

Faith Statement Directions

Please include the following information at the top of your one to two-page faith statement: your full name, baptismal date, sponsor/godparent names, and the congregation in which you were baptized.

First paragraph: what is your favorite/go to Bible verse? Is this a Bible verse that helps you in time of trouble? Or perhaps is one that gives you strength or motivation? Explain why you chose this verse. Next, take some time to look up faith symbols and their meanings. Is there one that speaks to you? Name that symbol and why you feel it helps represent your faith journey. Finally, what is your favorite hymn or worship song? Why is it your favorite?

Second paragraph: I believe...Who is God? Use the Apostles' Creed to answer the following questions. Please refer to your catechism.

- What do you believe about God the Father? God the Son? God the Holy Spirit?
- God the Father sent his only Son to suffer and die on the cross so that our sins might be forgiven. How do you experience that forgiveness in your own life? How do you model that forgiveness to others?
- Belief in Jesus' death and resurrection are the core pieces of our faith tradition. How would you explain this wondrous event to someone who had never heard of it or who didn't believe?

Third paragraph: What does it mean to say "I believe"?

- When we say the Creed we confess our faith in God and his saving work. When you are brought forward by your family to be baptized your family makes promises of faith, that they will teach that faith to you. Why do we do these public confessions of faith? (Answer this question through conversation with your parents. After talking about it, write your answer.)
- Where and/or when in your life have you experienced the presence of God? Has there been a moment in your family life that God's presence has felt strong?
- When you take communion (bread and wine) do you experience the presence of God in a particular way? Is there anything that you do to prepare yourself to take communion? Is there anything that you do following taking communion (like pray) or do you feel different?
- How would you define "faith"? How do you practice (physically, verbally, or spiritually express your faith) what you believe? (1-2 sentences)
- How does being a part of a faith community (a church congregation) affect how you live out your faith? Do you feel that your faith community supports you in your faith and in your life?

Fourth paragraph: What role does the Bible play in your understanding of the Christian faith?

- Grab a Bible. When you look at the table of contents what do you find in the Bible? (What sorts of stories do we read?)
- The Bible was written over thousands of years as people experienced God in their lives. How do those stories apply to us today? Is there anything that you have read in the Bible that feels like it has nothing to do with you? What about something that has spoken directly to you?

- As disciples we are called to read the Bible daily. Is this something you do? How might you make the Bible a part of your daily life? (Bible journaling, a devotion app for your phone, etc)
- What makes the Bible such a central part of our Christian faith?

Fifth paragraph: How do you follow Jesus as a disciple? How does your faith inform your service to others and sharing your faith with others in the world?

- Looking through the Gospels in the Bible, what are some examples of Jesus serving others and/or ministering to others? (Ministering meaning the healing he did, the things he said to people, and the way that he treated others.)
- Is there anything that you do in your life that is like what Jesus did? How do you serve others?
- What are some of the serving events that you have taken part in in your life? In confirmation? In an organization you are a part of? One-time events you have taken part in?
- In your post confirmation class life what are some things that you would like to do in order to demonstrate your faith to the wider world? How can you continue to be a part of the larger body of Christ?

Sixth paragraph: Why are you affirming your faith at this time in your life?

- When we are baptized our parents and sponsors make specific promises in front of a congregation of people. When you affirm your faith you will be asked to make promises, just as your parents did. In fact, confirmation is affirming (saying yes) to those promises that your parents made for you. Here is what those promises are:
 - to live among God's faithful people
 - to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper
 - to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
 - to serve all people, following the example of Jesus
 - to strive for justice and peace in all the earth
- Go through each of these points. What does each one mean to you?
- As you write about this, be realistic and honest about what your faith life will look like post confirmation. There are no right answers. Don't give answers you think people want to hear. God knows your heart. Be confident in your answers. Affirming your faith and laying out your beliefs is a big step in your faith journey, and one of which you should be very proud!

Please turn your completed faith statement into Lindsay by either turning in a printed copy to her in person or by emailing it to Lindsay@stjohnskasson.org. Due date for this faith statement is Sunday, September 1, 2018

This will have more detailed information following orientation: Confirmation interviews will be held ?). Times will vary. Please sign-up via the Sign-Up Genius link found in the email sent out. Interviews will be conducted by Lindsay, other program staff (pastors and/or Amanda), and possibly members of the church council. Students and parents are asked to attend. Student's mentors are invited to join us if they are able. Each interview slot will be open to up to 4 students. Interviews should take no more than one hour.