



Confirmation Sunday

St. James UCC

May 16, 2021

We Gather In God's Presence

Time For Gathering and Fellowship
Gathering Music
Ringing of the Bells & Prelude Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty

It Takes a Village:

Parents; Godparents; Grandparents; Aunts and Uncles; Sunday School Teachers; Church Members; Pastors; Mentors and Trusted Friends...

Introduction of the Confirmands; and Recognition of Parents and Mentors 2020-2021 Confirmands:

Emma Russart:	Tim and Amanda Russart:	Linda Lutzke
Luke Grunwald:	Todd and Stacy Grunwald:	Jon and Julie Herrmann
Owen Bramstedt:	Jason and Anna Marie Bramstedt:	Tim and Wendy Schueler
Brianna Miota:	Tim and Brenda Miota:	Brenda Schultz
Rebecca Miota:	Tim and Brenda Miota:	Sandy Perronne
Grace Schultz:	Patrick and Brenda Schultz:	Mike and Janice Marcheske
Mason Scharl:	Will and Melinda Scharl:	Bruce and Karen Mansker

Call To Worship: (please stand as you are able)

Brianna Miota

L: Dear Heavenly Father, we worship today knowing that your love is always guiding us.

P: Direct us to follow your will in your ways of life.

L: As a parent guides a child, as a shepherd guides his sheep. You will help us prosper in a world of sin and death.

P: Send us your strength so that we may flourish.

L: Help us to better understand your profound love for your children during this turbulent time.

P: Deliver us out into the world today, with your peace and reassurance.

A: Amen.

Hymn of Praise:

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

14 Binder

Opening Prayer

Loving, Heavenly Father, we come to you this hour asking for your blessing and to help us as we are gathered together, on this special day. We pray for your continued guidance, through our journeys in life, pray for the health of our families. We come to you with our strengths. Help us to inspire others to love God and love one another. *Amen.*

(Please be seated)

Presentation by the Confirmands:

Confirmation Vows:

Hear the words of Jesus: I am the vine, you are the branches. Anyone who abides in me, and I in that person, is the one who bears much fruit. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Today you will "confirm" these simple baptismal promises: that God loves you forever, that God is always for you and never against you, that with the power of the Holy Spirit you can do amazing things throughout your life, and that you are indeed called (like Jesus) to bring goodness and grace to this world.

To the confirmand:

Do you repent of your sins and wanderings from God;

Condemn evil and injustice in our communities and this world? **I do.**

Do you accept the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of Jesus Christ to become who God has made you to be? **I do.**

Do you accept Christ as your Lord and Savior, put your trust in him and promise to learn more about him, follow him, and serve others in his name? **I do.**

Do you promise, according to the grace given to you, to live a Christian life, seek to be a disciple of Christ, and remain a member of the Christian church even and especially during trial and adversity? **I do.**

Will you be an active, engaged member of St. James UCC; keeping the people of this church and community in your prayers, attending worship weekly, serving others; and supporting the ministries and missions of this church financially? **I will.**

Will you invite and welcome others into a relationship with Jesus Christ for the sake of transforming the world? **I will.**

To the congregation:

Members of the household of God, I commend Emma Russart to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase her faith. Confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.

Clarence Belitz, Consistory President:

Almighty God, who in baptism received this servant into the church, forgave her sins, and promised her eternal life, increase in her the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant her love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen her in her ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

To our newest member (all together):

May the God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit that you live in His grace and peace now and always. *Amen.*

Confirmation Prayer:

Luke Grunwald

On this confirmation Sunday, we ask you O Lord, to help us through life, light the way, and protect us from the temptation of Satan. It is our natural human's desire to do evil, but our spirit desires to do good. Make the spirit come out, not the human desire. We ask that you guide us through the rest of our journey with God. Though we are done with confirmation, our journey as a Christian has just begun. *Amen.*

The Ash Grove

Rebecca Miota (oboe) and Grace Schultz (violin)

The Word in Scripture

Ephesians 2:12-13

The Word Proclaimed

Nearer My God to Thee

Emma Russart

Pastoral Prayer / Silent Prayer

Hymn of Praise:

Here I Am, Lord

#13 Binder

The Sacrament of Holy Communion – ours is an open table for guests and visitors as well.

Opening Prayer: Lord God almighty, we magnify your holy name and give heartfelt thanks that you allowed Jesus to lay down his life for our sake, we recognize that by the virtue of Holy Communion, we are covenanted with Christ Jesus and he has borne all of our infirmities, sin, and reproach on the cross of Calvary. We pray thee that by the virtue of the Holy Communion, you will draw us nearer unto you in the name of Jesus Christ.

Our Communion Liturgy

We gather around this table today, Almighty God, to give you thanks. You claim us as your people, bathe us in forgiveness through Baptism, and draw us together into your church. You call us into your royal priesthood, a holy people, and you give us this holy meal as food for our journey.

Today these confirmands profess their faith and your presence in their journey. Today they claim your gracious love for themselves and seek to live into a deeper and mature faith. Give them your grace and peace. Now we join together to remember and experience anew the presence of the risen Christ in our midst at this table.

We give thanks for the gracious life of Jesus: teaching and healing, challenging and loving, dying and rising.

As we eat this bread and drink of this cup, pour out your Holy Spirit on us, that we may go forth to live as those claimed by you, your holy people, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with all the world this day. To God be the glory now and forever! **Amen.**

Giving of Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings:

Walking With the Master

Prayer of Dedication:

Honor the Lord with your wealth. (Proverbs 3:9a)

Grace Schultz

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for giving us these gifts and talents which help us grow closer to you. We thank you for giving us opportunities to help us grow stronger and become better people. Help your ministries grow through our gifts and offerings. *Amen.*

Hymn of Praise:

And They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love

#31 Binder

Closing Prayer

Owen Bramstedt

Lord, as we go into this day, guide us to understand you better. Help us to listen to you, despite how busy we are. This is your calling for us to touch the lives of each person we meet. Please bless the people we encounter today, and every day.

