

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH AND SCHOOL**

701 Washington Street  
Grafton, WI 53024  
262-377-4659

splgraffton.org

info@splgraffton.org

facebook.com/

SPLChurchGrafton

facebook.com/SPLGrafton

\*Live-streamed at:

splgraffton.org/church/

livestream &

[vimeo.com/event/3215174](https://vimeo.com/event/3215174)



**St. Paul Lutheran Church and School  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

**May 5, 2024  
Confirmation Sunday**

**WELCOME!** Welcome to all who worship with us today, especially those who have joined us as guests. Our Savior Jesus Christ comes into our presence as we gather in His name. As ever, He offers us forgiveness and peace. What a joy to be here in His church!

**Servant Leaders**

Pastor Luke Anderson

Pastor Jacob Schultz

Pastor of Care Ministry

Timothy Maschke

Pastor Emeritus Larry Prah

Pastor Emeritus John Suelflow

Pastor Emeritus Kenton Wendorf

Principal Michael Yurk

Director of Music Valerie Bremer

Director of Christian Education

Tracy Krueger

**Please silence cell phones  
during the worship service**

**Please no flash photography  
during the processional or  
the service**

**Immediately following  
Confirmation, there will  
be an opportunity to take  
pictures**



**As We Gather...** Family, friends and guests: Today is a special day in the lives of 38 students who have prepared themselves for the Rite of Confirmation during our special worship service. Today they will profess their faith in Jesus Christ and give their pledge and promise to follow Jesus, "The Way, The Truth, and The Life," for the remainder of their lives. This is not the end. This is not a graduation. Rather, it is the beginning of the next stage in the faith walk of these young men and women. It is also a time for us all to reflect on our walk of faith and how our faith can continue to grow and mature. May the Holy Spirit bless and empower these students, and all of us, to put Christ first and confess Him faithfully all of our days.

**EQUIPPING  
Every Generation  
to Live Rooted  
in JESUS**

# Service of Confirmation

## LIGHTING OF CANDLES and RINGING OF THE BELLS

**OPENING HYMN** “Voices Raised to You We Offer”  
(*The congregation stands for the Processional Hymn*)

LSB 795

## INVOCATION

Pastor: These words not only remind us of our baptism, they are the Lord’s words which proclaim His promise and presence. Therefore we are gathered;

**All: in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES *Deuteronomy 6:4–9*

Pastor: To God’s Old Testament people, Moses commanded, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

*Men: You shall teach them diligently to your children,*

*Women: and shall talk of them when you sit in your house,*

*Confirmands: and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”*

## CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: The Ten Commandments lead us to realize that we should fear, love, and trust God in every aspect of life.

**People: We confess that we have not kept any of them. The Law shows our sin. We repent and are truly sorry.**

Pastor: As we recite the Apostles’ Creed, we proclaim our unity with everyone who shares the Christian faith.

**People: We confess that we are not as united as You desire for the Church. We repent and are truly sorry.**

Pastor: When we pray the Lord’s Prayer, we put ourselves at God’s disposal, asking that His will and rule be evident in our daily living.

**People: We confess that our will and wants do not always align with God’s will. We repent and are truly sorry.**

Pastor: When we recall our Baptism, we remember that the old Adam should be drowned each day and a new man arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

**People: We confess that we, though forgiven saints, are also sinners who give in to the wiles of the devil, the voices of this world, and our own inner desires. We repent and are truly sorry.**

Pastor: When we confess our sins and receive forgiveness, the Absolution is as valid and certain as if Christ spoke the words Himself.

**People: We confess that we are by nature sinful and in need of Your mercy. We repent and are truly sorry.**

Pastor: When we receive the Sacrament of the Altar with our Lord’s body and blood, we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

**People: Lead us to a greater appreciation of Your gifts.**

Pastor: Although we are all sinful and unclean, through Holy Baptism we have been made members of the Body of Christ, the Church. Our heavenly Father daily and richly forgives all our sins. Purely by grace for Jesus’ sake, He gives us eternal life and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

**All: Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, in Holy Baptism You began Your good work in our youth, and You have blessed their instruction and training in Your Word. We implore You to guide them by Your Holy Spirit so that they will truly love and revere You, confess the faith with joy and boldness, endeavor to live according to Your commandments, and praise You as their faithful God and Lord. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ,

All: Amen.

