

The past 3 years of my confirmation experience have helped me to develop and grow my faith for many reasons. Most importantly, this has occurred through relationships. One example is the time I have spent with my small group. Being in a group has been nice because I had the opportunity to get to know some of the kids in my confirmation class really well. Though the first year was very awkward and the second year was as well (although less so), by the third year I was more comfortable and able to share more. I am grateful that my group leaders, Brad and Kris helped me gain confidence and open up with the group. This has been a nice experience overall.

My family has also influenced my faith in many ways. Since my parents were in charge of my upbringing it makes sense that they would influence my faith through my childhood and some of the values they instilled in me such as: kindness, outreach to the less fortunate, and community engagement. My parents always encouraged me to think critically about my beliefs and though it was not the only influence it is a big part of my faith.

As I have studied the Lutheran religion throughout my church upbringing, there have been things in the Bible I found confusing so it can be hard to understand. Even so, there are some key themes that I have picked up and will continue to incorporate into my life. For example, forgiveness and acceptance are great values in the christian faith. These are some of the many values that make church a positive experience. In the end, church is a nice place with nice people within it.

My faith expression is the other component of this project that I would like to describe. One of the things I enjoy most is paddling the canoe around the lake that my grandparents live on. When in this place, I have the opportunity to calm my thoughts and feel peace. I chose to 3D print a representation of this experience.

Up until now my faith experience has been informed by my church and my upbringing. Christianity promotes kindness and outreach and though as of this date I question my belief in God, I do believe in many of the values I have been taught. Matthew 7:7-8 is a verse I chose because I believe questions should always be asked to find the truth. This verse encourages me to always ask questions and keep an open mind. I interpret "ask and ye shall receive" as a call to always seek the truth and continue my journey to learn more about my faith.

-Eric Alan Anderson