

Faith Statement Guidelines for Students and Parents

Christianity has always defined itself in a world that has many kinds of “faith”. So, it’s important for our identity as Christians to be able to speak clearly about the God in whom we believe.

But your statement of Christian faith is not just an individual effort. Parents, brothers and sisters, grandparents, friends and neighbors who exemplify Christian faith may also help you define your own faith.

IMPORTANT! Use your parents, grand parents or family, folks at church, your small group guide to help you write your Faith Statement! More than just writing your own faith statement, this assignment can help you connect with your family’s and church’s faith history.

Your Choice!

During Confirmation you have spent significant time in large group presentations and small group discussions studying and talking about the Lord’s Prayer, Apostles’ Creed and the Bible -- Old and New Testaments.

For your faith statement, you may choose to write using one of three options for the The Lord’s Prayer or the Apostles’ Creed or a Bible story or passage as the framework for talking about your Christian faith at this time in your life. Be creative. **My suggestions below are to help you, not restrict you.** They allow for flexibility. However, your faith statement needs to reflect our Lutheran Christian faith. Use **Luther’s Small Catechism**. Contact me if you need resources for the Bible.

Deadlines, deadlines, deadlines . . .

You need to have a first rough draft of your faith statement done by the time of your visit with me, Pastor Morck. **Those visits will be scheduled in late August and September.** If you want to schedule a time earlier that is a good option. Just give me a call.

During August-September I will call to set up a time (to come to your home to go over your draft with you and your parents). If the home option is not convenient I can meet with you and your parents here at church.

At the time of the visit, I don’t expect a finished product, but I need to see a complete or nearly complete draft. The purpose of the visit is to talk about what you’ve done, help you with any problems or roadblocks, and let you know where you’re doing well.

Based on our conversation during the visit, you can then revise your faith statement as necessary. You will have to turn in a clean (legible!) copy of your faith statement on the night of the confirmation rehearsal on October 16, 2013. After Confirmation Sunday we’ll copy them all into a booklet for you and your class.

Don’t Flounder! If you’re stuck or stumped or confused, don’t wait! Give me a call. I will be glad to help you. Talk to me any Sunday or give me a call at church during the week. **Also, use your parents, grandparents, folks you know at church, your small group guide, etc., to help you.**

Option 1

The Lord's Prayer (Remember to use "Luther's Small Catechism")

Introduction:	Our Father who art in heaven
First Petition:	Hallowed be thy name
Second Petition:	Thy kingdom come
Third Petition:	Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven
Fourth Petition:	Give us this day our daily bread
Fifth Petition:	And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Sixth Petition:	And lead us not into temptation
Seventh Petition:	But deliver us from evil
Doxology:	For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Power of Prayer (at least one paragraph, 4-6 sentences)

Why do you pray this prayer? How is it related to your faith in God? What does it mean to you that Jesus himself taught this prayer to his disciples and you? Share about a specific time or incident when you or your family prayed this prayer. What was the situation? What happened? Do you need to pray the Lord's Prayer each day? If so, why? If not, why?

Asking for God's Help (The Petitions) (three paragraphs minimum)

Look at the seven petitions (above) that make up the Lord's Prayer. Pick three of them that you seem to need most in your daily life. Then write at least one paragraph (4-6 sentences long) about each of those three petitions. (You might want to check Luther's Small Catechism for help or ideas. Ask for a copy if you've lost yours.) Use the following guidelines to help you with this section. For each petition, talk about the following:

What is happening in your life that makes this petition so important to you?

If you have had an experience where praying the petition made a difference (for example, keeping you or a family member safe from evil or a time when you have felt God's forgiveness), tell what that meant to you.

Ask your parents or family to pick their top three petitions; talk about why they are the same or different from your picks.

Ask your family for a Bible verse that helps them pray. Write the verse in your statement.

Hey, God! (One paragraph)

How does this prayer help you believe that "Our Father who art in heaven" really knows you and cares about you?

Option 2

The Apostles' Creed (Remember to use "Luther's Small Catechism")

If you are using the Apostles' Creed, you must discuss the following subjects in your faith statement:

What I Believe. Christian faith is about God as Creator, Redeemer (Jesus) and Sanctifier (Holy Spirit). *Each section should be at least one paragraph long (4-6 sentences).*

What I believe about God as Creator - Father: What does it mean, that "God created me and all that exists?"
Ask your parent(s) to supply a Bible verse about God as creator.

What I believe about God as Redeemer - Jesus: What does it mean that Jesus has saved and redeemed me and is my Lord? Include a statement from one or both of your parents or other relatives about how they understand Jesus as their Lord.

What I believe about God as Sanctifier-Holy Spirit: What does it mean that God through the Holy Spirit has called me to faith? Include a statement about how your parents knew their parents (your grandparents) believed in Jesus.

Ask your family for their favorite Bible story about God as either Father, Son or Holy Spirit. Write why you think they chose this story or verse.

Passing on the Faith. Write a short statement imagining what you would say about what your Christian faith means to you as you would tell it to your children or grandchildren. Or, write about what you would want others to remember about your faith as a "last will and testament."

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.

Option 3 - Don't forget to consider this one.

The Bible

Old and New Testaments: Choose a story or passage from the Bible, either Old or New Testament and write a short sermon! Here's how. In this passage of scripture... (For example - pick the Christmas story in Luke 2. Or one of the resurrection stories in Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. Maybe your family has a favorite story or Bible verses and you can write how they became meaningful to your family.)

Write :

1. What was going on?
2. Why do you think this was written?
3. What story does it tell or message given in your own words?
4. What is the passage telling me to do?
5. What promise is God giving me in these words?
6. What in the passage came to you as brand new?
7. What does it mean for the world?
8. Include a story from your own life that relates to your Bible story or passage.

Let me know if you need help with this one.

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