



St. John Lutheran Church

May 5, 2024

Catherine Marie Berry



Birth Date: August 13, 2008
Baptism Date: October 18, 2009
Parents: Angela & John (deceased) Berry
Sponsors: Laura Mikeworth
Jessica St. John
Confirmation Verse: Psalm 119:169-170, 17

“Let my cry come before you O Lord; give me understanding according to your word. Let my plea come before you; deliver me according to your word. Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts. I long for your salvation o’ Lord and your law is my delight. Let my soul live and praise you and let your rules help me. I have gone astray like a lost sheep.” Psalm 119:169-170,173

Tragedy can strengthen your relationship with the Lord if you let it. He will help you when you are down, and He will find you in the weirdest ways. When my dad passed, I was lost, until I was found. It relieves me so much to talk and know I'm being heard. Whenever I am upset, I know that I have someone who is with my dad, and who understands my misfortune.

Alexis Caitlyn Chambers



Birth Date: September 15, 2011
Baptism Date: August 29, 2020
Parents: Michael & Katherine Williams
David & Jackie Chambers
Sponsors: Matthew & Jennifer Walde
Confirmation Verse: Matthew 19:26

“With God all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26

The reason why I chose this verse is because hearing these words has helped me think and go through different stages of my life that I've found hard.

When I am in school and something is not right or is confusing to me, I remember I am loved greatly by God. A few years ago, I struggled with finding the right friends. I struggled with a positive image of myself along with a healthy mind set due to the things others would say about me. His love and His strength provide me with the confidence that I still carry with me

everywhere. He also gave me the courage to keep looking for new friends. Now I have friends that care for me, support me, and I know that they will always be there for me.

When I started volleyball, I was behind most of the girls on my team, except one girl who was at the same level as me. She would get easily frustrated at herself and would think about quitting. The courage that I was given from God, I shared with her. I told her that God will always believe in her, and that He will guide her through her tough times. From that moment on, she has been the most hard-working person I know.

I look forward to continuing to follow God and to be in His word. My faith in Him is getting stronger and I am learning more.

Bryson James Flack



Birth Date: August 22, 2010

Baptism Date: January 21, 2018

Parents: Christopher Flack

Amber Naffziger

Sponsors: Brad & Christine Naffziger

Confirmation Verse: Psalm 130:5

"I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits and in His word I put my hope." Psalm 130:5

I chose this verse because I believe that if I keep my faith and truth with God as my Savior, I too can join Him in heaven and have eternal life. I also believe that for however long I live there is only one God who was in the beginning and is now and will be forever. I also know that I will never be a perfect Christian for no one is perfect and no one will ever be, for we are sinners and that we sin daily. Every day I sin, and as much as I try to not sin, I know that for I am sorry for the sins that I have committed. We should also pray to God every day knowing that He could put His wrath upon us, but we are very thankful for His grace. Every day that I spend on this earth, I will be thankful that I am saved by Jesus and will always trust in Jesus Christ. For all the people who say that there are many different gods I do pray for them, but I believe that there is only one God but three different persons the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit which is the Trinity that is talked about in the Bible many times: Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Ephesians 4:4–6, 1 Peter 1:2,

and Revelation 1:4–6. I also believe the Holy Sacrament, and I will take and drink the body and blood of Christ, for I believe in the Savior of the world. I also believe in His love for me, my family, and all others around the world for He did not die just for me, He died for the believers and the non-believers, as it is shown in John 14, Romans 5, Galatians 2, and Ephesians 5. For God so loved this world that He gave His Son Jesus Christ to save us from sin and every evil, and all other things that the devil tries to force on us. May we stay strong in our faith and believe in Jesus the Son of Man now and forever, and never lose faith in Him.

Hunter William Gasvoda



Birth Date: November 28, 2010

Baptism Date: August 21, 2011

Parents: Nicole Chafey

Confirmation Verse: Proverbs 27:17-19

“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. The one who guards a fig tree will eat its fruit, and whoever protects their master will be honored. As water reflects the face, so one’s life reflects the heart.”
Proverbs 27:17-19

Over these past three years I have learned a lot about God that I never thought I would learn. Why did I choose this verse? This verse was on the back of our wrestling shirt, and it struck me because it is very true as iron sharpens iron God is saying one person should build up the other and help them. As the one who guards the fig tree will eat and enjoy it, while the other will be honored for being there to protect them. And as the water reflects your face, another's life reflects their heart.

