baptism is important to me because it will show that I will be part of God's family for the rest of my life. God chose me and claimed me as His own. As I grow older, I want to continue to grow into that promise and make my faith my own.

Over the next year, I plan to grow in my faith by praying more often, learning more about God, and trusting Him in both the good times and the difficult moments. I want to continue becoming the person God created me to be, someone who is kind, strong in faith, and willing to follow Him in everything I do.

I would like to be baptized in the Traditional service by sprinkling as a sign that I have received Jesus as my Lord and Savior.

HANNAH MCDONALD



MY VERSE - ROMANS 6:23

For the wages of sin are death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen.

My faith goals at the beginning of the year were to:

- *Let God be in control.*
- *Love my neighbor as I love myself.*
- *Talk more about God to people.*

What I've learned in confirmation this year:

- *I enjoyed learning about other religions, and now I have insight into what others believe in the world.*
- *It caused me to think deeper about why I believe in Jesus and am a Christian.*
- *I enjoyed learning about my Presbyterian faith, my community, and what I believe.*
- *Jesus will always love me, no matter what. He is Omnipotent and Ever Present. This changed my view of Jesus, God, the Holy Spirit, and myself.*

STATEMENT OF FAITH

“What is my relationship with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit?” Well, 3 years ago, I couldn't have even answered this question. I am thankful my parents had me baptized and raised me in church. Even though I was baptized as an infant in late December 2012, it wasn't until June of 2024 that I gave my life to Christ and fully surrendered to Him. Now, 2 years later, I can confidently give an answer to the question above. In 5th grade, sin had taken hold of me. I fell into bad habits, bad language, and bad mindsets.

Throughout my 2023 school year, I didn't think about God or how much he really did help me through that time. I had always believed in God and went to church with my family. It wasn't until the GENERATE church camp that I truly felt the presence of the Lord. It was the last night (day 4) of Generate. The last night tends to be the most emotional and heartwarming night. Towards the end of the sermon, they would invite people to the altar to give their lives to God. I vaguely remember being in a prayer. I was pouring my heart out to God and asking for forgiveness. When a young girl came up to me and said, “You look like you need to be prayed for.” Little did I know how much this prayer would change my life. She listed exactly what I was struggling with and how I needed God. I felt his presence throughout the duration of the prayer; He told me what I was doing wrong and how I could fix it. It was truly a feeling that I cannot describe. I could tell that He was working through me that night, and so when the leader began to call up people to the altar, I found my feet leading me towards the front of the stage.

There, I had friends of all kinds, church leaders, and volunteers praying over me and helping to calm me down. Ever since that night at church camp, I haven't been a “perfect” human, but I can say that I have fully begun to trust God with my problems. I am now actively serving in church and go up to 4 times a week. I love volunteering, and the way it makes me feel. Going to church has changed my life for the better. I truly can't believe that I'm sitting here today writing about my experience with Him.



As I continue to serve, there is always one verse that sticks out to me, which is Romans 6:23, which reads, "For the wages of sin are death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen." This verse gives me peace knowing that Jesus paid the ultimate sacrifice for me, so I don't have to. Knowing that God sent his one and only son to die for me gives me a lot of peace and happiness in my heart. I hope that when I grow older and go to high school, I can help tell others that God truly is amazing and help others grow closer to God. Confirmation not only shows me more about my faith but also allows me to become a member at the church I've gone to for my entire life.

My faith is the most important part of who I am. I not only want my close friends and family to see God work through me, but also everyone I come into contact with. If that means praying over people, spreading kindness, volunteering, or just being my happy, loving self, I hope that my experiences can help shape people's faith and beliefs in God. I not only stopped harsh and horrible environmental friendships that not only drew me further away from God, but also closer to sin. My friends now reflect my faith in the Lord. I would like to give a shout-out to all my friends up here with me today, for they have led me through the highest of my faith, even down to the lowest of my faith. Thank you to my parents, who have taught me that it's okay to not be perfect and truly who I am with and without God. I hope that everything that I have learned, I can offer my unconditional support to others who are struggling.

ELLIE SIMMONS



MY VERSES - PSALM 56:8 & PHILIPPIANS 4:13

You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book?

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

My faith goals for this year were:

- To spread the word.
- Pray daily and read the verse of the day daily.

What I've learned this year in confirmation:

- I learned I have assurance of salvation because I have declared with my heart and mouth that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.
- When I die, I will go to heaven, and we will praise Him for all eternity

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Before I gave my life to Jesus, my relationship with God was strained. I thought church was boring and treated it like a chore because I never wanted to go. Before this, we had moved to the UK when I was 2, and church was fun there because it wasn't really church, and was more of a Sunday school where I could daydream to my heart's content. I was baptized on January 18, 2015, at Riverside Presbyterian Church in Sterling, VA, and am thankful my parents raised me in the church.

In 2019, when we moved here, that was when church became boring. We didn't go to church long before COVID attacked America, and instead of watching the online service of Bonhomme or The Crossing, I watched my church from England's online Sunday school series. After everything had settled down here, though, we came back to the church in person.

