

Hi, my name is Brandy Jordan. I'm a sophomore at Eden Prairie High School. I play basketball, and I'm in orchestra. I recently started a new string instrument. I am experimenting with the bass. I have played the violin for four years, but I like the deep and rich sound of the bass more. I hope to be as good at bass in half the time. For college I plan to major in music and social work. I'm hoping for a music scholarship.

Romans 8:28 comes to mind, as I aim to work for peace and justice in the name of our God. Please bow your heads. **"We know all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."** Amen.

Please hear me as I reflect on my faith beliefs, baptism, and promises. I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe that through my Baptism I am saved by God's grace. I believe I have the gift of life as a member of God's kingdom. God has provided me life, love, and forgiveness. I shall show my gratitude in service to God's creations. That is to serve humankind.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He was crucified, died, and was buried until his resurrection. He is seated at the right hand of our God. In Jesus Christ's death, I am free from sin. In my baptism I am reborn a disciple of Jesus Christ. I say yes to loving obedience, trust, and service. Through the Holy Spirit, I am shaped into the model of Jesus.

My faith in Jesus Christ is reflected in my vocational aspiration. I believe the Holy Spirit calls for me to live out my faith as a social worker. The six core values of social work align with my five faith promises. The call for social justice and importance of human relationships align with Promise #3: I will bear Christ's light. I will spread God's love. By partnering to meet people where they are and to address their needs, all without judgement but for the most good, my actions will proclaim the greatness of God. It is the relationship between those called to serve and those that are served that leads to spiritual change, growth, and liberation. I have God's grace, and I will share his mercy and love.

Hear my prayer. Colossians 3:12 -14 **“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”**

Other core social work values are dignity and worth of the person.. These align with Promise #4 and #5. I promise to serve all people following the example of the One who laid down his life for me. I will work for peace and justice in my home, in my school, and in my world. Right now I hear the Holy Spirit calling me to the profession, but I do not know the population I will serve. I don’t know if that means work in the community, hospital, or school. All I know is I will watch for how the Holy Spirit works through me.

Hear my prayer. Matthew 7: 7-8 **“Ask, and it will be given to you; search and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks, receives, and everyone who searches finds and for everyone who knocks the door will be opened.”**

This brings me to the core values of competence and integrity. I must keep Promises #1 and 2 to achieve them. I promise to continue in the covenant God made with me in baptism, to remain in God’s family, and to ask God to help and guide me. I promise to be present in worship to hear God’s Word and share the Lord’s Supper. My faith community strengthens and restores me. When I attend church, my mom makes me go, but I always hear an important lesson. I am reminded of my goodness, and I am motivated to do good. I will stay close to my church and God’s family by staying close to my mom and baptismal sponsors. They are models to live faithfully, gently, with self-control, compassion, and helpfulness.

I close with Micah 6:8. **“...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?”** Thank you.