These vows I will make. I accept the gifts God has given me through baptism, the gifts which He has forgiven me of all my sins, and the chains the devil had on me. He has also freed me from death, and I will be raised up, just as He has risen from the dead and beaten death itself. This is most certainly true. I most certainly believe in God the Father Almighty. My Maker and Creator, I will follow Him to the end of the world, and when the trumpets blow, I will be there with Him. He is the one who gave His only true Son to

forgive my sins and conquer death itself. My only true. maker of me. This is most certainly true.

I admit that the devil and all his works had a hold on me, but I renounce that he has no power over me anymore. His chains and shackles on me are gone. Jesus freed me from His doing. His temptations are still tempting me, but Jesus forgives me for all my sins he has told me to do. He will not be able to drag me to hell anymore for Jesus opened my eyes and the gates to Him and God. This is most certainly true. Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, who was born by the virgin Mary into a poor family in a stable but is still my Lord. He had 12 disciples and forgave a tax collector for his sins, and a fisherman working with the Romans for his tax debt he owed. Jesus suffered on the cross for my sin and your sin, and on the third day He rose and beat death so I will someday rise again from the dead. This is most certainly true.

Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit. Who was there during my birth who put and led me to God's humble house. Was also there with Jesus when He was baptized. He has shown me the way to God's house. This is most certainly true.

These past three years have brought me closer and taught me to love and learn about God, and when I got this chance to be confirmed I couldn't thank God enough for this gift. Before I came here, I was hanging out with people in the wrong crowd. I had never even heard of God. I had heard some things like this all-powerful God who created us but being me back then a sinful dumb kid I thought it was a part of mythology.

When I came here on the first day, I was still doubting just like Thomas did but that first day of church changed my life. I don't remember everything that happened but what I do remember is the pastor talking about Jesus. I was interested that the next day during religion class I asked a ton of questions. My faith was changed forever. This is my story of my faith. Jesus never abandoned me during that lonely road so I will say this again. Jesus died for me, was betrayed, whipped, and spat on and took away my sins. And after being crucified He stayed dead for three days before rising from the dead, beating Satan and death itself, as He continued his work. Rising into heaven, and He is sitting at the right hand of God the Father Almighty who will judge me and the living and the dead until He returns to save us. This is most certainly true.

Jordan David Holsclaw



Birth Date: September 24, 2009
Baptism Date: June 22, 2013
Parents: David & Aimee Holsclaw
Sponsors: Carl & Judy Porter
Confirmation Verse: John 5:14-15

I believe God created the heavens and the earth, and universe from complete darkness. I believe He is the ultimate creator of everything good, and He is the Beginning and the End. I believe He helps everybody in need and answers everybody's prayers. I picked John 5:14-15 as my confirmation verse *"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he will hear us -whatever we ask- we know that we have whatever we asked for."*

I picked John 5:14-15 because you could ask God for anything, and He would help you make the right choice or pick the right path. I know people who have not known God their entire life, but they prayed to Him when they were in need, and they got help. I believe anybody can do this, even people who don't know God's name.

During my confirmation, I will acknowledge the gifts which God has given me through my baptism. The gifts God gave me during baptism was the gift of eternal life and forgiveness of my sins.

I renounce the devil and all his works and ways. I believe in God the Father Almighty, and Jesus Christ His only Son. I also believe in the Holy Spirit. As a child of God this means to me that I will live my life as honestly as I can.

I know that I may be tempted to turn away from God. When this will happen though I will pray to God and ask for His forgiveness. Whenever I am in despair, I will remember this verse and pray to God. When I see others in despair or depression, I will tell them this verse and remind them God is always listening. I believe this verse will help me through any rough times I may be in or go through.

Connor David Hunt



Birth Date: November 22, 2010
Baptism Date: December 14, 2022
Parents: Justin & Allison Hunt
Confirmation Verse: Matthew 17:20

“For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain “Move from here to there” and it will move. And nothing will be impossible for you.” Matthew 17:20

I believe that God the Father has created this world and everything in it. I believe God is the Almighty Creator. I believe Jesus Christ is our Savior and has saved us from all our sins. He died for everyone on Earth to save us from sin, death, and everything evil. I believe the Holy Spirit gives us faith at Baptism and helps to take care and nurture it. I believe in the God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit because the Bible says they exist.