If you asked me what my favorite verse was, I couldn't just tell you one. But the two that do stand out most among the others to me personally are Psalm 56:8 and Philippians 4:13. "Tears are prayers too, they travel to God when we cannot speak" Psalm 56:8. This is showing just how deep God's understanding of our pain and loss and sorrow for us really goes because he felt it too. Jesus felt pain and loss and sorrow as well, and feels it whenever our words cannot make it out of our mouths but through our eyes and hearts. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13. To me, this is the strongest verse in the bible. It tells and describes to us how impossible everything without God is, even something as simple as breathing. But with God, anything and everything is possible. With God, not even the sky's the limit.

For me, God is the creator of the heavens and earth who gave everything, even his own son, to save us from our sin.

For me, Jesus is the person who loves us, died for us on the cross among criminals to conquer our sin, and made the impossible possible by resurrecting after 3 days. And for me, the Holy Spirit is what is with us anywhere and everywhere and any time and all the time.



I am assured that because I have declared with my heart and with my mouth that Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior, when I die, I will go to heaven and God will be there among the rest of his children and we will praise him for all of eternity and he will love and cherish us. I trust that he loves us and one day a Savior will come and that the Bible is the biggest non-fiction book in history.

In Generate 2024-2025, I gave my life to Jesus. The pastor invited us up if we wanted to give our lives to Jesus and without another thought I stood up and came forward because to me that sounded like a really, really neat idea. From then on, my relationship with God grew and grew but the breakthrough was Generate 2025. Then, I fully understood what it meant to be a child of God.

He is my Father, the Way, the Truth and the Life, and I love Him.

PEYTON STOCKER



MY VERSE - JOHN 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him will not perish, but have eternal life.

My faith goals at the beginning of the year were:

- To memorize some of the Bible
- To have a good time in Bible study and confirmation
- Treat your siblings with kindness and pray every day.

What I've learned this year in confirmation:

- I've learned about Jesus' life before the disciples.
- About other non-Christian religions.
- How following Jesus is better than following other religions.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

I was saved when I was in the 3rd Grade. I am homeschooled and have been at least until 9th Grade.

When I started 3rd Grade, my mom bought a curriculum called ABEKA. ABEKA is a curriculum where you have to watch videos, do the worksheets, and read when said.

Every day we started with Bible class. Class started with the Pledge of Allegiance and then we prayed. I hadn't really prayed before then. I started praying every week and praising Jesus. After a few weeks, I confessed my sins and was saved.

It was good. Jesus has had a positive impact on my life. Even when bad things happen, I choose to believe it is all a part of Jesus' plan. Confirmation class is really fun and answers a bunch of questions I have about Jesus. I like having a mentor I can share things with and to get to know.

I think people would know I am a Christian because of my attitude, behavior, and I always wear a cross bracelet on my left arm. I don't think I am friends with anyone other than Christians, unless someone I know is secretly not a Christian. I would like to change the world in a way that people don't look down on reptiles.

Many people look down on snakes and lizards specifically because they are different. Some people think it is funny to kill them (specifically, one teacher in ABEKA who was cracking up because her dad accidentally illegally drove over and killed a green sea turtle).

On Wednesdays, I go to BSF at Bonhomme. BSF stands for Bible Study Fellowship. However, it is in the morning from 9:45 to 11:00. It is fun, though, and I highly recommend it.

On Thursdays, I go to HSN. No, not Home Shopping Network, Home School Network. It is a co-op thing where people who homeschool their kids can send them there one day a week on Thursdays, to learn. It is held at Charleston Presbyterian Church.

I plan to continue to grow in my faith through BSF and my homeschool curriculum. I love God and want to live a full life in his glory so I may be a better person.

AVERY TELKEN



MY VERSE - PSALM 121

I lift my eyes to the mountains - where does my help come from?

This year, my faith goals were to:

- Read the Bible more.
- To pray more.

What I've learned this year in confirmation:

- Who Jesus was by talking about what He did/does for us.
- Jesus loves me no matter what mistakes I make.
- I am a child of God.
- The Bible is the perfect Word of God, and I want to continue to dig into Scripture.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

"God that made the universe, knows me by my name, so it's a good day". These lyrics, from one of my favorite songs by Forest Frank, remind me every day that God knows me, and he knows my story, even before I do. And that is where my faith statement begins.

My parents had me baptized as a baby because they felt that starting me off with a firm foundation of faith was important. But that didn't mean I automatically accepted Jesus into my heart; I had to learn to do that in my own way. So, I went to Sunday School, church, and volunteered at VBS through the years and began to learn more about the Bible and what Jesus Christ means to me.

I'm an athlete, and sports are a very big part of my life. There was a season last year when one of my friends would pray for us before each game. I had never thought to do that before, and I truly felt God's presence on the field, knowing I was surrounded by faithful friends. This is when Philippians 4:13 started to make sense: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". This gave me comfort, knowing God was there, win or lose, FOR me.

Knowing that I always want to be involved in sports and finally understanding how my faith in the Lord contributes on and off the field, I decided to look at Westminster Christian Academy for high school. Trusting in God when things are hard really mattered here. I didn't want to leave my friends, but I felt pulled to new beginnings.

Psalm 121 says, "I lift my eyes to the mountains - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." I looked to Him, and he led me to a Christian school where I can thrive academically and athletically. I'm exactly where I need to be, and it's crazy to think God knew my story all along.