



Pastor Hanke's Blog

May 5, 2019

Confess, Pray, Love and Trust in the Lord

Bible Reference: Psalm 31:14; Psalm 116:1-2; Luke 23:39-43; 1 Corinthians 13:13

One time in college, when I was feeling particularly confident in my Bible skills, I told a friend to throw out four Bible verses and I would tie them all together. I failed miserably. The experience reminded me of my humanity and was quite humbling. Despite those results, it is a good practice to bring Scripture together since all Scripture is knitted together by a common message and therefore interconnected.

This weekend I was given a similar challenge as the one I faced in college—take the four Bible verses chosen by our confirmands and tie them together. Nowadays I am less prideful and know how difficult this can be, especially since you never know what verses four 8th graders will choose. Yet I think it's important that the confirmands pick their own verse and own it. These guys pick their verse, create a project to go with it, and then communicate both to the congregation. This true ownership brings lasting life lessons, even though it still leaves me the challenge of tying the verses together.

Thankfully, I immediately saw common themes of Christian faith in their verses. This is exactly what we want to see from students being confirmed—that over the last three years they heard and developed holy habits they can continue to use in their life. The four themes that came out in their verses were: confess, pray, love, and trust in the Lord. I was intrigued by confession since it is not something we often talk about on confirmation Sunday, but it is very important to the Christian walk. Prayer and knowing that God hears us is key for a teenager who can often feel lost and alone in this world. Love is often different between Christians and non-Christians. A Christian understands the sacrificial love of Jesus and asks the Holy Spirit to teach him or her how to live out that sacrificial love. And finally, trust. In a world where trust is lacking, in faith we know we can completely trust Jesus.

This weekend we celebrate with the four students who are confirming their faith. This is the biggest confirmation group we've had since I've been at Mt. Calvary. We will take time on Sunday to dive into their verses and the themes of confession, prayer, love and trust. As a church we surround and encourage them. As we listen to these four teenagers share their faith with us, let it also be an encouragement to you as we reflect on how challenging it can be to help others grow in faith.

God's Peace,

Pastor Will