

On Reformation Sunday, October 28, 2018, seven of our youth Affirmed their Baptism through confirmation. During the service, they came to the pulpit to share with the congregation their thoughts on this important step in their life. What follows is their personal Statement of Faith.

*“God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.”* 1 John 1:5

I have been thinking about the meaning behind this scripture reading for a while now. From the time when I started attending our church until this moment, everyone here has watched me as I grew physically, mentally and emotionally. It’s been a great journey so far!

In times of sorrow or trouble, I look to the light of God for inspiration and hope. I try to find all of those great things in life that God has given us. Even through the darkness of some of our days, we can still see the light of God’s promise shining through.

Whenever I come up against a negative, I try to find the positive and learn from it.

As I look to the future, I have made some resolutions or goals for my life. One is to deepen my relationship with God and, number two, look for His guidance for my life ahead of me.

I am so thankful for the people God has put in my life – my family, my friends and the love and support from you, my brothers and sisters in Christ.

*Jayson Martin, 10/28/2018*

*Love never fails.* (1 Corinthians 13.8)

    That’s the verse of the Bible that struck me the most. Mainly because, for me, God is the manifestation of love, and not an idol nor a controlling power. And it is because of that love that God sent Jesus to us. So that we may be able to live our lives in ways that benefit us and the people we have around us, whether we may like that person or not. In fact, his love models for me a generous life: generosity isn’t just giving physical support—like giving someone food on Thanksgiving—, it’s also being there to support someone emotionally, and making them feel better.

    To me, generosity also means demonstrating self-control and patience and forgiveness if necessary.

    I’ve been going to church since I was born and, back then, I never particularly liked it. The first thing that came to mind when someone said the word “church” was a very large room with a very large cross, very large colored windows, and a very small me surrounded by much older people. The highlight for me was to receive Communion.

    Then, as I got older I started to pay more attention to what was going on around me, like why did we read the Bible so often and why did Jesus die for us? I would ask myself these questions often, but I never really searched for an answer. And then the other day as I was writing this faith statement I asked myself: *Why*? Why *did* Jesus die for us? Why did God send Jesus to us? And just like that, the answer came to me: Love. Because as long as there is love, there is hope and happiness. And if we are happy, we can live our lives to the fullest. So, I want to remember, love never fails.

*Desiree Mattei, 10/28/18*

I am taking an important step in my life because I wanted to learn more about God, the Lord, and our church.

*“When we were children, we thought and reasoned as children do. But when we grew up, we quit our childish ways. Now all we can see of God is like a cloudy picture in a mirror. Later we will see him face to face. We don’t know everything, but then we will, just as God completely understands us. For now there are faith, hope, and love. But of these three, the greatest is love.”* (1 Corinthians 13: 13)

This verse touches my heart because when we were much younger we played these little games. But as time went on, we matured and grew older. And God completely understands because that is how he created us. And we keep growing in our faith.

*Hailey Patterson, 10/28/2018*

*“Love Never Fails”*

Believing in God is so important for life and love. This means that love never goes away because God loves everyone when they do bad or good deeds. God is most important to me because I have some bad things happen in my life and this speaks to my heart. God has given everyone a life even if they don’t believe in Him. He still loves everyone. God has supported me through each step of my life to this moment. I am taking this important step to learn about God and His love for me through a journey of steps.

*Sean Patterson, 10/28/2018*

One of the Bible Verses that speaks to me the most is John 3:16. *“God loved the people of this* *world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in Him will have eternal life and never really die.”*  Because of God we don’t have to worry or fear anything.  God has rescued us and kept us in the light.  God is the center of my life and I know that my faith is strong because of  Him.  I trust my faith and relationship with God will enable me to live my life as God would want me to do.

*Christina Roa, 10/28/2018*

1 John 1:5 states that *"God is light and in him there is no darkness at all."*  God’s grace always prevails.  It’s very comforting to know that God is always with us.  He is always listening when I pray.  I am thankful that Jesus gave his life to save us from sin.  God’s light shines in the darkness and for that I am grateful.  I pray that we will always follow along in his path.

*Julie Roa, 10/28/2018*

Moses gave us the Ten Commandments which we learned in confirmation.  Jesus said this is how you should live your life using the Ten Commandments as your guide.  But Jesus added you should also Love me with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself.  So I am striving to Love Jesus with all my heart and Love my neighbor as I love myself using Jesus as my guide. I’m still searching and trying to grow in faith.

*David Smith, 10/28/2018*