

SEEDS OF FAITH

1) Rooted & Grounded

Faith as Identity

2) Strength & Growth

Faith as a Resource

3) Branching Out & Bearing Fruit

Faith as a Way of Life

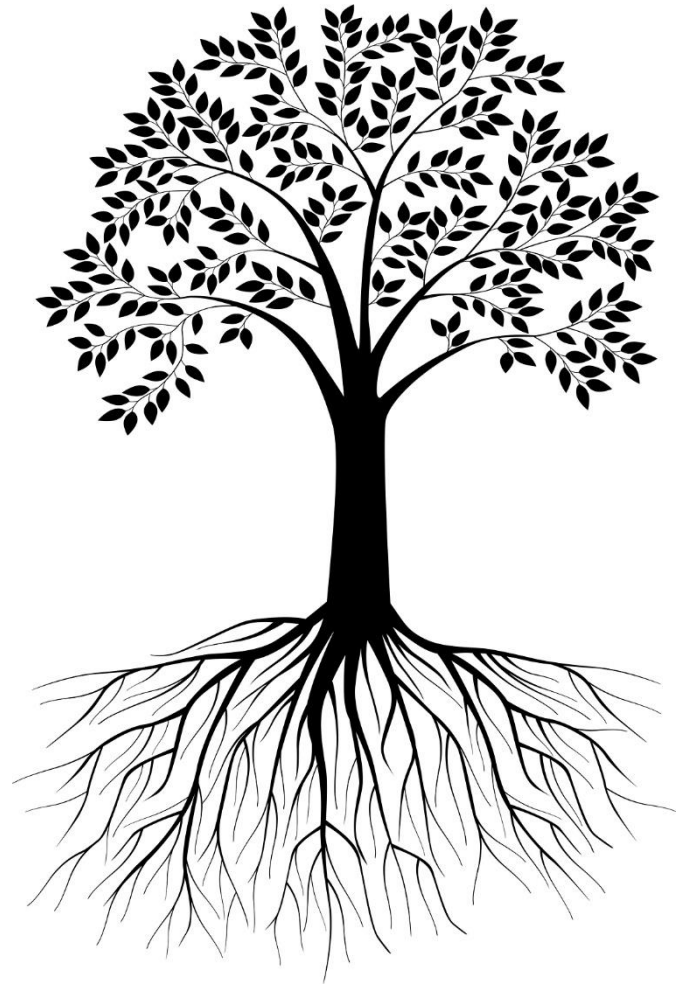


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OVERVIEW & FEATURES OF THE PROGRAM

1. Work at your own pace over a period of at least two years. There are three sections in the program:
 - a. Rooted & Grounded: *Faith as Identity*
 - b. Strength & Growth: *Faith as a Resource*
 - c. Branching Out & Bearing Fruit: *Faith as a Way of Life*
2. **Each section has a minimum of 15 experiences required** to fulfill that section. You only need to do a certain number of the options listed in each section. There are a couple of required parts that will be part of everyone's program... kind of like an Eagle Scout Award. Parents sign off as the student completes each experience. A pastor and family conference will happen in February and August to discuss progress and what they have learned/experienced.
3. There is a mix of at-church options and at-home options; online and in hand choices. Note that all classes have the possibility of being held virtually, if needed.
4. Keep track of your work in a Google document the church will provide and in your personal folder to share with Pastor Annie and Confirmation leaders.
5. There is a common file at church that has everything that might be needed: resources lists, extra project instructions, copies of books or videos, etc. Let us know if you need something you can't find. This will be added to as we find new options.
6. For each part of a section, the student has an option to come up with their own idea if it fits into the category. These must be done in conversation with the Pastor. We're always happy to help you brainstorm possibilities.
7. When all experiences are completed, the family will meet with the pastor for a final conference and to plan for the Rite of Confirmation.
8. The Rite of Confirmation can be done with any number of students on any of three special liturgical dates: Reformation Sunday (October), Baptism of Our Lord Sunday (January) or Pentecost Sunday (May/June). Requirements must be done over a period of at least two years, *but three years is encouraged.*

Rooted & Grounded: Faith as Identity

15 experiences are required with at least 2 from each category.

Check the box when you've completed the experience.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Option#	<u>Biblical History (at least 2 required)</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Watch videos & summarize
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Read sermon & summarize
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Make a biblical timeline
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Read Narrative Lectionary & summarize
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Attend class on "The Ten Commandments"
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Attend class on the "Old Testament Overview"
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Create your own

<input type="checkbox"/>	Option#	<u>Church History (at least 2 required)</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Written report on a saint
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Artwork representing a saint
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Written report on a piece of art
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Written report on iconography
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Create an icon
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Memorize the Apostles Creed section in the Small Catechism
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Attend class on the Apostles Creed
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Create your own

<input type="checkbox"/>	Option#	<u>Lutheran History (at least 2 required)</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Watch a Luther movie & summarize
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Read a Luther book & summarize
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Research ELCA social statements & summarize
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Attend class on "What Makes Lutherans Special"
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Create your own

SEEDS OF FAITH

Making Progress Checklist

Rooted & Grounded: *Faith as Identity* (page 2)

	Option#	<u>Family History (at least 2 required)</u>
	1	Interview 2 family members & summarize
	2	Interview a parent & summarize
	3	Investigate family history & summarize
	4	Create your own

	Option#	<u>Personal History (at least 2 required)</u>
	1	Write your autobiography
	2	Create a visual timeline of your life
	3	Write your own faith story
	4	Create your own

	Option#	<u>Baptism Connection (at least 2 required)</u>
	1	Personal baptism project
	2	Memorize the Baptism section in the Small Catechism
	3	Read "Let the Children Come" & summarize
	4	Create your own

SEEDS OF FAITH

Making Progress Checklist

Strength & Growth: Faith as a Resource

15 experiences are required with at least 2 from each category.

Check the box when you've completed the experience.

