

Guide to Creating a Faith Statement

THE purpose of Confirmation is to help you think about, grow in, and act out of your own faith. It's not about the church's faith (although that's important), not your parents' faith (though we hope you learn from them), not the pastor's faith (that would just be weird), but YOUR faith.

As you prepare to make public affirmation of your faith in the service of Confirmation, you are asked to prepare a Faith Statement. You will have the opportunity to reflect on what you have experienced in Confirmation and then present to your parents, teachers, coaches, pastors, and congregation a summary Faith Statement that shares what you have come to believe about God, the world, and yourself. This is not meant to be a burden to you. The key to making it meaningful and even enjoyable for you is to find ways that you can express your faith in your own unique way. **Here are some questions we've talked about in class that will help you get started:**

1. What do you believe about God and creation (First Article of the Creed)?
2. What do you believe about Jesus Christ (Second Article of the Creed)?
3. What do you believe about the Holy Spirit (Third Article of the Creed)?
4. What do you believe about the Bible?
5. What do you believe about God's Commandments?
6. What do you believe about Baptism?
7. What do you believe about Holy Communion?
8. What do you believe about prayer?
9. What do you believe about heaven?
10. What do you believe about salvation?
11. How have you come to these beliefs?
12. How do you live out your faith in your daily life?
13. How will you continue to grow in your faith in the years to come?
14. What questions do you still have that you look forward to exploring more?

Other things to talk about with your parent(s), coach, or pastors that may help you get ideas:

.....about the beauty of God's creation. What do they treasure most? (Genesis 1)
.....about sin in the world. Which sin/evil troubles them most? (Genesis 2-3)
.....to share at least two favorite stories about Jesus.
.....how they chose their first vocations, and/or why they may have made changes from original choices.
.....what they look forward to in worship.
.....to share prayers, especially of their childhood. (Luke 11:1-13)
.....to tell you about an experience of forgiveness and reconciliation. (Luke 25:31-40; 15:11-32)
.....to tell you about a time when they were tempted and how they dealt with it. (Luke 22:31-34, 54-62)
.....why the law is important and why they try not to break the law. (Exodus 3:7-12; 20:1-17)
.....to share what it means to be "saved by grace apart from works of the law." (Romans 3:21-28)
.....to share at least three qualities one should look for in a spouse; and at least three things they think one should do to have a good marriage.
.....to share what promises they have made to others and how they honored those promises. (Matthew 5:21-28)
.....to tell about a person of faith who has been influential in their lives.
.....to tell about a meaningful experience of Holy Communion (Matthew 28:16-20; 26:26-28)
.....to tell what they remember most about their experience as a Confirmation student. (Psalm 139)

Finally, as you begin to write, here is a simple form to use:

Follow the example of the Apostles' Creed. Write a four paragraph essay, devoting one paragraph to your beliefs about God the Father (creation), one to God the Son (Jesus), and one to God the Holy Spirit (baptism, faith, new life). Use your Small Catechism as a guide, but use your own words. Include examples from your own life. Conclude with a paragraph about how you plan to continue in your faith after Confirmation as a full member of the church.