

# LINDSEY MERIAH JOHANNA NAOMI ANDERSON

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

--- I Peter 2:9 ---

I chose this verse because I believe that I am one of the chosen people. I pray at dinner time and also pray when special things come up. In seventh grade I started confirmation. I learned more verses since I started confirmation and made more friends.

When I was little, my dad and I always went to church every Sunday. I learned more about God from going to Sunday School. The more you go to church the more you learn about Jesus. You learn more about Jesus and God and where they came from. During Confirmation it's been fun and I have a great teacher in Debbie Jungers. I learned about God, that he is watching over us when you are down. God is like a hero because he is always there for you, he never lets us down. In the future, I plan to go to church every Sunday.

# ANDREW JORDON BENGTON

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

--- Romans 5:1---

I chose this verse because we are all at peace with Jesus Christ and people. I learned from the Bible that the writing is on the wall. The writing on the wall means that your days are numbered. I hope that we can destroy all the weapons in the world. We could love each other and not hate each other.

By going to church you can learn more about Jesus. You can learn about how Jesus died for us and forgave our sins. I hope my family can continue to go to church. I can help people that need help. I can try to get people to go to church.

# LUCAS WILLIAM BLANCHARD

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

--- Psalm 42:11 ---

During a story at Luther Park Bible Camp, I was flipping through the Bible and stumbled upon a verse. Once I read it, I knew that I needed to bookmark it with something so I can remember to read it again. It was Psalm 42:11, and ever since then, there has been a piece of pine tree bark, now petrified, stuck in between pages 674 and 675 of my Bible so I can easily flip it open and read it.

When I first heard that we needed to choose a verse to guide our faith statement, I instantly knew that I was going to write about Psalm 42:1-11. It has only six lines, but nonetheless, I think they speak very deeply. They say that there is no real reason to be discouraged or restless, because God is always there for us. Throughout my Confirmation career, I have learned that even in the worst times, we can turn to Jesus to guide and heal us.

Psalm 42:1-11 is a prayer entitled “Longing for God,” which is the full prayer that I got my verse from. The first four lines of the prayer are what attracted me to read it. “As a deer gets thirsty for streams of water, I am truly thirsty for you, my God.” I think that it means that as Lutherans, the real thing that we should want is God’s love.

There are many people in this world that take material possessions before their religion and faith. Even when they have all they could ever want, they still seem unhappy in lots of ways. Seeing this, I have learned that just being close to God in my life can make me truly happy, even in the worst of times.

# BRIAN PATRICK CHRISTIAN

Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

--- I Corinthians 15:58 ---

I went home from school one Friday feeling like I really did something that God appreciated. During English class we were reading a book called *The Odyssey*. After we were done reading for the day we had a question worksheet that was pretty difficult. I looked around after I was finished with it and it looked like people were struggling. I decided I would go help out people if they wanted it. I helped out most of the kids in my class and we all got it done just before the bell rang to go to 6<sup>th</sup> hour. I felt pretty good about what I did in English that day. It felt like God really appreciated what I did for him and my fellow classmates.

Also in Gym class that very day I knew that God was very grateful for what I did. In class we had a free day which means we could do any kind of activity during gym. One of my friends and I decided we wanted to go downstairs into the school's weight room. When we got down there we wanted to do bench press first. I knew he wasn't too strong of a kid, but I didn't care. I went first and I did my reps which was a set of 5-3-1. In a 5-3-1 you start off with a pretty easy weight and do it five times, then a harder weight three times, but on the one rep you do a weight you've never done and you try to bench it.

After I was done with my reps, my friend went and I started him off with 100 pounds for the five reps because he told me the max he has ever benched is 120 pounds. Then on the three rep portion I thought maybe he should do 115 pounds on it. He did it with a little difficulty, but he did it. When we got to the one rep portion I thought I'm going to push him a little bit. So I put on 130 pounds and he thought he couldn't do it, but I knew he could, and when we lifted that bar and laid it on his chest he pushed with all that was in him and I was inspiring him and spotting him the whole time.

Then the bar went back up on its holders and he jumped up happier than ever, and he thanked me for helping him try something he thought he wasn't able to do. This same kid is now benching 145 because I helped him push and try for something we both knew he could do.

I think these stories I just told you about help me in my faith life because God will always know that if a kid doesn't think he can do something I will help them to try and do it, or actually do it if I'm there to help them.

# RYAN SCOTT ERICKSON

For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

## --- Ephesians 2:10---

When God puts us here he really did expect us to do good things. To learn the right way to go and do the good things that need to be done it all starts with a role model. Your role model should be someone you know to do the right thing. A role model could be anyone; it could be a parent, an athlete, or just a person who supports you. My parents supported me. Over all the years I have been living and my faith journey, my parents have been there for me. Without my parents I would not be here now. Though my parents raised under the influence of Jesus, even more than my older role models. Jesus taught my parents the right thing to do is help and my parents help me learn the right thing to do.

