

Hello. I am Tim Hagen, and I am a sophomore at Chaska High School. I'll begin with a short prayer. Dear God, thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my faith. I ask that you grant me the strength to speak from my heart. Amen.

I believe that God the Father is merciful, and that He has claimed me as His own. I am one of His beloved children, and He has claimed me in baptism. I choose Him because He forgives us for our sins and errors. Nobody can claim to be perfect, but He does not care if we are imperfect. If we recognize that we are imperfect and ask for forgiveness, He will welcome us with open arms.

Faith in Jesus has helped me through the hardest times in my life. Through my struggle with depression, Jesus has been there. When I needed help the most, Jesus gave it. Even at the lowest point, He helped me recover. This ties in to my chosen verse: Proverbs 16:9. "In their hearts, humans plan their way, but the Lord guides their steps." Although we may think we know where we are headed, only the Lord's guidance can truly let us follow the correct path. He guides us down the path to salvation, and out of the valleys that we can feel trapped in. This verse tells us that we are never alone, and that He will always be there to guide us.

I intend to fulfill the confirmation promises by attending worship regularly and confessing my sins. I will work for peace and justice in the world by cleaning trash off of pathways and making it clean again. I will continue to sing in the choir and participate in mission trips to spread God's light and serve others. Mission trips can be very effective in helping others. Once, when I was on a mission trip, our group was tasked with helping a food shelf categorize donations and storing them. It was a cloudy day, and the rain was about to start coming down, so we had to hurry. But once we finished putting the food in the storage area, we felt ecstatic at having helped the people in such a measurable way. Helping people can be its own reward, and one should always try to help those in need. The Lord will help us when we take such action, however we do it.

My expression of faith is this sandal, laid on a canvas with my chosen verse below. I believe this summarizes my faith statement because it shows that He can help us affect the world, but we need to take the first steps. If we trust that He will guide us in our work, we can faithfully help the world and the people in it.

Let's close in prayer. Dear God, thank you for granting me the faith to follow you, and the ability to carry out your word. Thank you for choosing me, and for giving me the chance to choose you. If not for my faith, I would never have met so many wonderful people on mission trips and at the church. In God's name we pray, Amen.