	Option#	<u>Reading the Bible (at least 5 required)</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Read an entire book of the Bible (can do this 3 times)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Bible Project videos & summarize (can do this 3 times)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Parable artwork	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Memorize a chapter of the Bible	
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Attend class on "Reading the Bible"	
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Attend class on "Jesus & the Gospels"	
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Attend class on "Intro to Acts"	
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Attend class on "Paul & the Epistles"	
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	Create your own	

	Option#	<u>Worship Life (at least 3 required)</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Watch videos & summarize
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Sermon Notes
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Watch "A Guide to Lutheran Worship" & summarize
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Create artwork for the liturgical year
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Write hymn reflections
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Attend class on "Worship"
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Create your own

SEEDS OF FAITH

Making Progress Checklist

Strength & Growth: Faith as a Resource (page 2)

	Option#	<u>Prayer Forms (at least 3 required)</u>
	1	Examen Prayer
	2	Prayer Labyrinth
	3	Centering Prayer
	4	Prayer Beads
	5	Consolation & Desolation
	6	Lectio Divina
	7	Prayer Stations
	8	Individual confession and forgiveness
	9	Memorize prayers in the Small Catechism
	10	Write your own set of prayers
	11	Create your own

	Option#	<u>Devotion, Meditation, Quiet Time (at least 2 required)</u>
	1	Daily devotion book for a month
	2	Read Small Catechism daily
	3	Do FAITH 5 with parents for 2 weeks
	4	Memorize the Lord's Prayer section in the Small Catechism
	5	Create your own

Branching Out & Bearing Fruit: *Faith as a Way of Life*

15 experiences are required with at least 2 from each category.

	Option#	<u>Connecting to the Congregation (at least 5 required)</u>
	1	Interview congregation members & summarize
	2	Attend church council meeting & summarize
	3	Become active in a ministry
	4	Help with church fundraiser
	5	Go to another worship service
	6	Choose an adult mentor (should be done in Year 1)
	7	Attend meals & worship for Advent or Lent
	8	Attend a Youth Group trip
	9	Create your own

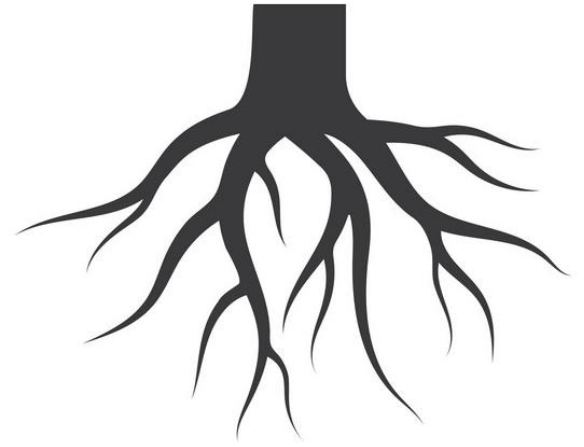
	Option#	<u>Connecting to the World (at least 5 required)</u>
	1	Attend a non-Lutheran church & summarize (can do this twice)
	2	Do 3 service projects in the community
	3	Written report on social justice issue (can do this twice)
	4	Attend a mission trip
	5	Attend church camp
	6	Attend activity on "Comparing Other Denominations"
	7	Attend activity on "Comparing Other Religions"
	8	Create your own

	Option#	<u>Personal Faith (at least 5 required)</u>
	1	Bring a friend to worship
	2	Bring a friend to a church event
	3	Create art based on your faith
	4	Read "Baptized We Live" & summarize
	5	Create your own
	6	REQUIRED: Select a Bible verse & write about it (Final year)
	7	REQUIRED: Write your own faith statement (Final year)

ROOTED & GROUNDED

Faith as Identity

This section is about your history, where you come from, and where your roots are. The things you will learn and experience in this section will remind you that you are part of something larger than yourself. God, our faith, the Church, the world – it all existed before you were born. We can draw on that history and learn from it, for it all helped make us who we are. These experiences are designed to help you tap into that history and those traditions.



May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

~Ephesians 3:17

To complete this section, you will need to do 15 experiences with at least 2 coming from each of these categories:

Biblical History

Church History

Lutheran History

Family History

Personal History

Baptism Connection



Biblical History

Required: at least 2 experiences from this category



- 1) Watch these two videos that together summarize the entire Bible:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/tanak-old-testament/>

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/new-testament-overview/>

After you watch these videos, either write a paragraph or record a 2 minute video sharing at least 3 things that you learned and how that connects to your life.



- 2) Read Pastor Chad Langdon's sermon that is included in the appendix. This is summary of our salvation history. After you read this sermon, either write a paragraph or record a 2 minute video sharing at least 3 things that you learned and how that connects to your life. **See APPENDIX #1.**



- 3) Either on a computer or freehand, create a biblical timeline with the characters & events listed below. You can use Biblical timelines located in your Bible or do your own research. Put them in order and, if possible, include the dates that they lived. **See APPENDIX #2.**



- 4) The Narrative Lectionary is the list of readings that some congregations use in worship every Sunday. The assigned readings are highlights from the Bible in a chronological order. Look up and read through the assigned readings in order. As you read through them, record a couple summary sentences about each one or draw a picture of each one. By the end, you will have created a timeline of highlights from the Bible. **See APPENDIX #3.**



- 5) Attend the confirmation class on the Ten Commandments. Afterwards, either write a paragraph or record a 2 minute video sharing at least 3 things that you learned and how that connects with your life.



- 6) Attend the confirmation class on the Old Testament Overview. Afterwards, either write a paragraph or record a 2 minute video sharing at least 3 things that you learned and how that connects with your life.



- 7) Create your own project to demonstrate that you have knowledge of the biblical story. Before you begin, discuss your idea with Pastor Annie.