I chose this verse because it tells us that even a little faith is able to perform miracles. Even though we may have small faith God still answers our prayers and loves us. No matter how large or small our faith is, God will still perform miracles for us. Our faith always changes. The evolution of our faith is inevitable. Sometimes we have lots of faith in God. Other times our faith in God dwindles. God will still love us even when our faith changes.

I was baptized on December 14th, 2022, at St. John Lutheran Church. I made the decision to be baptized on my own. The Holy Spirit led me to being baptized. The rest of my friends were baptized as infants and not at 12 years old. My parents sent me to St. John so I wouldn't have to go to public school. Before I went to St. John, I believed in God, but I didn't know very much about Christianity or the Bible. I got to learn more and more about my faith at school. I started to understand more about the Bible and Christianity. I acknowledge and accept the gifts that God has given to me because of my baptism. I renounce the devil and all his works and ways. God promises eternal life when you are baptized. The Holy Spirit gave me my faith at my baptism.

I will always follow Jesus and God the Father for eternity. I will always believe in Him. God has given me many gifts and answers my prayers. God never fails to protect us, and He always keeps His promise to us. I will never

fall away from my faith in God the Father even when I die. I believe that everything said in the Bible is true.

I have chosen to be publicly confirmed because I am a child of God and I believe in God. I believe in Jesus Christ, God the Father, and the Holy Spirit. I know that I was saved when Jesus sacrificed Himself on the cross for all of us. We are all still sinful, but Jesus has promised eternal life with His sacrifice. Confirmation has taught me more and more and delved deeper into the Bible and the Small Catechism. That is my statement of faith.

Eli William Lecher



Birth Date: November 3, 2010
Baptism Date: January 2, 2011
Parents: Gregg & Stephanie Lecher
Sponsors: Robin Darby, Kathy Lecher
Confirmation Verse: Proverbs 3:5

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” Proverbs 3:5

On January 2nd, 2011, in Indianapolis, Indiana, at St John Lutheran Church and School I was baptized and became a child of God. I entered into His family and became His own. Then as I got older, I followed Him and started a close bond with Him. God tells a great message in this Bible verse, to focus on the good things in my path and future, to believe in Him, to trust in Him and thank and praise Him for being His child, and for my future in heaven.

Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice to keep us connected with God. God called me after the barrier between us was broken by His power so I could join Him in heaven. He will also be there to guide me, and He is willing to take me into heaven and lead me to a better life. God had a plan from the beginning. He would send a Savior so we could be together, so that He could walk by my side and guide me through all the ups and downs in my life. This Bible verse helps remind me of how God is always there and will always be there, in the future.

The way this makes me focus on God is that the Lord has the plans of my life to come. He knows that I will be tempted to not make the best decision for myself, which is why He is saying do not lean on your own

understanding. He tells us that we should trust what He has in store for our future. We do not have to worry and take charge of what we think is right for us, but let God lead us and keep us straight in our path, to believe in what He is trying to accomplish for us in our future.

The Holy Spirit will also work in myself and many others in the future. This Bible verse is very important to me because it has a lot of things that my family and I trust in. It all leads back to God the Holy Trinity and how He knows what we will be in our future and what we will experience in this world. It comforts me to know that I am hand in hand with God and Jesus through His crucifixion to destroy that barrier between us and God. This Bible verse is a great way of showing how Jesus is our Savior, and that God knows that we are sinners and has called us in Holy baptism, to help us in our daily lives.

I am so grateful for my family who has introduced me to Christianity. One day, when I move out of the house, my faith will be with me. God will protect me and be with me when I'm not there with my family. I love my family and am so grateful they have shared the news with me, so when we die, I will live peacefully with all the people I love and with God as well. I'm grateful for my parents who have encouraged me through God, and in things outside of church and religion or school. I'm also very thankful for them paying for the gifts I have been given by God and how they love me and want the best for me and my future. I am very grateful for my two older brothers as well, Owen and Ethan, for teaching me amazing things to help me grow in all aspects of life and giving the glory of my talents that I have learned from them back to God. I don't know what I would do without them teaching me and making me a better and stronger person every day in life, and in my faith. I love my family so much and am so thankful that they have taught me so much and will love me until the end.

