

Eriq Schau



Faith Statement – May 26, 2013

Jesus to me is someone who is my friend and mentor. He gave his life for the forgiveness of our sins, which is pretty outstanding considering he did this for people he didn't even know. I consider him my mentor because whenever I need help, he is the perfect person to go to. He is my friend because whenever I need someone to talk to, he is always listening and can help me, like a good friend does. If I am confronted with a situation or a difficult decision where I feel uncomfortable, I can pray and ask God for help to lead me or show me the way. If someone is sick or has lost a loved one, I ask God to help those affected during their troubling time. I turned to Jesus when my Grandpa Oliver died and my Grandma Jan was diagnosed with cancer. Whenever I felt the need to talk I would pray and I felt calmness, like he was giving me a hug and telling me everything was going to be okay.

The most important thing I have learned about Jesus is that no matter how much or how bad you have sinned, God will always forgive you, because Jesus gave his life for us. We are all imperfect and, I have sinned, but I always know in my heart that Jesus will forgive me and no matter what he will guide me through sin to help me find closure on things that I have done. I am thankful and humbled every day that Jesus was willing to die on the cross for me and that God was willing to give his only son so that I could have eternal grace. One of my favorite discussions in Confirmation was about the Samaritans. Specifically, one Samaritan who went against the law touching dead people in order to help someone who was so badly beaten, that he appeared to be dead. I admire the courage, love and the empathy this Samaritan showed in order to help a total stranger. This is where the term "A Good Samaritan" comes from....someone who helps a person that he or she does not know. Jesus is kind of like our "Good Samaritan" he displayed all the same qualities and more by saving the lives of total strangers, like you and me.

Being part of St. Paul's is important to me because this is where I was baptized; I had my First Holy Communion and am now being confirmed. St. Paul's is a big part of my life, my faith, and my family. Whenever I need to clear my mind, I know that I can come here to feel at peace, pray and be close to God with my family. St. Paul's has supported me by expanding my faith and helping me have a closer relationship with God. Members of St. Paul's have always encouraged me to step outside of my comfort zone and to believe in myself. Becoming an acolyte was very intimidating to me but with the support of the congregation and lots of prayer I was finally able to overcome my fear. With all the high fives and "good jobs" from everyone after the services were over, I was finally able to realize that being up on the altar with pastor, in a white robe, and having the entire congregation staring at you, really isn't that bad. I would like to thank God for giving me life and the opportunity to have a relationship with him and his son Jesus. I would like to thank Jesus for giving his life in return for mine. To my mom and dad who made a promise to God when I was baptized to raise me to know him and serve him....and for keeping that promise. I would like to thank my sister because she is proof to me that through God miracles really do happen. To my Grandparents, God parents and entire family for encouraging me, supporting me and believing in me no matter what, thank you. To Pastor Scott for always being positive, easy to talk to and having a smile on his face. To Geoff and all my Sunday school teachers over the years, I would like to thank you for my religious education. I have learned so much from all of you and that has helped me to build my faith and a stronger relationship with God.

One thing I hope for my future is to further expand my faith and to always stay connected to God so that I can have a life full of love, joy, peace and eternal happiness.