Church History

Required: at least 2 experiences from this category



- 1) From the list of saints, pick one that looks interesting or that you've heard of. Do some research and write a 1 page report on that saint. Include things like a summary of their life, what they believed, why they were significant, and any connections to your own life. **See APPENDIX #4.**



- 2) From the list of saints, pick one that looks interesting or that you've heard of. Do some research and create a work of art related to that saint. It could be like a painting of them, a sculpture of them, a scene from their life, something that they believed, or something else that you come up with. **See APPENDIX #4.**



- 3) Pick a piece of religious art from the list and do some research on it. Who created it and why? Where is located now? What are some of the religious or faith themes or symbols within the piece and what do they mean? What does this piece say about what the artist believed and wanted to share? What are your reactions and feelings related to this piece? Write a 1 page report. **See APPENDIX #5.**



- 4) Check out "Church History ABCs" from the resource bin. Write a 1 page response or record a 2 minute video naming 2 new things you learned, why they stuck out to you, and what else you would like to learn about them.



- 5) Research religious iconography. Find out what is it and why is it important? What are some common symbols in iconography? Create your own religious icon and be ready to explain it.



- 6) There are 3 sections in Luther's Small Catechism about the Apostles Creed. Memorize all 3 sections and take the memory test on each one. You do not need to do all three at the same time.



- 7) Attend the confirmation class on the Apostles Creed. Afterwards, either write a paragraph or record a 2 minute video sharing at least 3 things that you learned and how that connects with your life.



- 8) Create your own project to demonstrate some connection to church history. Before you begin, discuss your idea with Pastor Annie.

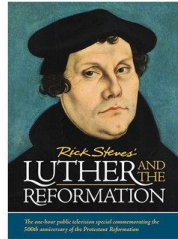


Lutheran History

Required: at least 2 experiences from this category



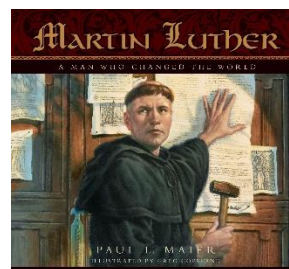
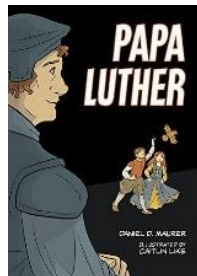
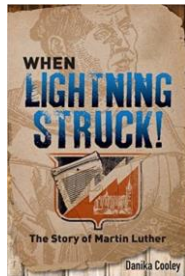
- 1) Watch one of these movies about Martin Luther:
 - a) Rick Steves' *Luther and the Reformation*
link: <https://www.ricksteves.com/watch-read-listen/video/tv-show/tv-specials/luther>
 - b) "Luther" a 2003 film starring Joseph Fiennes available in the resource file at church.



Afterwards write a 1 page summary of the movie. What did you learn about Martin Luther or the Reformation? How does Martin Luther or the Reformation connect with today and is it still important?



- 2) Read one of these books about Martin Luther. Afterwards, either write a paragraph or record a 2 minute video sharing at least 3 things that you learned and how that connects with your life.



- 3) Research the ELCA Social Statements (<https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements>). Write 2-3 sentences (or more) about **FIVE** of these statements and what they say.



- 4) Attend the confirmation class on "What Makes Lutherans Special." Afterwards, either write a paragraph or record a 2 minute video sharing at least 3 things that you learned and how that connects with your life.



- 5) Create your own project to demonstrate your knowledge of our Lutheran history and heritage. Before you begin, discuss your idea with Pastor Annie.



Family History

Required: at least 2 experiences from this category

Here are the options:



- 1) Interview at least two family members who attend church regularly. Ask them things like:
What do they believe and why?
What is their faith background & story?
How did they end up being part of the church where they belong & why?
If they are Lutheran, why are they Lutheran?
If they're not Lutheran, how does their church connect with their beliefs?
Write down their answers and summarize their responses.



- 2) Interview a parent. Ask them things like:
Why are you Lutheran?
What is important to you about being Lutheran?
Why did you join HOPE Lutheran?
What is important to you about our church?
In regards to faith, what do they hope to pass along to you?

Write down their answers and summarize their responses.



- 3) With your parents or grandparents, look through family scrapbooks or historical heirlooms and talk about how they relate to your faith. Look at wedding pictures, baptism pictures, church pictures, etc. and find out where God was present in these important moments. Afterwards, either write a paragraph or record a 2 minute video sharing at least 3 things that you learned and how that connects to your life.



- 4) Create your own project to connect to your family's faith history. Before you begin, discuss your idea with Pastor Annie.



Personal History

Required: at least 2 experiences from this category

Here are the options:



- 1) Write your autobiography. Who are you and what is your story? What have been some of your biggest joys? What have been some of your hardest challenges? Write at least 3 pages.



- 2) Make a picture timeline of your life with at least one picture from every year of your life. Be sure to explain when, where and what each photo is about. This could be a poster, a scrapbook, a powerpoint presentation, video, etc. Be creative.



- 3) Write your own faith story. What churches have you been a part of? What do you like or not like about HOPE Lutheran? How does your faith help you? What are some of your favorite activities at church? What are some of the important things you've learned at church? Who are some of the people you look up to? Where do you see God leading you in the future? Write at least 1 page.



- 4) Create your own project to illustrate & tell your own personal story. Before you begin, discuss your idea with Pastor Annie.



Baptism Connection

Required: at least 2 experiences from this category

Here are the options:



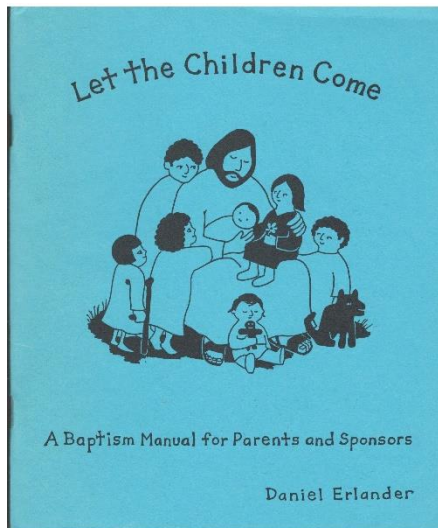
- 1) Research your own baptism. When & where were you baptized? Do you have any artifacts or pictures? Who was there? What is the story? Why did your parents want you to be baptized? Ask your parents to help you. Create something about your baptism so you can share about it and remember it – a poster, a powerpoint presentation, a video, a written story, etc.