We should all trust in what God has for us in the future and honor our family, so that we can live in heaven and live in His world, the way He intended it to be. God loves us and wants the best for us. Even though our faith may fail sometimes, or we may be mad at God when bad things happen, I still know that my Redeemer lives, and God still loves me. He will always be there, which is the most comforting thing to know when you are down. The Lord is with us and will keep us with Him forever. He loves each and every one of us.

Evelyn Joy Lemon



Birth Date: June 2, 2014

Baptism Date: June 8, 2014

Parents: Stan & Sara Lemon

Sponsors: Rev. Mark Buetow & Mrs. Susan Buetow

Deaconess Sarah Longmire

Confirmation Verse: John 7:38

“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” John 7:38

I chose this Bible verse because my name is Evelyn. In Hebrew, “Eve” means “living.” In Welsh, “Lyn” means lake. In this Bible verse, I like that Jesus is talking about “living water” because it reminds me of my name. It also reminds me of my baptism. I was baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. John 7:39 says that Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit, “whom those who believed in him were to receive.” That’s me. I’ve received it.

I was baptized on the eighth day of June in the year of our Lord 2014. During my Baptism the congregation said the Creed for me, but in Confirmation I say it for myself. Confirmation is also a statement of my faith. I acknowledge the gifts that God gave me in my Baptism. The Pastor asks the same questions as he did in my Baptism, but the difference is that I say the answers for myself. My parents and Godparents are no longer speaking for me.

I am Lutheran because I was baptized in a Lutheran church. I am Lutheran because I believe that in the Lord’s Supper I am eating and drinking Jesus’s body and blood. I am Lutheran because I believe Jesus’s body and blood are also still bread and wine. This is important because Jesus’s body and blood forgive my sins.

I believe that there is one God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, also known as the Trinity. The Trinity is one God but also three persons. I believe that the Nicene Creed, Apostles’ Creed, and Athanasian Creed are true. I believe that the Law and the Gospel are real. I believe that God the Son died on the cross to forgive my sins because He is “showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments,” which He says in the Close of the Commandments.

I believe everything above because I have heard and learned it in Scripture, Confirmation class, family devotions, and the Divine Service. I have been in Confirmation class for three years, studying the Bible and the Small Catechism. During family devotions every single night, my family and I sit on the couch and pray the Close of the Day prayers from the hymnal. We say a Psalm, my dad reads from the Bible, and then we practice the Small Catechism as a family. In the Divine Service at least once a week, I get to sing hymns, pray, hear Scripture, and eat and drink Jesus's body and blood. Now that I'm going to be Confirmed, rivers of living water will continue to flow out of my heart.

Anna Marie Mattes



Birth Date: October 5, 2009
Baptism Date: January 10, 2010
Parents: Bradley & Samantha Mattes
Sponsors: Doug Raker
Evie Hampton-Averhart
Confirmation Verse: Psalm 23:4

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” Psalm 23:4

God makes a promise that He will never leave my side. Whenever I read this verse, it makes me feel I am closer to God and that He will always be there. I won't know what is ahead of me in life, but He does and has the right plan for me. Even through good and bad times, God will always be by my side to comfort me. This verse means to me that He always has the right thing for me and plans my life and will walk through the dark roads to get me where I need to be. I will always know that God is with me even though I can't see Him. God will always walk with me through bad times and comfort me through good and evil. God always has a plan.

Spencer Curtis Mielke



Birth Date: March 1, 2012
Baptism Date: April 15, 2012
Parents: Matthew & Heidi Mielke
Sponsors: Spencer & Shelley Mielke
Confirmation Verse: Job 19:25

"For I know my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth." Job 19:25.

