

Emily John

Faith Statement

Hi, my name is Emily John and I am a junior at Minnehaha Academy. I'd like to start with a short prayer today; Dear God, thank you so much for everything that you have blessed us with, and thank you for the opportunity you have given me today to share my faith journey. Please grant me the ability to speak from my heart. Amen.

For me personally, I have seen God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit work through many ways of my life. For the hardships that I have experienced throughout the years specifically, God's presence has been really shown through everything. I chose to say yes to God because I have been able to lean on Him in times of need and He has been my rock and my strength. My parents and family have not only encouraged me to come to God when I'm in need, but to thank Him in times of happiness as well.

My active faith in Jesus has impacted my life because it's given me strength and the ability to be able to talk to Him through prayer. It is very important to me because my faith in Jesus is what keeps me going every day, and what helps uplift me through tough times. Not only does my faith in Jesus help uplift me, but it also helps me realize how much Jesus has blessed my family and I. I am so grateful to have been born into a loving, Christian family, and I am also very thankful to go to a Christian school with friends who also love Jesus like me. In addition to this, my relationship with Jesus has impacted my relationships with my family and friends by helping me to cherish them deeply, and to always be thankful of the people that I have in my life. Going to a Christian based school where faith is incorporated into our every day lives has really benefited me, because the Christian environment and lifestyle that my school promotes has really helped me understand where I stand in my faith life. Through chapels, devotions, and Bible classes, I have learned more and more about what it means to be a Christian and to accept Jesus into my life. Also, in the last year or two, I have become closer to friends at my school who have prominent

relationships with Jesus as well, and we are able to have faith-based conversations easily which I enjoy.

For me personally, throughout my life, the two most hardest times that I have faced were when my maternal grandfather passed away from pancreatic cancer, and when 9 months later my paternal grandfather passed away from old age. For each of those times it felt like my whole world had changed, and I didn't have enough time to adjust to what was happening. It was especially difficult for me to process, as I went from a life with no major hardships, to two of the people that I looked up to and cared for most in my life. For both of those times, I vividly remember how hard I prayed to God, and how much comfort praying to Him brought me. Before when I hadn't experienced any loss of a close family member, I didn't actually realize how much it hurt and what people actually experienced when they said they had lost someone so close to them. When I experienced that loss for the first time, I finally understood why I had to rely on Jesus to help me get through. And through both of those losses I experienced, I really felt God's presence with me as He comforted me when I needed it most. I find it most amazing how I learned that I can see God in my life everyday, and how I don't need to question whether or not He will be there, because I know He's always there. My confirmation verse Jeremiah 29:11 had always stood out to me as my favorite verse throughout my life, but after losing both of my grandpas, I relied on it more. This verse says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you a hope and a future". I continue to recite this verse in my head when I have confronted something difficult, and it never fails to uplift me and know that I shouldn't worry about anything because whatever God has given me has a reason. *Share expression of faith with reasoning that I love calligraphy*

Now please bow your heads while I close with a prayer:

"Dear God, I want to thank you for letting me speak from my heart and for allowing me to know that you have amazing things planned out for me in my life, and

that I should always put my trust in you. Thank you for giving me the gift of faith and allowing me to say yes to you. Amen"