

# JUNE - JULY NEWSLETTER



## Pastor's Letter

On Sunday, June 14 we confirmed three young men at Mt. Olivet. These young men have completed two years of study of the Lutheran faith and Bible. They were absolutely remarkable to have in class—asking good questions and genuinely wrestling with how the teachings of the faith connect to the world around them. They were engaged in class, imaginative, and refused to accept easy answers about faith and life.

As a final project, they were given a set of questions to choose from to write a statement of faith. I think you will see in these statements that follow the same depth of engagement and questioning that marked their class sessions. These young men show us that they are committed to continuing to seek answers about what it means to live their faith and to know, love, and serve God in our complex and ever-changing world. I give thanks for their courage and honesty in sharing these reflections. It was a delight and privilege to journey with them in confirmation these last two years and I look forward to seeing how God continues to work in their life. Please enjoy, reflect, and be challenged by these faith statements.

Pastor Kimberly

## Confirmation Final Project: by Pierce Menke

If I could describe someone who has never heard of God before, I would describe him as imaginary to you, real to me. God is real to Christians because of their faith in him, but someone without faith would say that he isn't real. There is little to no proof of the things he has done, or even the fact that he exists, other than the Bible. People don't believe in God for several reasons, like how it sometimes doesn't make sense or that it would be easier not to, or that they have never been taught about him. The fact that God cannot be seen or felt keeps many people from believing in him, so Christians must use faith to believe and trust in God.

In all four gospels, the story of Jesus dying and rising again is included, which proves how significant it is. But it is significant not only because it is impossible, but because of what it means for us. Because Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins, we can now be with God forever, something that should not be taken for granted. My faith has changed a lot in the last two years. I have learned a lot more about the Bible than I did when I started confirmation, and have started reading the bible more often than I used to. I also have a deeper understanding of being a Christian, which is not just to be a good person and read the bible, but to let God help make decisions in your life.

Because Jesus died on the cross, he forgave everyone's sins, not just people who deserve to be saved. This means that the Bible and God are for everyone to learn about, and that everyone can become a Christian, even if they have done bad things in their lives. Some people miss out on that part, and believe that only "good" people deserve to be saved.

To truly be part of the church, it means more than showing up on Sundays. It means letting God help make the decisions in your life, and not only doing what you want, but what God wants you to do. People think that Christianity is just church, prayer, and the Bible, but there is much more to it than that.

## Confirmation Project: Quincy Weaver

### QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe God to someone who had never heard of God before?

God has created everything on earth and everything we have. No one has ever seen him before but he protects us and gives us things. If we ever sin he can forgive you.

2. Why does it matter to you that Jesus died and rose again? Jesus died for us on the cross. People thought he was a minister because he could heal people. He rose again so that he would help more people in the world and that means a lot.

3. How has your faith changed or grown in the last two years? In the last two years I've learned a lot of things. There were a lot of things I didn't know about that I have learned. I don't think my faith has changed during the two years. I feel closer to God and Jesus.

4. How do you think being a Christian is supposed to change how to you treat people?

I don't think being a Christian changes how to treat people. You should always treat people as kindly as you can. If you're not treating people with respect then you shouldn't even be a Christian.

5. Where do you feel called to serve or make a difference?

On the field I would thank God for my courage and strength. I pray for my family and for a great day. I thrive by helping out other people.

## Confirmation Project- Ryker Norman

To me God is a being who people put their faith in. People can worship him and look for guidance in times of need. He is an idea of a being who helps people with their problems and guides them along the right path to be good people in life. I think of God more as a piece of my mind that can help me when I'm feeling down or am having a hard time rather than some floating old guy on a cloud.

I think the reason that Jesus dying matters is that it helps give people a reason to help others and live a life without sin. His dying for our sins allows people to get to Heaven after their life is over. It helps me feel better knowing that I have forgiveness over my sins.

My faith has changed a lot. I see the teachings of the bible differently and take its messages in a different way. I believe more in the message and teachings of the bible like be a good person, help your neighbors, and other things like that. I question more as if I believe as much in all the stories about miracles and hierarchy in the church have anything to do with my faith.

I feel fine knowing I'm saved through faith. On one hand I don't know how much I believe about me dying and going to some magical place in the sky that is perfect with sunshine and clouds. I'm more worried about the impact I am going to have on Earth and what I can do to help others now. I think that it shouldn't change how I treat people whether I am a Christian or not. No matter what you believe, being a good person is just something you should do.

I feel called to serve in my home. I feel that I should help my family around the house and do what my parents ask. The one question I still have is, how do any of these random stories with miracles have anything to do with me? I've learned how Jesus was a leader and how he helped others in the world by giving them hope and healing them. To be part of the church is a commitment to helping the world be a better place.

