

Hello everyone, my name is William Ross. I live in Eden Prairie and so obviously, I also go to Eden Prairie Highschool. I live with my two sisters. Olivia, a junior in high school, and Sophie, who just graduated from college last June. I also live with Earl and Lisa, my dad, and mom respectively. I also live with our dog Stella and our bearded dragon Gizmo. I've been going to this church and partaking in activities for my whole life. I went to VBS every year and was a student helper too, I did the kid's church choir, and I obviously did confirmation. I love to exercise and do sports. I run for cross country and distance track and do nordic skiing. It's pretty obvious that I enjoy endurance sports. Those are just a few things that might be important for this faith statement. Now before I start, I'd like to say a prayer:

Dear God,

I really want to thank you endlessly for giving me the chance and opportunity to share my faith, maybe not to the number of people I originally would expect with COVID-19 and all, but I can share it nonetheless. I ask for you to give me the strength and ability to speak from my heart.

Amen

There are multiple things I believe about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. I mean first off and most importantly, I believe in it, that's important to state because not everyone does. I know in my heart and soul that the triune exists. I was lucky enough to grow up in a family where that idea could be supported and my faith could be grown. I believe that they are 3 bodies in one soul, working in unison to help us in life. I believe Jesus died so that we can be forgiven for our sins and still be ok. I also understand how on January 25th, 2005, God said yes to me. That was the day I was baptized and connected to the holy triune. Now I am able to be safe with Jesus and my sins can be forgiven. I chose to say yes to God so I can believe in something and have faith in something bigger. The basis that I can believe in something is really important to me. I enjoy being part of a community that can come together under one cause too.

Living and acting in my faith is and has been a huge and massive part of my life and is super important to me. I will first off talk about why living in my faith is important to me. To live in my faith to me, is doing easy acts such as prayer, going to church, going to confirmation, and other things. It also is about living with faith in God and understanding you are an important child of God. It is really important for me to think and know these things. They help me get through life, knowing I am loved and part of God. Also going to church helps to grow my faith and let me learn important lessons about God, Jesus, and The Holy Spirit. Acting in my faith to me is doing acts of God and spreading kindness to others. I do many acts through the church to help others like feed my starving children or just spreading the kindness and love of God to my friends and family.

My faith in God and Jesus has helped me through many hard times in my life. Specifically deaths in my family have really been helped with my faith in God. I have had multiple really huge deaths in my family that really heavily affected me. But I used my faith to understand that those people would be ok and are happy in heaven. I also was able to know that God was right by my side if I ever felt scared or stressed in school or just in life. I knew I could always pray and know God was listening and would support me.

I will now talk about how I intend to fulfill the Confirmation Promises. I will make sure to connect with my friends from church, and because I am in highschool I can interact at church, over text, and even at school. I will try to come to worship as much as possible and try to soak in what is told. I will spread God's love and light through being kind, and volunteering for others. I will help others if they need help and show kindness to them. I will spread justice and common sense in my community by spreading the message God would want us to spread.

The bible verse I chose for my confirmation was Isaiah 40:31. It is as follows, "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." This is important for a few reasons. One is because it has a little bit of relation to running which is awesome. Running is such a huge part of my life so when I can incorporate it into another big part of my life which is awesome. I also like the addition of the eagle part, seeing as it relates to my highschool. The message is also important to me. It tells me that if I have hope and believe in God, I will have great strength and be able to do anything. That is a good message for me. It let's me know that through all my struggles and tribulations, I can still believe in God and I will have the strength to do whatever I want. It motivates me to connect with God through prayer and going to church to better my spiritual life and other parts of my life.

So this is my Expression of Faith *Show the project*. This summarizes my Faith statement through a thing I like to do. It is supposed to be shoes in the middle of a race, so it is signifying running. It also is supposed to represent how, with the strength of God, I can get over any challenge, just like with the right support and training, I can get over any race. That relates to the portion of the Statement where I talked about how Jesus helped me with tough times in life.

Now I will finish with a prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of faith in you I was given and for the ability to say yes to you and accept you.

Amen