- 2) There are 4 sections in Luther's Small Catechism about Baptism. Memorize all 4 sections and take the memory test on each one. You do not need to do all four at the same time.



- 3) Read "Let the Children Come" by Daniel Erlander. Afterwards, either write a paragraph or record a 2 minute video sharing at least 3 things that you learned and how that connects with your life.



- 4) Create your own project to demonstrate your understanding of baptism and why it is important to your identity as a child of God. Before you begin, discuss your idea with Pastor Annie.

STRENGTH & GROWTH

Faith as a Resource

This section is about how God is present for you here and now. Sometimes God shows up and it is obvious. Other times God shows up in more subtle or hidden ways. We know that God shows up in Word and Sacrament and we can turn to these anytime we need to feel God's presence and reassurance. These experiences are designed to help you explore God's presence and power in your life right now.



As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

~Colossians 2:6-7

Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

~Joshua 1:9

To complete this section, you will need to do 15 experiences with various numbers required in each of these categories:

Reading the Bible

Worship Life

Prayer Forms

Devotion, Meditation, Quiet Time

Holy Communion Connection



Reading the Bible

Required: at least 5 experiences from this category

Here are the options:



- 1) Read an entire book of the Bible. (Obadiah, Philemon, 2 & 3 John, and Jude will only count if you read all 5 and count it as 1 book.) Afterwards, either write a paragraph or record a 2 minute video sharing at least 3 things that you learned and how that connects to your life. *You can do this experience up to 3 times as part of the requirements.*



- 2) Go to the Bible Project website (www.bibleproject.com). They have individual videos summarizing many of the books of the Bible. For every 2 of these “books of the Bible” videos that you watch, either write a paragraph or record a 2 minute video sharing at least 3 things that you learned and how that connects to your life. *You can do this experience up to 3 times as part of the requirements.*



- 3) From the list of parables, pick one that looks interesting or that you’ve heard of. Create some artwork (painting, drawing, song, etc.) that conveys the message and meaning of the parable. OR come up with a children’s sermon on this parable and make a video of yourself doing it. **See APPENDIX #6.**



- 4) Memorize a chapter of the Bible that means something to you. Be prepared to either write it out or recite it.



- 5) Attend the confirmation class on Reading the Bible. Afterwards, either write a paragraph or record a 2 minute video sharing at least 3 things that you learned and how that connects with your life.



- 6) Attend the confirmation class on Jesus & the Gospels. Afterwards, either write a paragraph or record a 2 minute video sharing at least 3 things that you learned and how that connects with your life.



- 7) Attend the confirmation class on the Intro to Acts. Afterwards, either write a paragraph or record a 2 minute video sharing at least 3 things that you learned and how that connects with your life.



- 8) Attend the confirmation class on Paul & the Epistles. Afterwards, either write a paragraph or record a 2 minute video sharing at least 3 things that you learned and how that connects with your life.



- 9) Create your own project to demonstrate that you have read through some of the Bible and illustrate how it connects with your life. Before you begin, discuss your idea with Pastor Annie.



Worship Life

Required: at least 3 experiences from this category

Here are the options:



- 1) Attend worship regularly. To get credit, you must attend for 40 Sundays over the two to three years of preparation. **See APPENDIX #7.**



- 2) The sermon is a time for the Word of God to be proclaimed. Listen to at least 5 sermons and write up a sermon notes worksheet on all of them. **See APPENDIX #8.**



- 3) Watch Pastor Annie's video on "A Guide to Lutheran Worship: What We're Doing and Why We're Doing It". Afterwards, either write a paragraph or record a 2 minute video sharing at least 3 things that you learned and how that connects with your life.



- 4) Do a little research about the liturgical year and church holidays, seasons and colors. Create some artwork to represent this or to teach someone else about it.



- 5) Pick 3 hymns or songs and write a short reflection about each one. What imagery is used? What Bible stories/passages/themes are conveyed in each song? When would it be good to sing this song? Is there a story about when or how this hymn/song was written?



- 6) Serve in 3 different worship volunteer roles for a total of at least 4 times throughout the year (i.e. usher/greeter, reader, assisting minister, communion assistant, acolyte, fellowship host, AV team).



- 7) Create your own project to demonstrate that you understand what we are doing when we worship and illustrate how it connects with your life. Before you begin, discuss your idea with Pastor Annie.



Prayer Forms

Required: at least 3 experiences from this category

Here are the options:



- 1) Learn how to pray & practice the Examen prayer. Write a short set of instructions that could be used to teach someone else how to pray this prayer.



- 2) Learn how to pray & practice the Prayer Labyrinth. Write a short set of instructions that could be used to teach someone else how to use this prayer form.



- 3) Learn how to pray & practice Centering Prayer. Write a short set of instructions that could be used to teach someone else how to pray this prayer.



- 4) Learn how to pray & practice using Prayer Beads. Write a short set of instructions that could be used to teach someone else how to use this prayer form.



- 5) Learn how to pray & practice using Consolation & Desolation. Write a short set of instructions that could be used to teach someone else how to use this prayer form.



- 6) Learn how to pray & practice Lectio Divina. Write a short set of instructions that could be used to teach someone else how to use this prayer form to read Scripture.



- 7) Learn how to pray & practice using Prayer Stations. Create your own Prayer Station.



- 8) Individual & personal confession is a tradition in the church. Sit down with Pastor Annie and go through the rite of “Individual Confession and Forgiveness.” You’ll be asked to say aloud the sins for which you are guilty and you will hear a personal word of forgiveness.