Doing good can be defined in many ways and people can do good in many ways. I believe that doing good is not confined to one area of the planet. To do good is not to those labeled Americans, Europeans or Asians, but to one people. The children of God are not of one race in particular. Everyone on the planet is a child of God and must work together. Not just for survival, but for friendship, belief and personal values. We are one people. We are not created perfect; we are sinners.

Everyone sins and does something that the law or religion tells us not to do. We are forgiven by God for our wrong doings. There are no good or bad people, there are just those who stray from God's path and what he wants us to do. As my parents say to me, "The people who do wrong are not bad people, they just forgot who made them." I believe that statement is true. We will never have a perfect world but I am confident that we can have a world full of people who get along as neighbors should.

# SHANE ROBERT FARNELL

The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom.  
To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

--- II Timothy 4:18 ---

This was the Bible verse I chose for my faith statement. This verse is important to me because when I am afraid in life I can remember that God will protect me. Wherever I travel and whatever I do I can be confident that God is watching over me.

Many things have helped me develop my faith into what it is today. The most important thing is probably my family. My mom, dad and sister always encourage and assist in my faith. They taught me about God and Jesus and take me to church to develop my faith. Another important thing that helped my faith grow was the church and church members. As a child, the church taught me in Sunday School and as an adult the church will be a social place to worship God. Many things have molded my faith into what it is today.

To me, my faith is a way to feel safe. When you are in a dangerous situation, knowing that God will protect you puts your troubled heart at ease. When you really want something to happen, praying can help you sleep better. God always watches over your troubles and needs.

After I get confirmed I hope that my faith will drive me to church frequently. After my parents pass on their promise to take me to church and teach me the word of God I will be happy to use that promise with my faith and go to church.

Throughout my life, I am sure I will remember the day I get confirmed. It will be the day I split away from my parents religiously and become my own Christian. I can go to church because I want to and not because I was forced to. I can't wait to become my own Christian.

# MICHAEL TIMOTHY JUNGERS

Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

--- I Timothy 6:12 ---

I selected this verse because when my grandma was hospitalized for about a year I knew she needed my prayers. So every night I started praying for her because I knew God was going to help and be there for her. When she was in the hospital I knew God was fighting for her. Some stuff that interests me about Jesus is that I know he is always there for me and I know that everything happens for a reason and therefore God is always there.

My church is my second home to me because I feel so comfortable there and I really feel welcome there and I feel I am always in the house of God. A big thing about my faith statement is my two older brothers Paul and Greg. They are my role models and they are always there for me. My brother Greg is six years older and Paul is ten years older than me and we still get along so much and they are just a big part of my life. They are the ones I usually talk to about things. When I was in Sunday School, I was one of the biggest kids there and it was so amazing because I would never have to stay for the whole service so it was pretty cool and then the biggest thing that was fun is that my mom always volunteered us for everything without asking us first.

# ALYSON RAE NIESEN

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

--- **Romans 8:38-39** ---

God is everything.  
Everything from the white puffy clouds in the sky  
to the rich brown dirt he created  
supporting our bodies above it.  
My days may seem long when times get hard,  
but I am always guided by him through them,  
even through death and tragedies,  
he is present.  
We see God's love in bright places and happy faces greeting us.  
His courage builds me up to be able to overcome my fears.  
The strength he gives me helps me  
go through challenges as I become older.  
The faith in my hands grows everyday  
and has especially grown  
throughout the years I have been in confirmation.  
May the light of the Holy Spirit shine upon me  
as I follow the footsteps of our Lord  
and become a true member in the sacrament in Confirmation.  
As each day unfolds,  
I am reminded of God's love in me.

# LAUREN NICHOLE RUPP

The Lord has chosen everyone who is faithful to be his very own, and he answers my prayers.

--- Psalm 4:3 ---

At the beginning of 7<sup>th</sup> grade, I started confirmation classes knowing a handful of bible stories and the Ten Commandments as well as the Lord's prayer that we spoke aloud every Sunday in church. Now as a 9<sup>th</sup> grader becoming confirmed, I know a whole lot more not only of the bible, but of my own faith and how it coincides with everything I do or say. I chose the above verse as my confirmation verse because I think that it truly represents what God has done for me, and my connection with him through faith.

