

Austin S.

In whom do you believe?

I believe that Jesus Christ, son of God yet still God himself, came down from heaven to teach us how to live a good and godly life and die for us on a cross to save us from our sins. I believe that without the divine intervention of Jesus Christ all humans deserve to die spiritually, without God. To me Jesus is my savior, my Lord and my friend who I can talk to any time and any place by praying.

In what do you believe?

I believe that God is 3 persons and one being. God the Father created the universe and cares for it even today. I believe that God the Son, Jesus Christ, was a miracle and he performed miracles as well while he was here on earth to teach about the right way to live, and that he died to take away our sins. And I believe that God the Spirit is in my heart and keeps me in my faith.

When and where do you confess these beliefs?

A good time to confess the goodness of God is all the time. No matter who is in your company you should not be afraid to confess your beliefs. And no matter what time it is God is with you and you should be with Him also and confess to anyone and everyone the truth about him. A believer who "does not believe" around a certain group of people should reconsider his / her faith.

When and where do you confess this belief?

I confess right here, right now, in my confession of faith, saying I am sinful and asking for forgiveness. I am forgiven by Jesus. I confess my faith when I say the Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed and when I am at church. Before God and Pastor, I confess that I had bad thoughts about other people. When I was baptized, my faith was confessed through by godparents because I couldn't speak for myself yet. Whenever I pray and call upon Jesus's name, in the morning when I wake up, at dinner time, when I go to bed and whenever in the day, I know that my prayers will be heard. At SHYP, I show my faith by reading, studying and discussing the Bible.

Why and how do you believe these things?

I am very blessed, because since I was a newborn my mom and dad have taken me to church almost every Sunday. I believe these things because I listen to the sermons and have attended Sunday school and Confirmation classes. Shepherd of the Hills has supported me and provided my first Bible and my Catechism, presented at my milestones. The Holy Spirit has talked through my family, including my grandparents, on both sides, my cousins, aunts and uncles and friends. Every time I go hunting, I am reminded that God created animals, mountains, forests and the plains. The Ten Commandments are the laws of God that remind me to obey Him every day.

Why do you want to become a Confirmed member of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church?

I want to become a Confirmed member of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church to listen and learn from the pastors' sermons. The entire congregation is my Lutheran family, including the oldest to the youngest and everyone in between. They know me by name and support me through the ups and downs of life. The pastors, my family, and my friends, when I ask them, will pray for me. Even though we live close to each other, I don't always get to see my cousins and grandparents, but I know I will get to see them at church. The Bible says to spend time with the church, and the church family is what I have known, and have been supported by, my whole life.

What is your Confirmation verse, and why did you choose it?

My Confirmation verse is Matthew 8:26 "He replied, 'You of little faith, why are you so afraid?' Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm." The verse speaks to me because if I have faith I will be alright. Sometimes my faith is tested but I stay true to my faith. When things are bad I know God is with me because I feel the presence of the Holy Spirit. I believe that God made me a calm person, and that the Holy Spirit worked through me one time when I was boogie boarding. I fell in and went underwater but knew God would save me. I am calm in stressful situations because of the strength and power that God gives me.