



**Confirmation Service:
*Affirmation of Baptism***

Sunday, November 12, 2023
1:30 p.m

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
1615 N. Wauwatosa Avenue
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53213
www.StMattsLutheran.org



Congratulations and Blessings to
St. Matthew's Confirmation Class of 2023

Name of Confirmand	Parents' Names
Chase Assenheimer	Scott and Kelly Assenheimer
Jordan Bitar	Remzy and Jana Bitar
Jack Clark	Matthew and Brittani Clark
Shane Fisher	Alexandra and Travis Fisher
Will Freeborn	Joel and Gail Freeborn
Luke Grove	A.J. Grove and Sarah Lerand
Carson Herrell	Ben and Nichole Herrell
Ella Iding	Brad and Tracey Iding
Levi Atticus Kirchner	Mark and Anjeni Kirchner
Hannah Malloy	John and Constance Malloy
Connor Meier	Eric and Joy Meier
Grant Stephen Nickel	Paul and Anne-Marie Nickel
Anthony Rizzo	Todd and Kristi Rizzo
Chase Slager	Kevin and Erika Slager

Metaphors and Faith Statements for Confirmands

November 12, 2023

- Chase Assenheimer **Playing a sport:** The more you practice the stronger you get at playing and the more you know. Faith is similar to this. The more I attend church, practice my faith by praying and helping others, then my faith gets stronger.
- Jordan Bitar **Tree:** Trees can lose leaves or branches, or crack or even fall over, but down below the surface the roots are still there, still strong, and that's what my faith is... and the beauty of the roots is that they will continue to grow and even help the tree regrow.
- Jack Clark **Oxygen:** When I think of my faith I think of believing without seeing. Believing because I know that it is there even if I can't see it, just like you know oxygen is there even though you can't see it. Oxygen is something you need to live, just like you need faith.
- Shane Fisher **Small child:** Every day the child grows and moreover serves a greater purpose.
- Will Freeborn **New Substitute Teacher:** My faith is like a new substitute teacher. I know enough to teach the lesson, but I'm not old enough to truly understand it.
- Luke Grove **Question Mark:** I still have many questions... and I need to keep learning.
- Carson Herrell **Driftwood:** Just as the wood moves through the twists and turns of the water, my faith navigates life's ups and downs. It may get shaped and changed by life's challenges, but it stays strong and keeps me afloat.
- Ella Iding **The Wind:** I cannot see the wind, but I can feel it. This corresponds to my faith because I believe in a God that I cannot see and I can feel his presence.

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|---------------|---|
| Levi Kirchner | Good friend: My faith is like a good friend because my faith will always be there to help and comfort me... I have always been able to rely on my faith in God whenever I am going through a tough time. |
| Hannah Malloy | Tree: Trees grow both upward and downward, expanding out into the world, but deeply rooted and grounded. I feel this applies to my faith because it is a deeper part of me that grounds me, but also helps me explore new possibilities. |
| Connor Meier | Summer Thunderstorm: There are times when it is full and booming, and others where the rain stops, and it seems like there is nothing left. There are times of complete darkness, and times where the sun breaks through and you can see the end of the storm. |
| Grant Nickel | Best Friend: My best friend is always supportive of me. My faith carries me through hard times and good times with me through everything... I maintain my friendship by going to church, or praying. This helps keep friendship strong. |
| Anthony Rizzo | Journey: If I think of my faith as a journey I know I will get where I'm going with God's help no matter where the path goes or whether things are going good or bad. |
| Chase Slager | Compass: I can look at my faith and God, to show me where the right track is in my life. |

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*And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three;
and the greatest of these is love.
1 Corinthians 13:13*

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
1615 N. Wauwatosa Avenue
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

November 12th, 2023

1:30p.m. Confirmation Service

Affirmation of Baptism for Ninth Graders

We give thanks and celebrate with these ninth-grade confirmands as they affirm their baptisms in this special gathering to worship. Beginning in seventh grade, and throughout their lives, they have been formed and prepared in part with this day in mind. Confirmation is about much more than “graduating” to adult membership in the church; it is about a continuing journey where, with God’s help, these students understand that their life, their faith, and the promise of eternal life are all a part of God’s work in and through them as children of God.

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome

In holy baptism, God, the father, son, and spirit frees us from the forces of evil, puts our sinful self to death, gives us new birth, adopts us as children, and makes us members of the body of Christ, the church.

Our baptism sets us out on a lifelong journey that is characterized by our relationship to God, our relationship to our faith community, and our relationships in the world. Living our baptismal covenant means living a life of growth in the faith practices of discipleship.

Today, on behalf of the whole Christian church, we promise to support these young adults—our siblings in Christ—as they affirm the promises once made for them by parents and sponsors. We give thanks to God for the gift of faith that has been stirred up in them and the work of the Spirit that continues from this day forward. We welcome you to this time of worship, as we join in professing the faith we receive through God’s Holy Spirit.