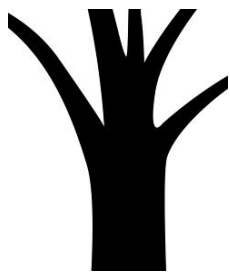
- 9) Luther’s Small Catechism has prayers written for Morning Blessing, Evening Blessing, and Mealtimes. Memorize these prayers and be prepared to either write them or recite them. You do not need to have them all memorized at the same time.



- 10) Write your own set of morning, evening, and mealtime prayers.



- 11) Create your own project to demonstrate that you’ve tried and practiced various prayer forms. Before you begin, discuss your idea with Pastor Annie.



Devotion, Meditation, Quiet Time

Required: at least 2 experiences from this category

Here are the options:



- 1) Read a morning or nightly devotion from a book for an entire month or during a season like Advent or Lent. Check for sources at church.



- 2) Read from Luther's Small Catechism with a parent each night. Do only 1 section per day and discuss what you think it means. Read through the entire Small Catechism in this way.



- 3) With a parent, practice the FAITH 5 at home every night for two weeks. **See APPENDIX #9.**



- 4) There are 9 sections in Luther's Small Catechism about the Lord's Prayer. Memorize all 9 sections and take the memory test on each one. You do not need to do all nine at the same time.



- 5) Dwelling in the Word: choose 1 section of scriptures (Isaiah 55; Philippians 2:1-13; Philippians 4:4-9; or Luke 10:1-12) and read over it every day for a month. Journal about these 3 questions:
 - a. What do you notice, what catches your attention?
 - b. What do you wonder about? What questions does it make you ask?
 - c. What might God be saying to you in this text? What might God be saying to your community?

At the end of the month, look over your journaling. Do any themes emerge? What was this experience like for you? Send Pastor Annie an email describing how it went and what you learned.



- 6) Create your own devotion time and practice and spend regular quiet time with God for a significant period of time. Before you begin, discuss your idea with Pastor Annie.



Holy Communion Connection

Required: at least 2 experiences from this category

Here are the options:



- 1) Help set up & clean up Communion OR help serve as a Communion Assistant OR bake the communion bread for 4 Sundays. Send Pastor Annie an email about how it went.



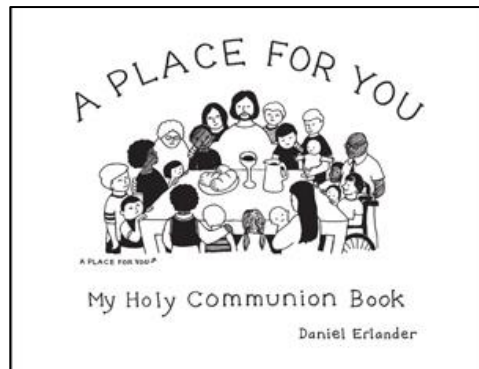
- 2) There are 4 sections in Luther's Small Catechism about Communion. Memorize all 4 sections and take the memory test on each one. You do not need to do all 4 at the same time.



- 3) Attend the class on Communion. Afterwards, either write a paragraph or record a 2 minute video sharing at least 3 things that you learned and how that connects with your life.



- 4) Read "A Place for You" by Daniel Erlander. Afterwards, either write a paragraph or record a 2 minute video sharing at least 3 things that you learned and how that connects with your life.

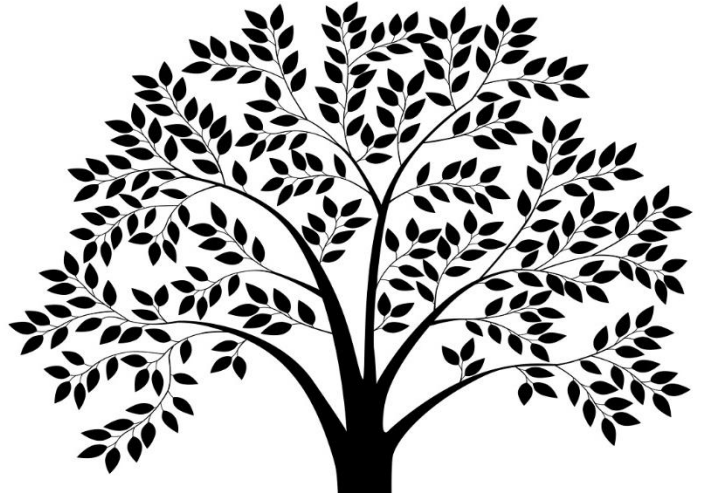


- 5) Create your own project to demonstrate your understanding of Communion and why it is important in your life as a Christian. Before you begin, discuss your idea with Pastor Annie.

BRANCHING OUT & BEARING FRUIT

Faith as a Way of Life

This section explores ways to live out your faith. Our faith in Christ changes how we interact with and engage the world. We seek to share the gospel and change the world. We do this by living in community, forming connections to other people, and following the call of the Holy Spirit. These experiences are designed to help you branch out to other people and bear the fruit of the Spirit in the world.



My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

~Jesus in John 15:8

For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God.

~Colossians 1:9-10

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

~Galatians 5:22-25

To complete this section, you will need to do 15 experiences with various numbers required in each of these categories:

Connecting to the Congregation

Connecting to the World

Personal Faith



Connecting to the Congregation

Required: at least 5 experiences from this category

- 1) Interview at least two congregation members (not in your family) who attend church regularly.

Ask them things like:



What is their faith background & story?

How did they end up being part of HOPE Lutheran & why?

Why are they Lutheran?

What is important to them about our church?

What ways could our church be more faithful to God?

In regards to faith, what do they hope to pass along to the next generation?

If they're not Lutheran, how does their church connect with their beliefs?

Write down their answers and summarize their responses OR (with permission) make a video to share with Pastor Annie.



