

## Faith Statement – Sadie Martin

My name is Sadie Martin and I attend Eden Prairie High school. My favorite things to do include riding horses year-round, alpine skiing in the winters, and tubing in the summers. I also love to watch movies and spend time with my friends. I'd like to start off with a prayer, if you could all bow heads and pray with me: Dear lord, thank you for giving me this opportunity to share and express my faith, and please allow me to speak from my heart. Amen.

With that, I want to start by explaining what I believe about our God. I believe that He is our rock and redeemer through the many struggles of life, and that we can find true happiness and relaxation through Him. I believe that Jesus taught us how to worship God and acted as our bridge to him, with his crucifixion purifying us in the eyes of the Lord when he died on behalf of all of our sins. For me, the Holy Spirit is something I really had to think about, and it took me a while to get a grasp on what I believe it means to me. And honestly, I think it's still subject to change in the future. But for right now, I believe that the Holy Spirit is meant to be a small voice in our souls that guides us toward God. That being said, I understand that in baptism God says yes and accepts whoever it may be as his child and connects us to the death and resurrection of his one and only son. Jesus was crucified to free God's people of their sins, and I believe that baptism is God accepting us and allowing Jesus' sacrifices to be applied to us. I believe that in my baptism God said yes to me and allowed my sins, before I even committed them, to be lifted. I choose to now return this and say yes to God because living a life with active faith has been something that I have really valued most of my life.

Living a life with active faith has introduced me to many of my best friends not only in this church but also people that attend different churches similar to Immanuel. I think that my faith has also guided me to make many great friends that are accepting and supportive and steered me away from the types of friends that aren't *really* friends. Ultimately, I think this has made my experiences in school and church much more fulfilling and enjoyable.

My faith in Christ has helped keep me grounded through many difficult times. One example of when I was younger, and I really got connected to God was when my family and I were experiencing some pretty big and influential family issues. Without my faith guiding me through it, I think that it would have had a much different effect and it would have made me a very different person from who I am today. God's Word really helped to not only connect me with my family and especially my brother, but it also acted as a sort of lifeline for when things got tough even when it didn't relate to my family.

I'd be lying if I said my parents and extended family didn't help me find and grow a lot in my faith in these especially tough times and even after times got much less tough. My Christian friends have also been a great source of comfort and resources for when I needed an extra prayer for either myself or someone that I care about. On that same topic, prayer has really helped me connect and stay connected to Jesus, and I really can't imagine my life without prayer in it. Overall, God's Word and the people in my life have helped me grow immensely in my faith through the years and they never fail to remind me of it when I start to get lost in all of life's struggles.

With that being said I'd like to share a short poem called *Footprints in the Sand*. I won't re-tell the whole story, but essentially someone dreams of themselves walking along a beach with Jesus by their side, talking to him and asking him questions. They can see the footprints of

them and Jesus in the sand from all the major events in the person's life, and they notice that in the toughest times there was only one set of footprints instead of two. So the person asks Jesus why in the toughest times he left their side, and Jesus then explained how he didn't leave them, that is when he carried them through it. Ever since I have read it it has really stuck to me and I think about it frequently in tough times when I feel myself slipping away from God, and it always helps guide me back to him.

I plan to fulfill the Confirmation Promises by largely attending church on Sundays when possible and participating in confirmation by being a student leader. With social media and texting I think it will be very easy to stay in touch with my Christian friends or get back into touch with some friends that I've grown apart from. I will pray to God and ask for the ability to help people and spread his Word in a way that isn't too forceful, but inviting; and also for the ability to serve all people and be able to follow his example to the best of my abilities. I think it's hard to say exactly how you plan to fulfill the promises until you really try to and learn what works and what does not. So, more generally, I plan to fulfill the Confirmation Promises by challenging myself to learn what can help me to do so through prayer and trial and error.

I'd like to now share my chosen bible verse, which is Isaiah 41:10 and it says, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." This verse encourages me to be brave and bold, and it gives me comfort to know that God is always with me and He will always have my back no matter what.

For my expression of Faith, I chose to use a blue ribbon that I have won from one of my horse competitions because the strength and braveness that my faith in God gives me allowed me to compete against a lot of other great riders and win. I also attached a horseshoe to the ribbon to add stability, much like the way God makes my life more stable, and just generally help suggest that it was from something related to horses.

I'd like to now end with a prayer if you would bow your heads and pray with me: Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for saying yes to me all those years ago in my baptism, and now allowing me the ability to now say yes to you. Thank you for the great gift of faith and please continue to let it shape who I am in the future. Amen.