

# FAITH STATEMENT PROJECT 2017: ANSWER, REPRESENT, SHARE!

## Why A Faith Statement Project?

Your faith statement gives you an opportunity to

- Reflect on and describe your life and faith
- Identify how God connects with you and how you grow in faith
- Express your hopes and plans for living out your faith now and in the future
- Share your faith with others!

## Faith Statement Project Requirements:

1. **A Written Reflection (DO THIS FIRST!)**
2. **A Creative Representation**

**Step #1:** Answer the questions, "What is meaningful to you about the promises of God and the person of Jesus Christ? How and in what way do you have faith and trust in God? In what way(s) have you seen, lived, and experienced it?"

*Answers to these will be submitted in a 1 page single/2 page double spaced written piece at the time of your faith statement sharing (Oct. 11 or 15)*

- **Guess what? You already did a big chunk of this! We have saved your faith statement worksheets from the end of 9<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation. We'll have these along with worksheets to help you at the 10<sup>th</sup> grade retreat.**
- Perhaps name some personal experience, or what you've been taught and what resonated with you, or what you've come to believe about God's action in and through you and others
- What is the goodness that you've come to know and witness in Christ?
- What's powerful to you about God's presence, forgiveness, or guidance?
- What's meaningful about the fact that you are baptized, and in that moment someone said to you, "Child of God, you are named, claimed, forgiven, and sent forth in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."
- What are you still wondering about or wrestling with?

**Step #2:** Choose a way to creatively represent step #1 in the way that is most meaningful or best for you (**Do NOT do this step first.**) Optional ways to do this could be but are not limited to:

- A poem
- A collage
- Write and perform a song, rap or dance

- A painting/drawing
- A video recording/interview/skit/report
- Photography that shows how you see God

**Step #3:** Share your unique representation in a **Group Faith Discussion: October 11 or 15**

- A faith conversation is a 45-minute time to share your Faith Statement Project and answer questions within a group of 5 other confirmands, Maggie and Pr. Charlie

## What If I Have A Question?

Completing your Faith Statement Project is not something that you have to do alone. There are many people who can help you including:

- Maggie Jones, [mjones@normluth.org](mailto:mjones@normluth.org)
- Pastor Charlie Ruud, [cruud@normluth.org](mailto:cruud@normluth.org)
- Pastor Paul or Pastor Dale
- Parents or another family member
- Your Lenten Mentor
- Your Small Group Leader
- Friends or classmates

## Ideas and Questions to Consider:

To help you get started on your Faith Statement Project, think about these questions or ideas (you do not have to answer all of them!)

- Read the Apostles Creed, and then write down your own faith statement. It's okay to admit that you do not know the answers! It's also okay to include statements about what you believe and what you're not so sure about
- What did Jesus teach us and what did he do when he was on Earth, and how does following Jesus affect our actions towards other people?
- How are God and the Holy Spirit present in our lives?
- How would you answer someone who asks, "So, who is God anyway?"
- What events in your life have helped you believe in God?
- What are your top three questions you have about God?
- Tell a story about the Holy Spirit at work in your life.
- How do you plan to stay connected to your community of faith after Confirmation and why?
- Based on what you have learned in Confirmation, how is God's love shown to us?

# Tips for Success!

1. Pray about your paper and creative project and spend time with God thinking about your own faith
2. **Attend the 10<sup>th</sup> grade retreat Sept 16-17!** We'll go over lots of tips and have time to work together on these projects.
3. Don't stress too much. You won't have all of the answers now or... well.. ever! We just hope that you put some thought into sharing where your faith is at and how its grown by being a part of NLC Confirmation. Faith is HUGE! You can't tell us everything. What you CAN do is paint a picture that shows a focus of your faith at this point in your life.
4. Talk with your parents/guardians, grandparents, pastors, youth leader, friends or mentors about the assignment
5. Be REAL. The best writing (or project) is true and comes from the heart. Don't try to be fancy, don't try to be simple, don't try to be someone else. Be authentic and YOU. Write from your own experience. If you experience doubt in your faith, write about it.

*"For many people in our world, the opposite of faith is doubt. The goal then, within this understanding is to eliminate doubt. But faith and doubt aren't opposites. Doubt is often a sign that your faith has a pulse, that it's alive and well and exploring and searching. Faith and doubt aren't opposites, they are, it turns out, excellent dance partners." –Rob Bell*

6. Some key things you might draw from during this project:
  - Jesus
  - Worship
  - Your experiences at Normandale Lutheran Church
  - Service
  - Community/Family
  - Faith

## Thinking/Brainstorming about MY faith

What is the most difficult thing your faith has faced?

What is the happiest (or best) part of your faith?

What person has helped you the most in your faith development? What things have they taught you?

My faith is getting stronger right now because....

My faith is being challenged right now because...

## Writing a Paper? Let's Get Organized!

1. **Get the reader's attention.** Start in a unique way (tell a story, ask a question, use a quotation, say something controversial, or say something short.)
2. Consider including a bible verse that is important to you. Share your verse and briefly state why you chose it.
3. Connect your faith to your life and what is important to you (If you like sports, your faith can be lived out by the type of athlete you are. God made you YOU for a reason. Your faith will not be like anyone else's.)
4. End memorably. Read everything you've written and ask yourself, "so what?" This paragraph makes your point. It's cool to tie your ending to your first sentence. The best endings are beginnings. Hint at the fact that this is just the beginning of your faith.

**Bible Verse Resources!** Consider picking a Bible verse that connect to your personal faith and let this verse shape your Faith Statement Project.

Here are a few suggestions that you might read over and choose from:

- Numbers 6:24-26; 14:17-18
- Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- Joshua 1:9
- 2 Samuel 22:2-4
- Psalm 23; 51: 10-12; 91:1-2; 103:1
- Proverbs 3:6-8
- Isaiah 9:6; 43:1-4a
- Jeremiah 1:7-8; 29:11-12
- Amos 5:24
- Micah 6:8
- John 1:14; 3:16-17; 13:34
- Acts 1:8
- Romans 8:38-39
- 1 Corinthians 12:7; 4:7
- Galatians 3:27-28
- Ephesians 2:8-10
- Philippians 4:4-7; 4:13
- Genesis 17:1
- Deuteronomy 4:29; 6:5; 31:6
- Joshua 24:14
- 1 Chronicles 16:11
- Psalm 1:1-2; 23:1; 25:5; 31:14; 51:19; 71:5; 105:1-2; 119:5; 119:33; 119:105
- Proverbs 2:6; 4:18
- Isaiah 30:21
- Matthew 5:6; 5:8; 6:20; 6:33; 28:20
- Luke 2:52; 11:28
- John 1:12; 10:11; 10:14; 14:6; 14:27; 15:9; 17:3
- Romans 6:11; 10:9; 10:11; 12:12; 12:21; 14:8
- 1 Corinthians 1:30; 6:20
- Galatians 5:22; 6:9-10
- Ephesians 4:1-3; 5:17
- Psalm 46
- Psalm 121
- Isaiah 40:28-31
- Matthew 3:16-17, 11:28
- Ephesians 2:8-10
- 2 Corinthians 5:16-19

What verse speaks to you? What verse says something important about your faith?