I picked this verse for two different reasons. One of them being because of my Grandpa, Curt Mielke. My Grandpa died about two years ago and he was sick for a long time. I didn't really know him when he wasn't sick, but I do remember he was faithful. I remember being at All Saints Day and this was his verse. But let's talk about the other reason. What I think this verse is saying to me is Jesus is still alive, He died and rose, and He will live eternally. The Devil may have thought he won, but thanks to Good Friday and Easter, Jesus won. Jesus will reign, and no matter what you go through, He has risen. This verse tells that I will have eternal life, not just God, but whoever believes in Him. This is what my verse means to me.

When I was born, I was just a baby to Matthew and Heidi Mielke but then on April 15th, 2012 my life changed forever. This is the day I got baptized and became a child of God. Now most people take baptism for granted, but when you get baptized, you're saved. You don't have eternal death, but you have eternal life.

Another thing that I know is the Trinity. I know God the Father is real, God the Son is real, and God the Holy Spirit is real. I know this is real because of the Bible. People can claim that they wrote the Bible but not really, it was God speaking to them. So, through my baptism, He works and speaks through me.

I plan to try and follow the Ten Commandments knowing I will fail, but He will redeem me. I plan to speak to God through prayer and worship, about my sins and repentance and I know that through Jesus, God forgives me.

Lylah Michelle Navarrete



Birth Date: January 15, 2011
Baptism Date: August 26, 2012
Parents: Fredrico & Ashley Navarrete
Sponsors: John & Alyssa McGaughey
Confirmation Verse: 1 John 4:19

“We love because He first loved us.” 1 John 4:19

My name is Lylah Michelle Navarrete and on August 26th, 2012, I was baptized at Emmaus Lutheran Church and School in Indianapolis, Indiana. I started going to St. John Lutheran in preschool. While being at St. John, I have learned more about the Word of God. My faith has grown stronger over the years that I have been here. I plan on continuing my journey through faith at St John, because this is where I look forward to learning the Word of God.

Now that I'm going through Confirmation class, I have come to understand more of the history of Christianity, what it means to be a child of God, and the importance in spreading God's Word and walking in His path. I know that by doing the right thing, always keeping God in my heart, and confessing my sins to Him I will one day live an eternal life in His kingdom.

Mrs. Garber and Mrs. Johnson taught me the Word of God and helped me to discover who God truly is. I will forever be thankful that they showed me how to live by the faith of God. I will continue to grow and learn in my faith. Throughout my years at St. John, my Christian family has grown through the Church, my classmates, the teachers, and staff that I have met. I have learned that with God by my side anything is possible. I know that when times get tough, and I feel like I need help I can always turn to God in prayer, and He will give me the strength to push myself through any obstacles in my way.

The Bible verse that I chose was 1 John 4:19, “We love because He first loved us.” I will always keep this with me! I chose this verse because it shows why I love and why I believe. I’ve learned that I need to live for God, and this verse tells me that I should love and care for God just as He does for me! I know that sometimes it can be hard to get along, but we have to remember that we are all brothers and sisters through Christ, and the reason we love is

because He loved us first. And I will forever be grateful and blessed for the sacrifice that He made for us.

I hope to always remain strong in my faith and love of God. I hope to continue to learn and spread the Word of the Scriptures as well.

John Harvey Worth



Birth Date: August 8, 2011
Baptism Date: September 4, 2011
Parents: Allen & Katherine Worth
Confirmation Verse: Romans 12:21

My name is John Worth. I was born on August 8th, 2011, to Allen and Casey Worth, and I was baptized on September 4th, 2011, here at St. John Lutheran Church. The verse I chose for my confirmation is Romans 12:21

“Be not overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

This verse is significant to me because I am human and understand how easy it is to be overcome with anger and desire for revenge. When my heart has been hurt, I find it easy to be overcome by evil. But when we return evil, we sink to evil's level which only causes an endless cycle of revenge and hatred.

This verse reminds me that healing will not come from revenge. We must instead love our enemies. Kindness and forgiveness to those who abuse us will often make them ashamed of themselves and encourage them to repent.

The vows I will take for my confirmation are significant to me in that they are my promise to God, my family, and my church of the lifelong commitment I am making to walk in faith as a child of God for the rest of my life.

As I grow and mature in my relationship with Christ, I understand this means I will be expected to be proactive in my walk with God. My desire to know the Lord is no longer driven by the demand of my parents, but rather my personal willingness to grow stronger in His Word.