

St. John-St. James

Ev. Lutheran Church & School



Confirmation Service

May 1, 2021



ST. JOHN—ST. JAMES

Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

May 1, 2021 *Confirmation Day*

PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

O blessed Lord, you not only hear the promises we speak, but you also know the hearts from which they are spoken. Bless those who make promises today and enable them to keep their promises. Remind those who had made such promises of faithfulness in the past and help them to renew their zeal and dedication to fulfill their vows. Use our worship in Word and song to aid us in our walk of faith. May our lips praise you, our lives proclaim you, and our love permeate all that we do. We ask in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WELCOME

God will Guide and Protect His Own

INVOCATION

M The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C Amen.

Opening Hymn:

Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways

Christian Worship, Hymn # 462

C Verse 1 **Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways
To keep his statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace
To know and do his will!**

(Hymn continues on the next page.)

**Order my footsteps by your Word,
And make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord,
But keep my conscience clear.**

THE PUBLIC EXAMINATION OF THE CLASS OF 2021

Katie Lynn Behnke *(Doug Behnke & Sara Stecker)*

Kayla Lynn Bubolz *(Dean & Kay Bubolz)*

Kodie Alan Bubolz *(Dean & Kay Bubolz)*

Isabella Lynn Flores *(Jose Flores & Jenny & Jon Bubolz)*

Maya Suzanne Keil *(Scott & Jill Keil)*


Abigail Darlene Marohn *(Corey & Sarah Marohn)*

Megan Jean Robley *(Dave & Karie Robley)*

Gabriel David Stuebs *(Phil & Abby Stuebs)*

Frederick Paul Zimmerman IV *(Rick & Sarah Zimmerman)*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

 Dear Heavenly Father, in the waters of baptism you made us your children and at your table you offer the strengthening of our faith. Lead us along safe paths through the darkness of this world and bring us at last to our heavenly home, where you live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

 **Amen.**

THE WORD

MESSAGE

Pastor Darin D. Aden

Isaiah 41:8-13

“Walk with Your Friend through Life”



⁸ “But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, you descendants of Abraham my friend, ⁹ I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, ‘You are my servant’; I have chosen you and have not rejected you. ¹⁰ So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

¹¹ “All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish. ¹² Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them. Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all. ¹³ For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

Song of the Day:

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Christian Worship, Hymn # 411

** Verse 1  What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev’rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Ev’rything to God in prayer!**

(Hymn continues on the next page.)

G Verse 2 

**Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged-
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness-
Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

G Verse 3 

**Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge-
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
You will find a solace there.**

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION—CLASS OF 2021

VOW OF THE CONFIRMANDS

CONFIRMATION BLESSINGS

Katie Lynn Behnke (*Doug Behnke & Sara Stecker*)

PHP 4:13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Kayla Lynn Bubolz (*Dean & Kay Bubolz*)

JN 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Kodie Alan Bubolz (*Dean & Kay Bubolz*)

2 PE 3:18 "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Isabella Lynn Flores (*Jose Flores & Jenny & Jon Bubolz*)

PS 16:8 "I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken."

Maya Suzanne Keil (*Scott & Jill Keil*)

DT 31:6 "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave nor forsake you."

Abigail Darlene Marohn (*Corey & Sarah Marohn*)

PS 25:5 "Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long."

Megan Jean Robley (*Dave & Karie Robley*)

JOS 1:9 Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Gabriel David Stuebs (*Phil & Abby Stuebs*)

MT 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Frederick Paul Zimmerman IV (*Rick & Sarah Zimmerman*)

PS 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

VOW OF THE PARENTS

(parents of confirmands please stand)

M When you brought these children to be baptized, you realized that you were following the will of your Lord Jesus Christ, who said, “*Let the little children come to me.*” At the same time, you understood that your responsibilities had not ended at their baptism. You knew that the Scriptures also commanded you to “*Bring up your children in the training and instruction of the Lord.*” This you have done in your homes and by using the assistance that has been offered you by your fellow Christians at St. John-St. James. However, your Lord wants you to remember that your duties to these children are not completed at their confirmation. Rather, they continue until your role as parents is ended by death.

Therefore, I ask you: Will you continue to lead these children to appreciate the Word of God, to invite them to accompany you to the Lord’s Supper often, and to encourage them to make daily use of their Bibles in their homes? Will you carry out these duties faithfully and firmly, remembering their importance, but also with love and understanding, realizing that these young people are now passing from childhood to maturity? Will you by your words and actions, and especially by your examples, impress upon them the necessity of hearing the Word of the Lord which is that one thing needful and which cannot be taken away from them? Will you, finally, in all things point them to their priceless Treasure, their Lord Jesus, who has promised them and you a crown of righteousness in heaven?

Parents: Yes, I will, with the help of God. *(parents remain standing)*

VOW OF OTHER GUESTS

(all others please stand)

M Today you are here as a special guest of these confirmands, for whom you have been praying. You have been assisting and supporting them as friends and family and are here to celebrate the accomplishment that God has granted. Their journey is not done, thus the need for your assistance is not done. As you witness their confirmations today, will you continue to serve God's will as an encourager and supporter of these young people by reminding them of their vows they have taken today and urge them as needed to remain faithful to the Lord the rest of their lives?

Guests: Yes, I will, with the help of God. *(all remain standing)*

VOW OF ST. JOHN-ST. JAMES MEMBERS

M You have heard the testimony of faith from these confirmands, along with vows from their parents and those close to them. What is your response as the church family of which these young people join today as communicant members?