- 2) Attend a church council meeting. Afterwards, either write a paragraph or record a 2 minute video sharing at least 3 things that you learned and how that connects with your life.



- 3) Become active in a ministry at church. This could be things like participating in worship leadership, mission activities, Faith Adventure programming, congregational life event planning, providing activities for Little Disciples room, etc.



- 4) Help with a congregational fundraiser like Jazz and More or Mission meals.



- 5) Go to a worship service that you don't normally attend.



- 6) Choose an adult mentor from HOPE to connect with once a month during the multi-year confirmation process.



- 7) Attend all of the meals & worship services for either Advent or Lent.



- 8) Attend a youth group trip, synod youth retreat, or summer camp event.



- 9) Come up with your own way to connect to the congregation and get to know other people. Before you begin, discuss your idea with Pastor Annie.



Connecting to the World

Required: at least 5 experiences from this category

Here are the options:



- 1) Attend a non-Lutheran church for a Sunday. Afterwards, either write a paragraph or record a 2 minute video sharing at least 3 things that you learned and compare it to HOPE Lutheran. You can do this experience twice as part of the requirements.



- 2) Participate in at least 3 mission/service projects out in the community. These could be through school (i.e. canned food drive, raising money, etc.), church (i.e. Food Pantry, Grace Place meal, Journey House meal, Refugee support, Backpack program, God's Work Our Hands, blessing bags), or the community.



- 3) Pick a political/world/justice issue and write about how our faith can inform and guide us in how to respond to this issue. If possible, utilize the ELCA Social Statements. Topics could include things like immigration, climate change, abortion, death penalty, or guns. Write at least 1 page on this topic. You can do this experience twice as part of the requirements.



- 4) Attend a mission trip or the national ELCA Youth Gathering.



- 5) Attend church camp for a week or a weekend retreat.



- 6) Attend the confirmation class or activity on Comparing Other Denominations. Afterwards, either write a paragraph or record a 2 minute video sharing at least 3 things that you learned and how that connects with your life.



- 7) Attend the confirmation class or activity on Comparing Other Religions. Afterwards, either write a paragraph or record a 2 minute video sharing at least 3 things that you learned and how that connects with your life.



- 8) Come up with your own way to serve others or connect with the world from a faith perspective. Before you begin, discuss your idea with Pastor Annie.



Personal Faith

Required: at least 5 experiences from this category

Here are the options:



- 1) Bring a friend to worship on Sunday morning. As you do, try to explain what is happening and why, to them.



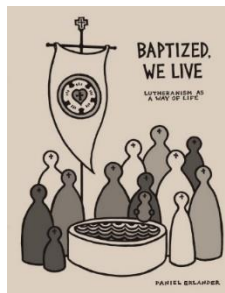
- 2) Bring a friend to a church event (youth group, service project, etc.) outside of a Sunday morning.



- 3) Create a piece of art that represents your faith or your walk with God. Spend some time on this and be creative.



- 4) Read "Baptized We Live" by Dan Erlander or other recommended book. Afterwards, either write a paragraph or record a 2 minute video sharing at least 3 things that you learned and how that connects with your life.



- 5) Create your own project to illustrate your faith so that it can be shared with others. Before you begin, discuss your idea with Pastor Annie.



- 6) **REQUIRED** – As one of your 5 experiences, pick a verse that can serve as your Confirmation verse. There are suggestions in the files. Write about what this verse means to you and why it is important. See APPENDIX #10.



- 7) **REQUIRED** – As one of your 5 experiences, write your personal faith statement. It should answer two questions:
 - What do you believe and why?
 - What does your faith mean to you?

Each answer should be at least a paragraph. This is one of the last things you'll do, so save it until you near the end. You'll read this in front of the congregation as part of the confirmation rite.



THE APPENDIX

APPENDIX #1

Sermon on Salvation History by Rev. Chad Langdon

As everyone knows, this week we will celebrate Thanksgiving. Because we are Christians, we can take this special day to rejoice and give thanks to God for all of the wonderful things that he has done in our lives. Our worship team wanted this Sunday's theme to be about giving thanks, and as I got to thinking about Thanksgiving, I took a closer look at how the people in the Bible used to give thanks. What are the biblical ways of giving thanks to God? As I researched this, most passages dealing with thanksgiving show us that biblically, there were three basic ways that people gave thanks. First, they gave thanks through singing and through music. I think that we're doing a pretty good job of that here at Christ Lutheran. Our worship is always filled with wonderful music of thanksgiving, mostly thanks to Margaret Dietz our organist for the last 40 plus years, Darla Steinert choir director, all the great volunteers in our praise band, all our choir members, musicians, and of course, to all of you who lend your voices to the hymns, songs, and liturgy that we sing every week. Christ Lutheran does a pretty good job of offering thanks to God by way of music and this is biblical.

The second way that people in the Bible offered their thanks to God was to do animal sacrifices. Did anybody bring their cattle with them to sacrifice on our altar this evening? How about any goats or sheep out there? Or even doves? Well, I guess since nobody brought any animals to sacrifice, we can count our collection offering as our thanksgiving sacrifice. I suppose chipping in a little extra cash for Thanksgiving Day would be the modern-day equivalent to offering up one of your animals in a thanksgiving offering. I think that Christ Lutheran also does a pretty good job of this as well, although I will say that October's giving was way down for some reason. Most months we do a pretty good job with our offerings, and while I'm not sure what percentage of your income any of you are giving, I do know we have some tithers out there, faithful givers of a full 10% of your income. That's pretty good, and giving financially is a great way to give thanks to God.

Finally, the third way that I found to give thanks to God is simply to retell the story of what God has done for you – to look back over history and remember where God has been present and what God has done. This happens many times in the Bible throughout the Old and New Testaments. Its also why we always say the Words of Institution just before Communion. We are retelling the story of Jesus and what he did for us. And its part of the reason that we are going through the Bible chronologically this year – to remember & give thanks for all that God has done.

