

Confirmation Faith Statement



The righteous shall live by faith.

Habakkuk 2:4

Since all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, they are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Jesus Christ.

Romans 3:23-24

Calvary Lutheran Church
Confirmation

Name _____

The promises given to you at baptism have been studied and defined throughout confirmation and now it is your chance to say:

“Yes, I believe those promises and they belong to me!”

The following activities are meant to help you formulate your faith statement...your **“I BELIEVE”** statement.

Jeremiah 31:21 is a verse that guided **Dag Hammarskjold** in his life of faith and the inspiration of this verse moved him to write a book titled **Markings** which today is a spiritual classic.

Dag Hammarskjold was Secretary General of the United Nations in the late 1950's and early 60's. He died in a plane crash on his way to Rhodesia to negotiate a ceasefire between the United Nations and Katanga forces. Hammarskjold was a peacemaker throughout the world in his tenure at the United Nations. In his book Markings, Hammarskjold tells of his faith-defining moment - the moment when he said 'yes' to the kingdom of God, to the way of Jesus - to God's way for him in his life.

Here's what he wrote days before his death in 1961:

FAITH STATEMENT

I don't know Who - or what - put the question, I don't know when it was put. I don't even remember answering. But at some moment I did answer "Yes" to Someone - or Something - and from that hour I was certain that existence is meaningful and that, therefore, my life, in self-surrender, had a goal.

From that moment I have known what it means "not to look back," and "to take no thought for the morrow."

Led by the Ariadne's thread of my answer through the labyrinth of Life, I came to a time and place where I realized that the Way leads to a triumph which is a catastrophe, and to a catastrophe which is a triumph, that the price for committing one's life would be reproach, and that the only elevation possible to man lies in the depths of humiliation. After that, the word "courage" lost its meaning, since nothing could be taken from me.

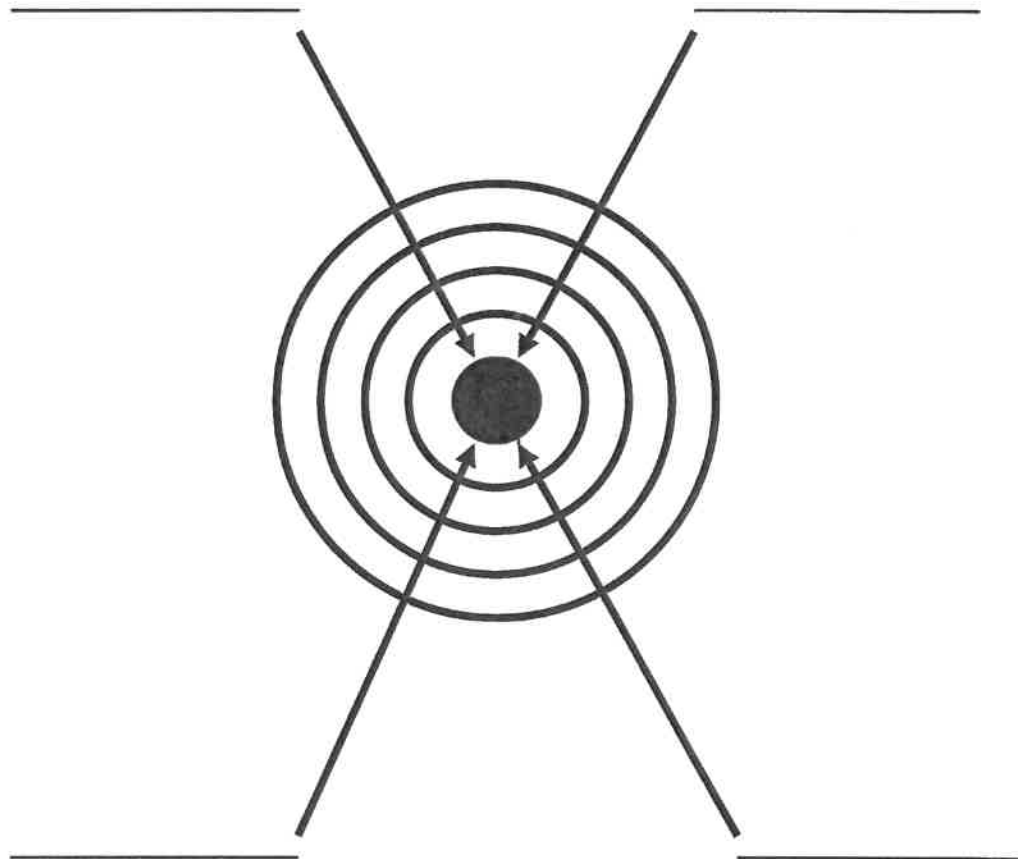
As I continued along the Way, I learned, step by step, word by word, that behind every saying in the Gospels stands one man and one man's experience. Also behind the prayer that the cup might pass from him and his promise to drink it. Also behind each of the words from the Cross.

The Core of Being

Formulating our Faith

Core Belief

Core Scripture



Core Value

**Core
Relationship**

Core Beliefs

Core beliefs are “Core” because they are the *center of a belief system*. The Core beliefs of a person hold all the other beliefs in the system of a person together. Core beliefs identify us and guide us in our living.