Please stand as you are able.

Gathering Song

Lord, Our God, We Now Implore You

1. Lord, our God, we now im - plore You, Send Your Spir - it
 2. May they be con - tent to serve You, Ev - er in Your
 3. Take de - light to show them mer - cy, Mer - cies new each

with Your grace. Bless these youth who come be - fore You,
 king - dom live. May no e - vil ev - er swerve You
 break of day. Then, O Lord, in all Your glo - ry

Seal them in Your cho - sen race. Bless their wit - ness, bless their pro - mise,
 From the love You free - ly give. Ne - ver leave them or fore - sake them,
 Lead them in Your right - eous way. May they will to seek You on - ly,

Till they see You face to face, Till they see You face to face.
 But in mer - cy still for - give, But in mer - cy still for - give.
 Keep their hearts, O Lord, we pray, Keep their hearts, O Lord, we pray.

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Opening Confirmation Litany – *Jack Clark & Chase Slager*

Walking with Christ is a journey of faith.

We may not know where God is leading.

We may not see a clear path in front of us.

We may not understand our circumstances.

We likely won't have answers to the "why" questions.

We sometimes won't like what unfolds along the way.

Hardship, suffering, illness and loss challenge us and require great trust.

We won't always see God's hand or recognize God's voice.

Walking with Christ is a journey of faith.

Therefore, we choose to trust even in the midst of doubt or fear.

We look for evidences of God's grace and mercy.

We hope in the One whose faithfulness and love are never ending. Let us walk with Christ this day.

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day – *Anthony Rizzo*

Let us pray. Gracious God, as we gather this day to witness and celebrate the rite of confirmation, touch us all again with the grace of our baptism. Give us new lives for old, new spirits, new faith, and new commitment, in place of all that has grown tired and stale and dead in our lives. Strengthen us for our journeys, so that we may rise and go from here to meet whatever awaits us, in joy and trust. Renew in us a heart for Christ, dedication to the work of his church, and love for each other, all brothers and sisters in Christ. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Word

First Reading

1 Samuel 3:1-10 – *Connor Meier*

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Litany

Chase Assenheimer & Ella Iding

We have each been given gifts from God.

May we use them to your glory, Lord.

As the Bible says, “If the gift is prophesying,

let people use that gift in proportion to their faith.

If it is serving,

let them serve.

If it is teaching,

let them teach.

If it is contributing to the needs of others,

let them give generously.

If it is leadership,

let them govern diligently.

If it is showing mercy,

let them do it cheerfully.”

Help us, O Lord, to see what our gifts are.

And help us, O Lord, to make your gifts to us grow.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 13:9-13 – *Jordan Bitar*

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

#512 Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o - pen to the seed of your Word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un - der - stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart. Lord, let my heart be good soil.

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Gospel

Luke 24:13-27 – *Will Freeborn & Carson Herrell*

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 24th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord for you this day.
Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Gospel Message

Pastor Karen Natterstad

Affirmation of Baptism

Reflections on the Class

Gretchen Haugse

Sharing of Faith Papers

Levi Kirchner, Hannah Malloy, &
Grant Nickel

Opening Statement

Siblings in Christ, from time to time we experience a new beginning in our faith journey, when the Holy Spirit breaks into our lives to inspire us, to lead us, and to deepen our commitment to Christ. Today, we praise the Lord for what has been happening in these young adult lives.

Presentation of the Class

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of *their* baptism.

[I present _____ who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.]

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

Profession of Faith

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting.**

Affirmation in the Presence of the Assembly

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
 to live among God's faithful people,
 to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
 to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
 to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
 and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Please be seated.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

*[Stir up in **name** the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**]*

Congregational Blessing

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

Please stand as you are able.

Prayers of Intercession

Confident in God's steadfast love through Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their needs.

...Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Teach us to pray, O God, and grant to all for whom we pray the good gifts that you have promised, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Now we are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

The peace of the Lord be with you this day.

And also with you.

Thanksgiving

Please be seated.

Offering Hymn

#574 Here I Am, Lord



1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



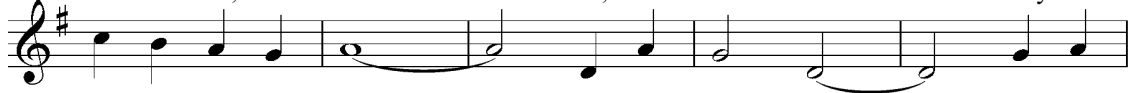
I who make the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro - vide 'till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



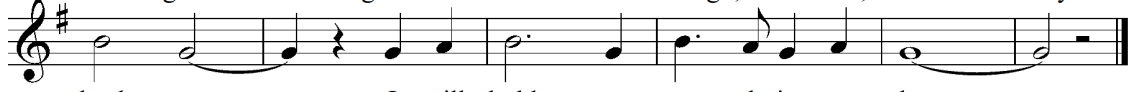
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send? _____
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? _____
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? _____



Here I am, Lord. _____ Is it I, Lord? _____ I have heard you



call - ing in the night. _____ I will go, Lord, _____ if you



lead me. _____ I will hold you peo - ple in my heart. _____

Please stand as you are able.