**ANTHEM** "Jesus, Strong & Kind," Family of 2024 Confirmands

**READINGS** 1 John 5:1–8 (*Holy Bible p. 1304*); John 15:9–17 (*Holy Bible p. 1147*)

**SERMON HYMN** "Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart"

LSB 708

**SERMON** "So Close and Yet So Far," by Pastor Jacob Schultz is based on the readings.

**OFFERING** (*Offerings may be placed in collection box near exits*)

## WORDS OF BLESSING

Pastor: This day represents a milestone, not an end, to the study of God's Word and learning how to live out the Christian faith. How will these young men and women here today continue to learn about their Lord Jesus Christ? It will depend, to a great extent, on the influence and example that you, as parents and sponsors, give to them.

Parents and Sponsors, it was not long ago that you presented your child for Holy Baptism. At that time, you promised to bring your child up in a Christian home, to present opportunities to hear and study God's Word, and by your Christian example, encourage your child to grow in their Christian life and faith. They have reached a milestone of their walk today with their Confirmation, however, your responsibilities as parents and sponsors continue. You still have the responsibility and opportunity to make a positive influence in the spiritual life of your child. So I now ask you: Will you encourage your Confirmand by example and encouragement to hear and read God's Word, to attend worship regularly, and to receive the Lord's Supper faithfully? If so, say to your Confirmand these words together:

**Parents and Sponsors: We do so promise with the help of God. We love you. We support you. We pray that you, our Confirmand, have a heart that seeks to follow Jesus and remain a part of His body, the Church, until life everlasting. We too, will strive to set the example in worship and discipleship.**

## EXPLANATION OF RED STOLES

**RITE OF CONFIRMATION**

LSB 272

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION** (*see screens*)

## LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## DISTRIBUTION

*During this service, the 2024 class will be receiving communion for the first time. Family members and guests who are in attendance and who are currently members of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation are welcome to commune as well. Other relatives and guests are invited to come up for a blessing; please keep one arm over your heart as you come up for the blessing.*

*(Non-alcoholic wine (pink) is served on the inside circle of the communion tray)*

During the distribution, the congregations sings the following hymns:

"The Church's One Foundation"

LSB 644

"What is This Bread"

LSB 629

"Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone) (*see screens*)

"In Christ Alone" (*see screens*)

**DISMISSAL & POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

**BLESSING** *(Numbers 6:24–26)*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN** "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

LSB 643

*Congratulations*  
St. Paul Lutheran Church 2024 Confirmands



Photo by Matthew Warren

**2024 Confirmands** *(in alphabetical order):*

Aiden Josef Anderson, Nicholas John Arentz, Rebecca Kay Babler, Elaina Kristine Bakke, Madelaine Marie Benson, Lawton Howard Billeb, John Michael Boesch, Lillian Renee Braun, Everly Monet Brown, Paxtyn Lake Brown, Jessica Jean Collins, William Donald Dobberpuhl, Chayse Ryan Eigenberger, Aliza Johanna Emanuele, Maya Jean Ertl, Elena Elizabeth Federl, Bohdan Randall Gartman, Savannah Leigh Gartman, Gabriella Nicole Guarnero, Magdalyn Murphie Hartjes, Armella Debra Kegley, Debra Kegley, Brianna Lynn Krause, Ethan David Krueger, Konner Jackson Krueger, Keegan James Mammen, Natalie Ruth Menzl, Dashton Dean Metzger, Brodie Robert Murphy, Zachary Devin Nusberger, Ellana Carrel O'Connor, Mason Bartlett Rygg, Kinsey Cecilia Schwantes, Parker Aiden Small, Peter Andrew Stec, Isabelle Amanda Viesselmann, Piper Finley Werner, Sophie Ann Werner, Gavyn Michael Williamson

**THE FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God by the Confirmation Class of 2024.