

FaithBIT

Be Excellent at What Is Good

Reflection by Jacob Heinzen

My name is Jacob Heinzen, and I am 16 years old, and I am a sophomore at Eden Prairie High School.

My faith journey started just a few months into my life when I was baptized here at Immanuel Lutheran Church. I then started Sunday school at 3 years and have been part of the ILC youth including our Confirmation ministry until now.

Some of the highlights of my faith journey so far are: going on mission trips to help people in need, getting to know my Confirmation small group, and getting to express my faith through music in the Holy Commotion youth band. I also chose to be a Confirmation Student Leader, as a way to give back to God and to strengthen my faith.

One thing I picked up from attending bible camp was all the songs. This, along with my grandfather, inspired me to pick up guitar and learn some of the songs from camp. This eventually led to me playing in Holy Commotion, a church youth band that would play before every Confirmation meeting and sometimes in front of the whole congregation. Playing an instrument has helped me to express my faith more openly with others and through the joy of music.

One of the songs we frequently play is called *Romans 16:19*, and it also happens to be my Confirmation bible verse which reads, "Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I rejoice because of you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil." This verse tells us that we should be excellent at what is good in life and be innocent about what is evil.

Being excellent at what is good is being kind and respectful to others, such as holding the door for somebody or smiling at them as you walk by them on the street, or being responsible for yourself and cleaning up after you make a mess, or being conscious of what is going on around you, like standing up for someone who is being bullied.

Going forward I plan to be present in worship by continuing to play guitar in worship and staying active in our church community by being a Student Leader in my Confirmation small group. I promise to always listen to what God tells me and to stay active in my church.