Members: We are happy to receive these young people into our midst, as confirmed brothers and sisters in the faith. We promise to assist them and their families, in all aspects of their lives, especially in their spiritual lives. We pray that God would make us good examples of faith and love, so that our lives might be an encouragement to them. *(remain standing)*

RECEPTION INTO COMMUNICANT MEMBERSHIP

(confirmands face the altar)

M In the name of our Lord Jesus and as a called servant of Christ, I welcome you, the members of the Confirmation Class of 2021, as communicant members of St. John-St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church. On behalf of your congregation, I now invite you to enjoy the privileges of adult membership, particularly the celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Accept this invitation with deep reverence and holy joy. Regard your communing at the Lord's table a precious privilege given to you by God through his church; receive this sacrament thankfully and often. The almighty and most merciful God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless and keep you. Amen.

PRAYER FOR CONFIRMANDS

M O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth and protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, so that each of us may be enabled to keep the promises made hear today and before you in the past. Grant us your blessing and care, through Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT

CONFESSION OF SINS

M Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I Pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M God our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

M In the peace of forgiveness let us praise the Lord.

C Verse 1 **♪** **By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why waver at this word of promise?
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
So then this word must true remain:
By grace you, too, shall heav'n obtain.**

(Hymn continues on the next page.)



Verse 2



**By grace God's Son, our only Savior,
Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit
That Jesus died your soul to win?
No it was grace, and grace alone,
That brought him from his heav'nly throne.**

(CW, #384)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING



Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.



Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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

M Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

DISTRIBUTION *(confirmands & those in fellowship with us may commune)*

(After our Distribution Song, we will all stand and commune together.)

OUR CLOSE FELLOWSHIP IN COMMUNION

*Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship as believers, and we proclaim his death until he returns. As we celebrate the Lord's Supper, **St. John - St. James members** are asked to register with the ushers before or after the service.*

***Guests and visitors** wishing to commune with us for the first time are asked to speak with our pastor prior to the start of the worship service. We make this request out of a love for our Savior's teaching concerning the Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 10,11), and out of love for our guests, seeking only their spiritual good and blessing. We humbly ask for your respectful cooperation. May the Lord bless each of our communicants today with peace-filled hearts and a renewed spirit to serve and love their Lord Jesus.*

DISTRIBUTION SONG

sung by Phil & Abby Stuebs

Remembrance

*I take the bread of life Broken for all my sin
Your body crucified To make me whole again*

*I will recall the cup Poured out in sacrifice
To trade this sinner's end For Your new covenant
Hallelujah I'll live my life in remembrance
Hallelujah Your promise I won't forget.*

*I'll walk salvation's road With fear and trembling
Your way borne as my own As Christ is formed in me*

*Hallelujah I'll live my life in remembrance
Hallelujah Your promise I won't forget.
If ever I should lose my way If ever I deny Your grace
Remind me of the price You paid
Hallelujah I'll live in remembrance.*

RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION *(All stand.)*

(After all those communing have received Lord's Supper, we conclude our celebration...)

M Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in the true faith unto life everlasting. Be assured, your sins are forgiven.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING PRAYER

M Father, we have come to the Lord's Supper to be reminded of our Savior's sacrifice by receiving here in true faith the evidence of it: his body once offered, now given in bread; his blood once shed, now given in wine. Send the Holy Spirit to impart joy to our hearts, strengthening to our faith and renewed life to our souls. And may he teach us to ever walk in the way of your commandments as a fitting response to the love and mercy you have shown. In Jesus' name.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING





M "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

C **"Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Amen.** *(1 Corinthians 15:58,57)*

Closing Song:

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Christian Worship, Hymn # 332

- C** Verse 1  **Go, my children, with my blessing, Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.
In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing-You are my own.**
- C** Verse 2  **Go, my children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you,
What I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
Here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.**
- C** Verse 3  **Go, my children, fed and nourished, Closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you;
Here his tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.**
- C** Verse 4  **I the Lord will bless and keep you
And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace;
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior,
Comforter, and Brother.
Go, my children; I will keep you
And give you peace.**

CONGRATULATIONS, CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2021!

OUR THANKS FOR WORSHIPING WITH US!

We consider it a privilege when friends and visitors of St. John-St. James Lutheran Church and School join us for worship of the Savior. If you currently have a church home to call your own...thank you for taking time away to be with us today! If you are searching for a church home to meet your spiritual needs, please know that we would appreciate the opportunity to speak with you about any questions you have regarding our family of faith. We hope you feel welcome. If this is your first visit with us, we pray that it will not be your last! God be with you until we meet again!

THE PRAYER OF A CONFIRMAND

(And all of us who made vows at our confirmation)

Dear God,

Today is a great day. I know you are present with us today in your Word, in your sacrament, and in my heart. I know you are with me, holding my hand, keeping me from falling. I know you will be with me tomorrow, and the next day, and far into my future. On the day I was born, we embarked on a journey, you and I, one that will last a lifetime. We've hit potholes, roadblocks, construction, and detours, but in your grace, you've used all of that to draw me closer and make me stronger in my relationship with you.

You've enlisted others along the way. You've given me so much to believe in and so many who encourage me. Because of you, I have received a strong faith, a loving family, and a wonderful community of supporters who have watched and guided me as I developed into who I am.

I realize, at this turning point in my faith, one thing—that I want you in my life. I need you in my life. I know our journey will never end, as long as we continue on it together. Help me remain faithful to you always. Amen.