Never doubt the power God gives you.

We will continue worshiping, even through the struggles we may face.

With God's guidance we will make the most of our lives in and outside the church.

Help us to reach out to God, with open arms and new beginnings.

Help us through the journey of life and lead us in the right path.

We will continue to seek you, no matter how much we are tempted to wrong you.

As you send us forth this day, you give us a message to deliver to your people through prayer.

Lord, we are so grateful for all you have done in the lives of these young men and women. We are thankful for the ways you have led each of us into a relationship with you – deepened in our prayer time, strengthened in our study of scripture, confirmed in our fellowship with others in faith.

Let us go now in courage, in humble trust, in fervent grace to live the life you have called us to; not only as Christians but, as a body of Christ and church that is sharing Christ's message of love, grace, healing and service. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn

Trust and Obey

#33 Binder

Let us close our time of worship by praying the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And

lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

Postlude

Sing and Rejoice Greatly



Ms. Emma Russart

Scripture: "Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth, love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail, love is eternal, there are inspired messages, but they are temporary; there are gifts of speaking in weird tongues, but they will cease; there is knowledge but it will pass." (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

I selected this scripture for two reasons. The first reason is because I feel that my parents taught me to love this way. Not greedy or selfish, but kind and generous. The second reason is because I feel that if the world could know what love really is, the world could be just as God had planned, filled with love, not hatred.

My favorite part of confirmation is the friends I have made along the way. Even though I am the only confirmand from St. James, it still gave me a great opportunity to make friends during my confirmation journey.

Mr. Luke Grunwald

Scripture: "So I say to you, ask and it will be given to you. Seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you." (Luke 11:9)

I chose this scripture because it shows how easy it is to find God, all you must do is look for yourself. But if you notice, this verse is all about you doing the action. You are the one to ask, look, and knock.

My favorite memory from confirmation is when I was reading about God and learning more about the church history. I have always liked to learn about history, because it shows how things worked in the past and what mistakes we have made.

Confirmation has definitely helped me grow my faith in God. I have never felt so close to him in all my life. There are times I ask for his assistance when I would have not a year ago. Confirmation has meant much to me, as a way to learn more about God, what he has done, who he is, and who he is to me.

Mr. Owen Bramstedt

Scripture: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord." (Colossians 3:23)

I selected this scripture because I know I have big dreams. Dreams of owning lots of supercars that I can work on and hopes of getting a job that will allow me to work with all my heart. I will have to make sacrifices that will help me reach my dreams. But lastly and most importantly, I hope that God will lead me in the right direction and help me achieve my dreams.

Confirmation has helped me to grow a better relationship with my understanding of God and the church. Even though as an 8th grader, it is hard to know how confirmation has truly helped me. But I know later in life, I will appreciate more of the values of what I have learned, including when we come to church every Sunday.

Ms. Brianna Miota

Scripture: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (1 John 3:16)

I selected this scripture because it reminds me that Jesus and God love me. That even through the hard time I can count on God to help me and support me. It also reminds me that my family will always protect me, like I will protect them.

My favorite memory from Confirmation was exploring Saint. James. It was interesting to see all of the different features of the church compared to Saint Mark's. I also liked learning about the history of both churches.

Ms. Rebecca Miota

My Bible verse is Deuteronomy 4:29: "From there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find him if you search with all your heart and soul."

This means a lot to me because it reminds me that God is always with me and I will be able to find him in everything I do and everywhere I go.

My favorite memory from Confirmation was probably when we explored St. James church because I learned a lot about the history of both churches and there was a lot of uncontrollable laughing that night.

Confirmation has helped me grow my relationship with God as well as my understanding of him. I've learned more about the Bible and I have made more friends along the way as well as getting to know the other confirmands better.

Ms. Grace Schultz

The bible verse I chose is Psalm 46:5, which is as follows: "God is within her, she will not fall, God will help her at break of day."

I came across this verse while attempting to memorize the entire psalm it was in. I don't know why it stood out to me so much, but I do know what it means to me.

The 'she' mentioned by this verse is a personification of the city of God, but when I first read it the meaning began to shift, and that 'she' became myself. Now, it serves as a reminder that God is the source of my strength and power, and He is NEVER going to leave me.

My favorite memory from confirmation: When Emma led us on a tour of St. James, and we all insisted on taking detours to the attic, balcony and cemetery. We challenged each other to find the earliest date on the gravestones and ran all over the cemetery. (I guess that wasn't really very respectful of us, but I personally would not mind one little bit if some kids decided to play on my grave.)

Mr. Mason Scharl

Scripture: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37)

I chose this verse because it truly shows how important it is to love God not only with your heart but with your soul and mind. It shows me that I need to love God with more than just my heart.

My favorite memory from Confirmation is the friendships and the people I got to know. It has helped me grow not only in the sense of the church but also as a person. It was challenging because of my schedule with school, sports and confirmation. It has help me grow MUCH closer to God then I previously had been. It has helped me grow not only in the sense of the church but as a person.

Ephesians 2:12-13

..." remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ."



The Confirmation Services at both St. James and St. Mark's are being recorded and will be available to be viewed on our church YouTube channel: <http://bit.ly/stmstjucc>

Tell your family and relatives who are not able to attend.