

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!



*Rooted in grace;
bearing fruit with love.*

**St. Paul Lutheran Church and School
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
May 2, 2021—Confirmation Sunday**

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

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

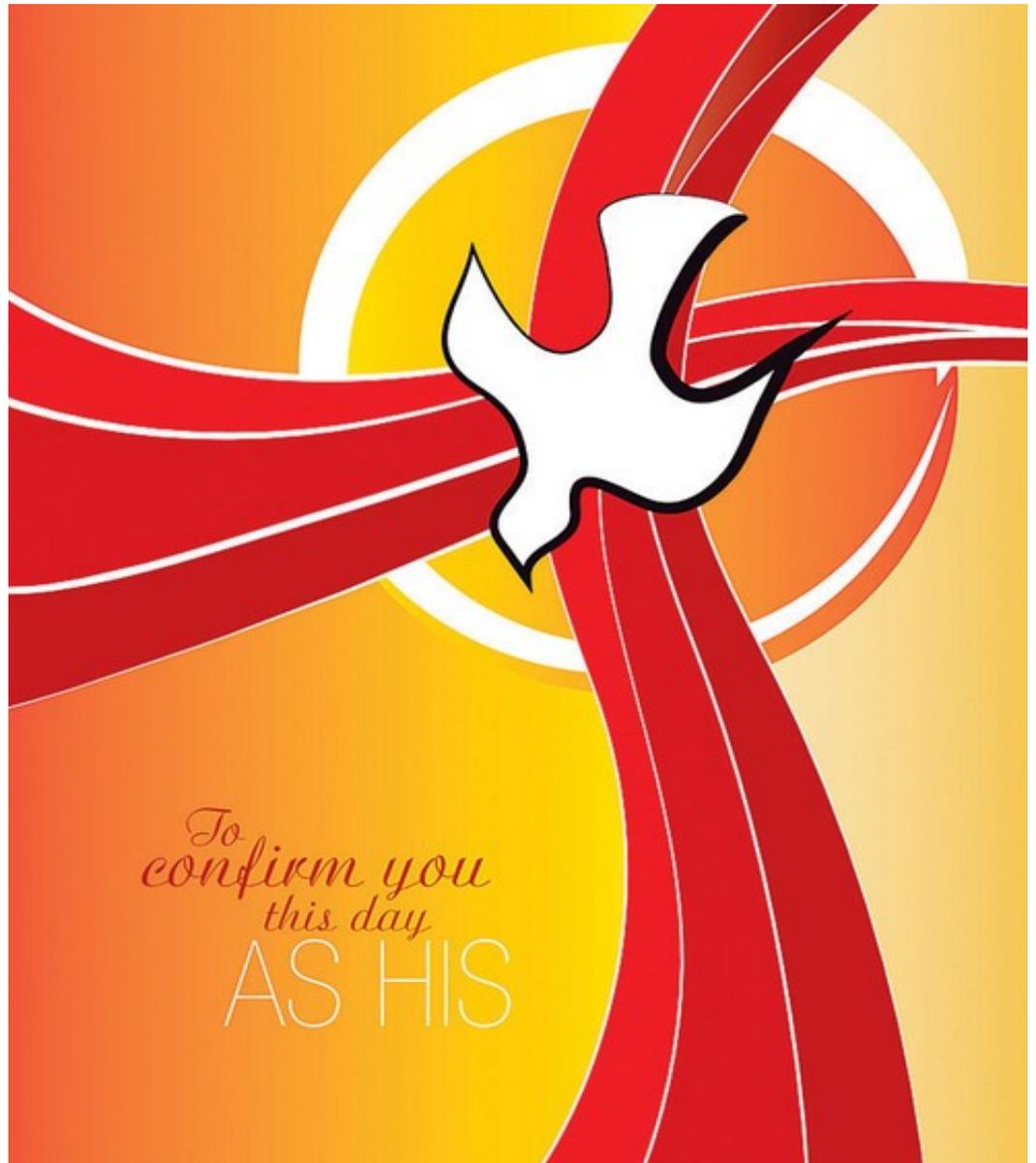
**Immediately following
Confirmation, there will
be an opportunity to take
pictures**

Servant Leaders

Senior Pastor
Scott Kruse
Associate Pastor
Luke Anderson
Associate 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
Kimberly Butz

Elders

Justin Brooks
Bob Marien



As We Gather... Family, friends and guests: Today is a special day in the lives of 21 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.

Service of Confirmation

RINGING OF BELLS

OPENING HYMN "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"
(*The congregation stands for the Processional Hymn*)

LSB 790 St. 1,3,4

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.

READINGS Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (*Holy Bible p. 219*)

John 14:6;15:1-11 (*Holy Bible p. 1146 +1147*)

SERMON HYMN "Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing"

LSB 691

SERMON "Rooted In Grace" by Pastor Kruse , based on 2 Kings 19:30 (*Holy Bible p. 415*)

³⁰ And the surviving remnant of the house of Judah shall again take root downward and bear fruit upward.

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 by Pastor Anderson

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

LSB 272

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION

During this service, the 2021 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.

(Gluten-Free wafers available. Non-alcoholic wine (pink) is served on the inside circle of the communion tray)

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

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. *(Numbers 6:24–26)*

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN “Sent Forth By God’s Blessing”

LSB 643

2021 Confirmands *(in alphabetical order):*

Ethan Alexander; Molly Biggins; Matthew Clemens; Callahan Daute; Owen Frohmader; Jaedyn Gartman; Ella Gentz; Jaidyn Herzog; Tobias Hua; Charles Lawrence; Livia Mentzel; Lola Michel; Julia Pfeiffer; Jayden Rathke; Bryan Schaefer; Paige Scheunemann; Andrew Schulz; Simeon Swiertz; Leah Viesselmann; Amelia Werner; Rachael Winker.



THE FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by the Confirmation Class of 2021.