God does choose each and every one of us to be his very own. What sometimes people don't realize is that we also have to choose to be truly faithful to God just as he is faithful to us. We are taught by our parents to pray each night. We are taught to follow the Ten Commandments and the golden rule; but it is not until we are older that we are able to truly understand how much it means to follow those Commandments and truly be faithful to God and Christ Jesus. Praying before meals isn't always enough. Going to church isn't enough; but being faithful to God and all that he has created means so much more.

I realized all of this when I was spending some time with my friends outside of school. They attend what they like to call a "Bible Based Church." I had never seen one group of people so open and passionate about their faith in Christ Jesus before. God and Jesus were in everything they did or said. It wasn't until they asked me about my personal faith with God that I realized just what was missing from my relationship with God: my own strong faith in him. I began to really take in all of our WWYGS lessons from that day on. There were so many stories that we listened to about God's chosen people continuing to make mistake after mistake, but he continues to love them unconditionally no matter what, and he gave them second chances. He answered all their prayers and he would continue to do so.

There have been some really influential people in my life as well as my faith life. My grandparents Michael and Nancy Fandel (my mother's parents) are Catholic. Spending half of my life at their house up north, I was able to have the chance to attend the abbey at St. John's up in Cold Spring. These experiences helped me to understand that people can view faith in different ways and can express themselves in different ways, but in the end, we are all praising the one true God. Thank you so much Nana and Papa for these experiences and everything you have done to support me. Another person who has been influential in my faith life is Shirley Stroud who chose to become my mentor for these past few months, and who helped me to really open up my eyes to what being faithful means, and who also became a friend I could confide in. Thank you Shirley for being such an important friend.

God placed me into this life filled with privilege and such an amazing family and group of friends, and I pray to thank him for it all everyday. God has continued to answer my prayers each day for the well being of my friends and family, and that my faith in him will not waver. I will end my statement with another bible verse, which I believe stands true to all believers of our lord God and Savior.

Psalm 18:1-3 "I love you, Lord God, and you make me strong, You are my mighty rock, my fortress, my protector, the rock where I am safe, my shield, my powerful weapon, and my place of shelter."

# NOAH JAMES SUTTON

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

--- John 11:25-26 ---

I guess I'm not that much of a religious person, but I do believe in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. To me that is pretty much a sum up of my beliefs and religion. The Father is God who made us all and laid down the rule book of our faith. The Son is Jesus who did God's will and died for us and our sins. And the Holy Spirit is pretty much God in action and presence. Whenever I feel like God is around, I think of the Holy Spirit and how it is affecting me.

I picked the verses John 11:25-26 because I like how it talks about death and life. And if you believe in God with all your heart, both will be just as good. I also like how it ends in the question, "do you believe this" because it's basically questioning your faith altogether.

I was baptized as a little baby. It's been a part of my life for as long as I can remember so my faith is pretty strong. The first church I went to was pretty fun and I had a lot of friends, but when we moved churches it was kind of hard to start going to church because it was a pretty big transition. But after going there for a while I started to warm up to the people and it was alright.

Starting Confirmation was a big point in my church life. It's when I really started talking about religion and my opinions. Now that I'm about to get confirmed I need to start thinking where I'll be going. I still plan to go to church every once in a while after I get confirmed just like my family.

As I look back on my faith journey I am pretty satisfied with it. I know it's not over and I plan to keep up my faith throughout my life.

## NICOLE ANN WIEBKE

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

--- John 3:16 ---

One time I was at the mall with my friend John, a couple walked up to us and asked us to answer some questions. They started out by saying who they were, what their faith meant to them, then asked us the same question. We had talked about this before but never got into a full conversation on it. We told them we were Christian and that our faith was important in our lives. Then they asked us "have you ever lied?" at first we were confused. We answered by saying "sure...who hasn't?" They said you have sinned, and are going to hell. We were shocked. They told us the story of Jesus. They started by saying that he has lived a perfect life and that his perfect life would forgive everyone else's sins. "If you ask for forgiveness you will get forgiveness" they said. "If you believe in only God the Father you will be forgiven." I learned something new that day that I will never forget about Jesus.

Confirmation the last three years, I have learned so many stories. I want to share all those new stories with as many people as I can. We were together as a Christian community, so I felt that I could share my faith questions and get answers.

I personally have never questioned God. I always knew he was there watching over me, listening and answering my prayers. I believe this because just a couple years ago my grandpa died. It was such a sudden thing that I had no idea what to think/do. He was the greatest grandpa ever, we would take naps together and he would play with me no matter what. When I found out he was sick it was such a deep hurt that I asked God why? Why did he have to do this to our family. I prayed for God to do the best thing for my grandpa and he chose death. I couldn't understand why, but I realized it was the way God planned and I can't change it. So I have learned that God will make the best decision for you and you need to accept it.