

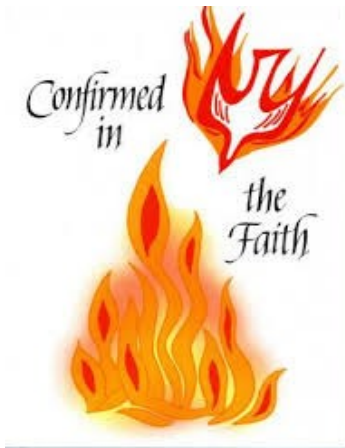
Families and friends are invited to come forward and participate in the laying on of hands as each Confirmand kneels.

P: Father in heaven for Jesus' sake, stir up in ____ the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm *his/her* faith, guide *his/her* life, empower *him/her* in *his/her* serving, give *him/her* patience in suffering, and bring *him/her* to everlasting life. **Amen.**

As your Confirmand rises, a parent or sponsor may take one of the candles on the altar and light it from the Christ Candle.

Let us pray: Almighty God, continue to bless and guide, nurture and strengthen these new voting members of this congregation. May the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the promises they have made today produce in them the fruit of a faithful life, to the praise and honor of your name, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

(Please extinguish the candles before returning to your seats.)



Affirmation of Baptism (Celebration of Confirmation)

Confirmation marks the fulfillment of instruction in the Christian faith as confessed in the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Those who complete this program were made members of the Church in baptism. Confirmation includes a public profession of the faith into which the candidates were baptized when they were *sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.*

I present to you, the family of Christ in St. John, Ashley Hollatz, Corey Schilling, and Blake Bargender.

In holy baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been nourished at his holy table and called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now, therefore, I ask you, along with the congregation, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises? If so, please answer, "I do."



I invite the congregation to rise as you are able. God has made *all* of us his children through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope we confess our faith:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN!

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

This I Believe . . .

Blake, Corey, and Ashley, you have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

*To live among God's faithful people,

*To hear his Word and share in his supper,

*To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

*To serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus,

*And to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

If so, please answer, "I do, and I ask God to help and guide me."

Let us pray: Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these young people your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence. **Amen.**



Confirmation Bible Verses and Reflections

Ashley Hollatz Bible verse – Deuteronomy 31:6

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them [enemy nations], for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Ashley wrote: “I am glad that I’m getting confirmed. I will become an official member of the church and it will be a place where I know I can always turn to for help or guidance. In five years I will be in college and living away from home, so knowing I can go back any time is very important to me.

Many see the church as only a building where you worship, but the church is so much more. The church is really the people that worship together.

Without Jesus where would we be in life? Jesus is the reason we’re all here. He cared for us when he was alive and continues to care for us even after he’s gone. Jesus sacrificed himself for us and that is crazy to think about, but he did it with no hesitation.

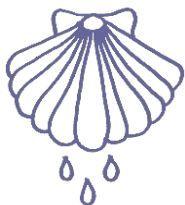
The Apostle’s Creed is just one example of our expression of faith and how we choose to believe in Jesus.”

Ashley Marie Hollatz was born on November 4, 2005.

Parents: Dan & Michelle Hollatz.

She was baptized by Pastor Jeff Tarras on January 8, 2006.

Sponsors: Stephanie & Brian Pierce and Rachel Nagel



Blake Ryan Bargender Bible verse – John 3:16

“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Blake wrote: “I want to be confirmed for many reasons. I want to develop a stronger relationship with God and Jesus. This is something that has been really important to my family for many years. All of my family are confirmed and go to church regularly.

The church is the people and the Body of Jesus Christ. It brings people together from all different backgrounds and makes them a family, and it does this all over the world.

Jesus is God’s Son. He sacrificed his life to save all of us from our sins. The Apostle’s Creed is important because it helps people understand what Jesus and God have done for us.”

Blake Ryan Bargender was born on September 8, 2005.

Parents: Ryan & Brooke (McKellips) Bargender

He was baptized on November 13, 2005 at Bethany Lutheran Church, Kaukana.

Sponsors: Josh & Nikki Bargender

Corey Schilling Bible verse – Jeremiah 29:11

“I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Corey wrote: “This Bible verse means that God will always be there even through the hardest of times. It may not seem like he is helping you right away but may help you over a long period of time. This is comforting to me.”

Corey Joseph Schilling was born on October 27, 2005.

Parents: Joe Schilling & Amanda Weiland

He was baptized by Pastor Jeff Tarras on February 5, 2006

Sponsors: Melissa Burnett and Matthew Weiland

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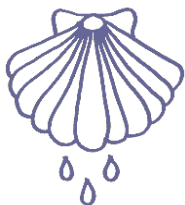
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