## **Special Joint Worship Service on Sunday, June 28 at Swede Valley Lutheran Church**

Join us on Sunday, June 28 for a joint worship service with our partner congregation Immanuel Lutheran in Ogden. Worship will be held at the Swede Valley Church building (4 miles south of Ogden on Highway 169). Fellowship time will be at 9:30am with worship following at 10:30am. Worship will feature a special choir from both churches so I hope you can join us.

## **Vacation Bible School: August 10-12**

Save the date because Vacation Bible School is coming August 10-12. All preschool and elementary aged youth are invited for three nights of fun as we explore our faith. VBS will be held with the children and youth from First Christian Church and will be at Mt. Olivet on August 10 and then First Christian August 11 and 12. We will meet from 4-6pm (note that a snack will be provided, but VBS does not include dinner). Volunteers are also needed to help teach or help with activities. Older youth are welcome to serve as volunteers as well. If you are interested or have questions, please talk to Meg Menke or Pastor Kimberly.

## **With Deepest Sympathy**

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Esther Toepfer who passed away on April 16. We also remember in prayer the family and friends of former Mt. Olivet pastor Rev. Stan Lillich who passed away April 12. May God's comfort surround and fill the hearts of Esther and Pastor Stan's families and friends and may the memory of these beloved saints be a blessing.

## **Christmas in July**

Join us Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup> for Christmas in July. We will have a service of Christmas lessons and carols and remember again the coming of our Savior to be Immanuel, God with us.

## Star Words

How is your journey coming this year with your star word? Star words were handed out in worship back in January to help guide our devotional life this year. Here are some reflection questions to help you continue on the journey.

1. Now that we are halfway through the year, revisit your initial thoughts, impressions, and prayers you first had with your star word. How have they changed? How have you grown?
2. How has your star word surprised you far?

## Bread Breakers

Join us for lunch on the third Wednesday of the month, July 15 at noon. We will be having a potluck. Sign up sheet to let us know what you are bringing is under the mailboxes in the entry way at church. Hope you can join us and as always, you are welcome to bring a friend or two!

## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Float

Volunteers are needed to help with our float for the Perry 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. We need help with decorating and we need people who would like to ride on the float. If you are interested, please talk to Pastor.

## Welcome New Baby

Congratulations to James and Brooke Kingsley on the birth of their son, Luca Tyler on April 26, 2026. We will be celebrating Luca's baptism on Sunday, July 19.



## **Worship Leaders**

June 21: Sackett family

June 28: Joint worship at Swede Valley at 10:30am

July 5: Norman family

July 12: Hardy family

July 19: Sandy Seeman and Marlene Johnson

July 26: Jessica Renken and Torey Olson

August 2: Burgett Family

## **Altar Guild**

June 21: Claire Drizness

June 28: Joint worship at Swede Valley at 10:30am

July 5:

July 12: Teresa Painter

July 19: Marlene Johnson

July 26:

August 2:

## **Fellowship Hosts**

June 21: Wanitta Ramsey and Marlene Johnson

June 28: Joint worship at Swede Valley at 10:30am

July 5: Hoger family

July 12:

July 19: Darlene Lyons and Harley Weyer

July 26: Deb Rose and Wanitta Ramsey

Aug 2: Sally Radke

## **Mowing**

June 18-20: Randy Reuter

June 25-27: Doug Stetzel

July 2-4: Rusty Burgett

July 9-11: Rusty Burgett

July 16-18:

July 23-25: Tyler Huntington

July 30-Aug. 1: Doug Stetzel



# MT. OLIVET CELEBRATIONS

We have had a lot to celebrate at Mt. Olivet these past two and a half months. From a full and uplifting Easter Sunday worship to the college graduation of one of our young adults to two baptisms to the confirmation of 3 of our young men, we have been busy celebrating and rejoicing in the work of the Holy Spirit at Mt. Olivet.

In case you missed any of the celebrations, here are a couple of pictures

## Easter Sunday

Following worship on Easter, we had a Easter Egg hunt for all the kids. They had a great time. Thank you to our confirmation students and the social concerns for hosting this event!



## Graduate Celebration

Cole Nelson graduated from Iowa State University with a B.S. degree in Agricultural Business and International Agriculture. Cole will begin his professional career with Scoular Gain in Omaha, NE. Congratulations Cole!

## Baptism of Beau Dardanes

On Sunday, May 17, we celebrated the baptism of Beau Dardanes. Beau's parents are Chris and Amber and his sponsors were the Norman family!



## Baptism of Deb Rose

On Sunday, June 7 we welcomed Deb Rose into the Mt. Olivet family through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Deb's sponsors were Mike and Wanitta Ramsey



## Confirmation Sunday: June 14

We had the privilege of celebrating the confirmation or affirmation of baptism of three of our young men at Mt. Olivet: Piere Menke, Ryker Norman, and Quincy Weaver. Their faith statements are included with this newsletter and we applaud them for their hard work in wrestling and growing in faith during these last two years of classes. Congratulations gentlemen!