You see, God has been working in history from the very beginning and sometimes we forget that we are really connected to all the people in the Bible in one very important way – God was active in their lives and he continues to be active in our lives today.

In the beginning when the Spirit of the Lord moved over the waters of chaos, he created the entire universe out of love. He created the stars, the moon, the sun, and the entire earth. Then he created human beings so that his creation could respond to him in love. He loved those first human beings, even after they deliberately disobeyed his single command. Eventually, humanity became so corrupt and self-centered that they were destroying the world and each other. God, out of love for creation, cleansed the earth with a great flood, and out of love, he saved one family and two of every

kind of animal. He also promised never to do that again with the beautiful rainbow that we can still catch glimpses of today.

Soon thereafter, God chose to bless the entire human race and he chose to do this through one faithful man. God promised this man, Abraham, that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky. God gave Abraham and his wife, Sarah, a child named Isaac and despite their advanced age and incredible skepticism, God remained true to his promises. Isaac had two sons, Jacob and Esau. God was faithful and blessed Jacob with twelve sons, who eventually moved to Egypt because of a drought. God worked through the safety and protection of the Egyptian nation to multiply Jacob's twelve sons into an entire Hebrew nation. As they were enslaved by the Egyptians, God worked through two men, Moses and Aaron, and went to great lengths to free his people from bondage – bringing plagues upon the Egyptians and even parting the Red Sea. No sooner did they cross the Red Sea and make camp at Mt. Sinai, but the Hebrew people forgot God's wonderful deeds and began worshipping the golden calf. This generation never made it to the Promised Land. They lacked faith in God and ignored his instructions. But God didn't give up on his people or his promises. He fed the people in the wilderness with manna, gave them water from the rock, and gave them the Torah so that they could live as a blessing to God and to the rest of the world. After 40 years of wandering in the desert, God brought the next generation through to the Promised Land.

Under the leadership of Joshua, and through the strength of God, the Hebrew people were victorious in securing the Promised Land. In the next 200 years, whenever God's people would have problems with a neighboring country, God was always faithful to lift up a leader known as a judge to lead his people. Some of these judges were even women, like Deborah. But the people complained to God and asked God to make them like the rest of the nations. They asked God to give them an earthly king. God, through Samuel, anointed Israel's first king, Saul. Like God said would happen, Saul soon forgot about God and became corrupt. And so God anointed David as king. And David was a great king, remaining faithful to God and his instructions. David's son, Solomon, was also faithful to God, and under these two faithful kings, Israel flourished and became the blessing to the world that God had intended.

But after Solomon's death, Israel once again forgot about God and, as we talked about last week, they erupted into civil war, dividing into two kingdoms – the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Both nations rebelled against, ignored, and forgot about God. They weakened themselves so that they were easily conquered – the northern kingdom by Assyria as I mentioned last week. And then, about a 150 years later, the southern kingdom of Judah was conquered by Babylon and Solomon's beautiful Temple was destroyed.

And even though the people had forgotten about God, God remained faithful. God sent them great prophets like Elijah, Isaiah, and Jeremiah – even Jonah. And then God used a complete stranger, Cyrus of Persia, to conquer the Babylonians, releasing the Israelites so that they could return to the promised land and rebuild the Temple. Once again, God worked through the safety and protection of stronger nations like Rome to multiply his people and rebuild their nation.

It was then that God completely changed history. He didn't just act in history, he changed it. God took on our humanness, our sinfulness, our unfaithfulness, and God became human in Jesus Christ. He also took on our pain, our brokenness, and conquered our biggest enemy – death. Jesus died a human death, crucified by the very people he came to save, but then he was raised in a glorious resurrection, conquering death and making it possible for everyone, not just the Israelites, to experience God's love and grace in a whole new way!

But God's activity didn't end there. God sent the Holy Spirit to the people, making it possible for everyone to experience his love. Throughout the first century AD, the Holy Spirit gave the early biblical writers the inspiration to write the books of the Bible. God also gave the early Christians the strength and love to spread the gospel of Christ, even when their very lives were being threatened. The church grew and flourished, yet it also had some problems. Our sin continued to get in the way. The church had a major split in 1054, forming the Roman Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church. This split still exists today. In 1095, the church entered one of its darkest periods – the Crusades. Hundreds of thousands were slaughtered in the name of Jesus Christ. We had forgotten God and misunderstood once again!

Despite this unfaithfulness to the gospel of Christ, God remained faithful and active. He gave us some wonderful saints whose teachings still influence us today. Saints like St. Francis of Assisi, St. Thomas Aquinas and Martin Luther were lifted up as examples of faith and these people changed and reformed the church.

Unfortunately, following the Reformation, God's desire for unity among his people was once again shattered as the church split and shattered into hundreds of different denominations, constantly fighting amongst themselves and persecuting each other.

But God remains faithful. God continues to work to once again bring unity to his church. In 1948, the World Council of Churches was formed. In 1962, the Second Vatican Council was convened and opened the way to dialogs between different denominations that had been separated by hundreds of years of hatred toward one another.

Late in 1950, the American Lutheran Church sent a missionary pastor to Wichita, Kansas. His name was Pastor Carl Busse and he gathered some folks together, and they held their first worship service together on Dec. 3, 1950. On March 4, 1951, that little group of worshippers officially became Christ Lutheran Church, with some of you among those charter members. Christ Lutheran began to grow in numbers, but also in service and faithfulness. Since then, God has sent this congregation many faithful pastors and has formed hundreds of faithful disciples for his service. At some point in time, God has also brought each and every one of you to this church as well. Hopefully each of you has been able to experience God's grace and love at this place with these fellow Christians. God has indeed been active here.

And this morning, the salvation story continues. Where has God been faithful to his promises of love and grace in your life? This week, as we celebrate the day of Thanksgiving, let's take time to think about God and retell those stories of God's faithfulness. Amen.

