

FAITH IN MY OWN WORDS

STATEMENTS (9th GRADERS) - April 2016

Youth in Ignite Confirmation who have completed 9th grade are asked to write a statement called "Faith in My Own Words." In the fall of 2016, you'll attend the Confirmation Service. What is Confirmation? It's a day when you have the opportunity to make a public statement of your faith. Many of you were baptized as children. *(If you have not yet been baptized, contact Pastor Jon or Pastor Andy as soon as possible to schedule your baptism).* Confirmation is our opportunity to claim and affirm faith for ourselves publicly. As a part of preparing for that day, we ask you to write a "Faith in My Own Words" statement.

Here's the bottom line:

Your "Faith in My Own Words" statement expresses what faith really means to you and how faith has made an impact on your life to this point. It's about what you believe and your understanding of the Christian faith and what about the faith is meaningful to you. It should be consistent with the basic teachings of Christian faith. You have been preparing for this faith statement by attending worship over the years, coming on Wednesday nights, talking about faith with your small groups and probably family and friends. You're welcome to be in conversation with family, friends and others about this statement, but it's also important that this reflect your own work and thought. This is not a test. The point is to use this as an opportunity for meaningful, personal reflection on your faith.

In the course of writing this, please identify and include a Bible verse that you'd like to be your own Confirmation Verse. It's a verse that will be included on your Confirmation certificate and will remain a timeless reminder of this day.

You'll be asked to email it to Pastor Jon and Pastor Andy by the end of June. You'll receive a specific assignment later in the Spring.

Below are some answers to some commonly asked questions.

WHAT SHOULD I SAY IN MY STATEMENT?

Here are FIVE items we recommend you use as you write your statement. They're not mandatory, with the exception of #5*. But, especially if you're stuck, we think they'll get you on the right track. If you want to respond to these directly, one by one, that's fine. But, it's even better if you just take these into account and write more freely with your own structure. Consider them food for thought.

- 1. Identify an experience/story that's important to you from your own life that has made an impact on your faith in Christ and made faith personal for you.**
 - It could be an experience that was inspiring or even challenging at the time.
 - It might be an experience you had at a camp/retreat, a conversation you had with someone, or a moment when you came to a new awareness of faith.

- 2. Who are the key people who have made a difference in your faith up to this point?**
 - This could be just one person, or a few. Try not to simply list lots of people, but actually describe how they've made a difference.
 - People like: Splash! teachers, small group leaders, parents, grandparents, a faith leader or mentor. Identify someone specific and what they did or said.

- 3. What activities are you most drawn to that help keep you engaged in your relationship with God? Describe.**
 - How has worship helped you?
 - How have you used the Bible to learn and grow in faith?
 - How has prayer been part of your life? (tell when, how, or why)
 - Talk about something helpful you have heard in a sermon (maybe a story that one of the pastors told) OR as a part of worship, like a favorite song
 - Are you involved in ministries or groups at church beyond Confirmation?
 - Have friends been helpful for you in encouraging your faith?

4. How would you like to serve and make a difference in other people's lives going forward? Maybe you have something in mind in the year ahead. Or maybe you already have some ideas of what you'd like to do when you get older.
- Faith is not simply a set of beliefs we store away in our minds. Faith is something we actually turn to for daily living and the decisions we make every day. In faith, we're called to serve God and others throughout our lives as a joyful response to what God has given us (through our relationships, our work, participation in the community, and God's mission being carried out through church)
- *5. Identify a Bible verse that is meaningful for you that you would like as your Confirmation Bible Verse. You'll recite this verse during the service and it will be printed on your confirmation certificate.
- Example: "John 3:16 – For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BETWEEN NOW AND CONFIRMATION

Contact Info: Please keep us updated if you change your address, phone number or email address. This will help us keep you fully updated as Confirmation Sunday approaches. Contact Mary in the church office with any changes at 689-1211.

By end of June

"Faith in My Own Words" statements need to be emailed to Pastor Jon (jjp@cambridgelutheran.org) AND Pastor Andy (ajr@cambridgelutheran.org) with "Faith in My Own Words" in the subject line (send as an attachment preferably). Hard copies may be turned into the church office if they are typed as specified.

Summer: Individual conversations with Pastors

Each of you is expected to come in for a one-on-one conversation with Pastor Jon or Pastor Andy. We'll try to schedule them as you turn in your statement. We'd like to do these by the end of the summer.

August/early September: Order Gowns

You will receive notification in August on the ordering process, including details on the rehearsal and how to order photos if you'd like.

Wednesday, October 26 (6pm): Rehearsal and Group Photo

(Optional individual photos will begin at 5:30pm)

Sunday, October 30: Confirmation Day / Affirming your Baptism

The service time will be announced along with the gown mailing in August.

BEYOND

Your faith journey is not over. We encourage you to join in weekly worship, Senior High youth events and serving. Pastor Andy and Jon and Rich Holleque would like to discuss opportunities for you to stay involved going forward. We challenge you to step up and actively make a commitment to your faith and continue on your faith journey.

Below is a place for you to indicate to yourself your choices for staying involved going forward.

CHOOSE A WORSHIP SERVICE _____
(Festival or Horizon)

CHOOSE A GROUP _____
(Senior High groups: Wednesdays, Sundays, other midweek small group times)

CHOOSE A WAY TO SERVE _____
(Ex: Rich's Senior High team, Splash!, VBS, greeter, usher, tech team, etc.)