Offertory Prayer

Shane Fisher

God has shown us the meaning of generosity in the beautiful diversity of creation, in the overflowing love of Jesus Christ, in the never-ending gift of the Holy Spirit. God has abundantly blessed us and called us to be a community that honors each other, to serve others with joy, to share our love and material possessions. Let us rejoice in what we have been given and in what is ours to give. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Sending

Sending Prayer

Members of the family of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you into Christ's family as you were once welcomed through the waters of Baptism. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation, we renew our covenant to faithfully participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

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 may live in grace and peace. Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Confirmands: The Holy Spirit sends us out in ministry to proclaim the good news to the poor, righteousness to the nations, and peace among all people. The Spirit is our source of life. We go now, renewed with God's spirit.

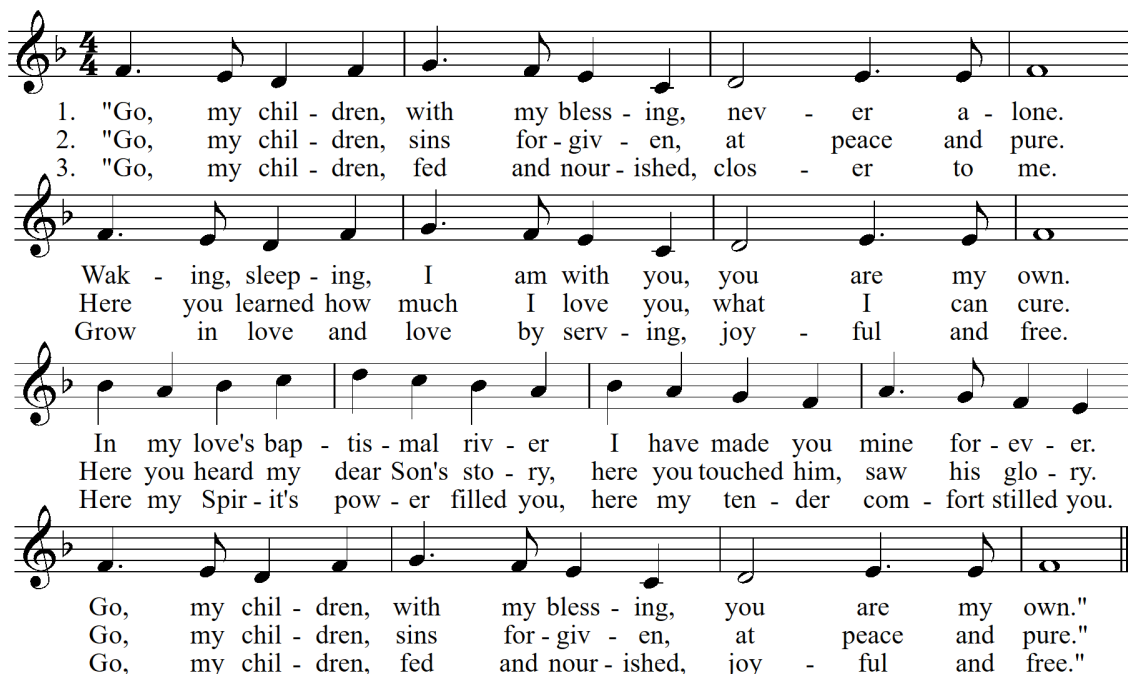
Benediction

You, Child of a most loving and merciful God, have been blessed by the Baptismal Font, this community, the bread and wine, the Holy Scriptures, and the Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ. May the love you have heard about, participated in, and been freely given, shine in you and from you into the world. Go forth in peace to spread the Gospel message. **Amen.**

The students each light a candle, signifying their baptism and the Holy Spirit's presence as they go forth from the sanctuary and into the world with God's blessing.

Sending Song

#543 Go, My Children with My Blessing



1. "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2. "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3. "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

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Dismissal

To you, God's faithful people, both newly confirmed and continuously confirmed, go in peace and declare how much God has done for you.

Thanks be to God!

Affirmation of Baptism Service Scripture

November 12, 2023

First Reading - 1 Samuel 3:1-10

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Second Reading - 1st Corinthians 13:9-13

⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Gospel Reading - Luke 24:13-27

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles[a] from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" ¹⁹ "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus." ²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.