APPENDIX #2

Biblical Timeline Suggestions

Creation	Adam & Eve	Noah & the Flood	Tower of Babel
Abraham & Sarah	Isaac & Rebekah	Jacob, Leah & Rachel	12 Sons of Israel
Joseph	Israel in slavery	The Exodus	Moses
40 years in wilderness	Joshua	Deborah	Gideon
Samson	Samuel	King Saul	King David
King Solomon	Israel vs. Judah	Assyrian Exile	Babylonian Exile
Elijah	Isaiah	Jeremiah	Ezekiel
Cyrus of Persia	Ezra & Nehemiah	Jesus	Pentecost
Paul the Apostle			

APPENDIX #3

Narrative Lectionary Readings

Genesis 2:4-17; 3:1-8	Luke 9:51-62
Genesis 15:1-6	Luke 10:25-42
Genesis 37:3-34; 50:15-21	Luke 13:1-9, 31-35
Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8	Luke 15:1-32
Exodus 32:1-14	Luke 16:19-31
1 Samuel 1:9-20; 2:1-10	Luke 18:31 – 19:10
2 Samuel 7:1-17	Luke 19:29-44
1 Kings 17:1-16	Luke 22:1-27
Jonah 1:1-17; 3:1-10	Luke 23:32-47
Isaiah 6:1-8	Luke 24:1-12
Jeremiah 36:1-8, 21-28; 31:31-34	Luke 24:13-35
Daniel 6:6-27	Acts 2:1-4
Joel 2:12-13, 28-29	Acts 6:1 - 7:2, 44-60
Isaiah 61:1-11	Acts 8:26-39
Luke 1:26-45	Acts 15:1-18
Luke 2:1-14	
Luke 2:8-20	
Luke 2:21-38	
Luke 2:41-52	
Luke 3:1-22	
Luke 4:14-30	
Luke 5:1-11	
Luke 6:1-16	
Luke 7:1-17	
Luke 9:28-45	

APPENDIX #4

List of Cool Saints

Augustine of Hippo	Francis of Assisi	Nicholas of Myra	Teresa of Calcutta
John of the Cross	Benedict of Nursia	Joan of Arc	Moses the Black
Ignatius of Loyola	George of Lydda	Patrick of Ireland	Mary, mother of God
Bernard of Clairvaux	Hilary of Poitiers	Catherine of Siena	Therese of Lisieux
Lucy of Syracuse	Aloysius Gonzaga	Teresa of Avila	Clare of Assisi

APPENDIX #5

Some Famous Christian Works of Art

David by Michelangelo

Basilica de la Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, Spain

Book of Kells in Ireland

Pieta by Michelangelo

Black Christ by Warner Traynham

The Wales Window for Alabama by John Potts

Apocalypse Tapestry by Bondol & Bataille

Well of Moses by Claus Sluter

Christ the Redeemer in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil

Holy Trinity icon by Andrei Rublev

The Annunciation by Fra Angelico

The Procession of the Magi by Benozzo Gozzoli

St. Wolfgang Altarpiece by Michael Pacher

The Last Supper by Leonardo Da Vinci

The Sistine Chapel ceiling by Michelangelo

Disputation of the Holy Sacrament by Raphael

Christ Crucified by Diego Velazquez

The Head of Christ by Warner Sallman

Ecce Homo by Antonio Ciseri

The Incredulity of St. Thomas by Caravaggio

The Crucifixion by Matthias Grunewald

Altarpiece in the City Church of Wittenberg by Lucas Cranach, the Elder

APPENDIX #6

List of Jesus' Parables

Matthew 13:1-12	The Sower
Matthew 13:24-30	The Weeds Among the Wheat
Matthew 13:31-32	The Mustard Seed
Matthew 13:33-34	The Yeast
Matthew 13:44	Hidden Treasure
Matthew 13:45-46	The Pearl
Matthew 13:47-50	The Net Full of Fish
Matthew 18:23-35	The Unforgiving Servant
Matthew 20:1-16	Laborers in the Vineyard
Matthew 21:28-32	The Two Sons
Matthew 21:33-45	The Tenant Farmers
Matthew 25:1-13	The Ten Bridesmaids
Matthew 25:14-30	The Talents
Luke 10:29-37	The Good Samaritan
Luke 12:13-21	The Rich Fool
Luke 13:6-9	The Barren Fig Tree
Luke 14:15-24	The Great Dinner
Luke 15:1-7	The Lost Sheep
Luke 15:8-10	The Lost Coin
Luke 15:11-32	The Lost Son(s)
Luke 16:19-31	The Rich Man & Lazarus
Luke 18:9-14	The Pharisee & the Tax Collector

APPENDIX #7

Worship Attendance Checklist

	<i>Date</i> <i>Attended Worship</i>
1	
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	<i>Date</i> <i>Attended Worship</i>
21	
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40	

APPENDIX #8

Sermon Notes Page

Sermon Notes

Date_____ Preacher_____ Your Name_____

Scripture Reading(s) :

Something
I Learned :

The Main Point or
Message that I Heard :

Question(s)
I Still Have :

How was
this sermon
Good News?

APPENDIX #9

Guide to the FAITH 5

Share highs & lows for the day.

Read a passage from scripture.

Talk about what you heard in that passage & how it connects to your life.

Pray together & for each other.

Bless each other with affirming words & the sign of the cross.



APPENDIX #10

Possible Suggestions for Confirmation Verse

Romans 5:3 And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Romans 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 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 14:7 We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 8 If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord'

1 Corinthians 16:13 Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. 14 Let all that you do be done in love.

2 Corinthians 4:6 For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us

Romans 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2 Corinthians 4:16 So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. 17 For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, 18 because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 12:9 but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Galatians 5:22 By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- 9 not the result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 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.

Philippians 4:6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 6:11 But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. 12 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.

2 Timothy 1:6 For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; 7 for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

John 14:12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

John 15:9 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Romans 8:28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.