I am a child of God

I am created in the image of God

I am created beautiful, capable and loveable

I am loved

I am loved by God

I am loved by my family

I am loved by my peers

I belong to God

I am forgiven

I am accepted

I am redeemed

I am wonderfully made

I am valuable

I can do it

I am gifted

I am a jewel in God’s crown

I am important

I am blessed by God

I am talented

I am of great worth

I am saved by grace – the unconditional love of Jesus

I am precious in God’s sight

I am filled with God’s spirit

I am sacred

Core Scripture

Core scriptures help us define our beliefs and values and are guideposts for living a Christian life.

Genesis 1:27-28a So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them: male and female he created them. God blessed them.

Psalms 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Psalms 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Jeremiah 31:3 The Lord said: I have loved you with an everlasting love: therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Romans 12:9-13 Let love be genuine: hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Ephesians 5:1-2b God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us.

Mark 12:30-31 Jesus said: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.

John 15:12 Jesus said: This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Core Values

Core values are essential guiding principles that impact how we think and act.

Mercy	Integrity
Service	Responsibility
Giving	Caring
Love	Confidence
Patience	Empathy
Goodness	Sharing
Peace	Cooperation
Kindness	Accountability
Self-control	Conservation
Gentleness	Forgiveness
Courage	Giving
Friendship	Respect
Wisdom	Purpose
Justice	Truthfulness
Honesty	Compassion
Tolerance	Equality
Imagination	Integrity
Fairness	Creativity
Citizenship	Assertiveness
Self-discipline	Honor
Sincerity	Loyalty
Humor	Restraint

Core Relationships

Core relationships shape and mold, influence and inform our beliefs and values.

God – Creator – Jesus – Holy Spirit

Parents

Grandparents

Uncles

Aunts

Cousins

Teachers

Coaches

Confirmation Guides

Pastors

Peers

Mentors

Scout Leaders

Biblical characters

Biblical writers

Local, state and national Leaders

Authors

Icons: in sports, music, movies, TV shows

ACTIVITY I

What is this?

Look carefully at the **Second Article of the Apostles' Creed**: "I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again..."

To this Luther adds: "I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also true human being, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me..."

1. Discuss the difference between knowing something scientifically, and knowing something by believing it.
2. What are some of the things we can't see, and yet we believe in them?
3. How do we come to believe something?

Journal Notes Write a response for each of the following:

1. I believe that being active in my faith community helps me to...
2. I believe that receiving Holy Communion helps me to...

3. I believe that sharing my talents and financial resources in the work of God is important because...

4. I believe that it's important to be confirmed because it shows that...

5. I believe that God has given me the ability to...

6. I believe that in the future God want me to...

7. I believe that doubts and questions about faith help us to...

8. I believe that for me to grow in my faith, I need to...

9. I believe that God wants to help me...

10. This is my prayer for the future: Dear God, help me to...

Talk and Listen

When you have finished writing, take turns talking about each of your responses.

ACTIVITY II Scripture Talk

Discuss John 3:16

Jesus said:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life."

1. I believe that for me to be successful in life, I need to...

2. I believe that when I'm old, I'll be able to look back on my life and say...

3. I believe that one of the biggest problems facing the church today is...

4. I believe that one of the biggest problems facing the world today is...

Talk and Listen

When you have finished writing, take turns talking about each of your responses.

ACTIVITY III Scripture Talk

Our beliefs are like directional signs that guide us down the road of life. They remind us of who we are, what's important to us, and where we want to go with our lives. To be confirmed in the faith is to recognize that our Christian beliefs are among the most important road signs that guide our lives.

We're old enough now to believe for ourselves the faith that washed over us at our baptism. May God continue to confirm within you the beliefs that, like directional signs, guide your life to deeper faith, hope and love.

Journal Notes Try to write a personal belief statement for each of the following.

1. For me, to **"believe" something** means that I...
2. **Creation of the world:** I believe...
3. **Love of God:** I believe...
4. **Presence of Jesus Christ in your life:** I believe....
5. **The Holy Spirit:** I believe...
6. **Sin and evil:** I believe...
7. **Forgiveness:** I believe...



8. **Prayer:** I believe...

9. **Baptism:** I believe...

10. **The Bible:** I believe...

11. **Life after death:** I believe...



12. **Suffering:** I believe...

13. **Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection:** I believe...

14. **I find it hard to believe that...**



15. **My purpose on earth:** I believe...

ACTIVITY V

Writing your Faith Statement

Work individually on your Faith Statements, utilizing ideas from the previous activities or formulating new thoughts. There is no right or wrong answer nor is there a minimum word requirement. This is YOUR faith statement!

Here is an example to get you going:

A Faith Statement based on Psalm 95

As I read this Psalm, I am struck by the thought that these words should be planted in everyone's heart and spoken from our mouths each time we enter the sanctuary on Sunday morning – if not every day.

If we came to really worship the Rock of our Salvation, to worship with thanksgiving, to make a joyful noise to the God who is the King of all gods, the one who created the sea and the dry land – the one who is our shepherd; if we came to worship with this mindset rather than to just do the “church thing”, would we not be very different people every other day of our life?

I don't know what it is to worship and bow down to kneel before the Lord our Maker. I don't know the power behind that. All I know is how to do sermon notes and be told to go to church by parents who don't go themselves. Something tells me that this is not what the writer of the Psalm was getting at.

It is my promise as I affirm my baptism to worship God as does the writer of the Psalm 95. It is my prayer that God teaches me to do this with authenticity and enthusiasm the rest of my life. This is my prayer for all people!

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