

Our 2008 Confirmands

Confirmed in the Lord at Peace Lutheran Church on
18 May Anno † Domini 2008

Tyrel Jacob Harwager

Date of Birth: 1 March Anno † Domini 1994
Place of Birth: Grand Island, NE
Date of Baptism: 8 May Anno † Domini 1994
Place of Baptism: Grace Lutheran Church (Grand Island, NE)
Confirmation Text: *“For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.” (Romans 3:28)*

Charles Joseph Oswald

Date of Birth: 7 April Anno † Domini 1995
Place of Birth: Alma, MI
Date of Baptism: 24 October Anno † Domini 1999
Place of Baptism: Peace Lutheran Church (Alma, MI)
Confirmation Text: *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)*

Rebekah Maree Rodriguez

Date of Birth: 28 February Anno † Domini 1994
Place of Birth: Alma, MI
Date of Baptism: 8 July Anno † Domini 2007
Place of Baptism: Peace Lutheran Church (Alma, MI)
Confirmation Text: *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

A Prayer for Our Catechumens

Lord God, heavenly Father, in Holy Baptism You began Your good work in our catechumens, and You have blessed their instruction and training in Your Word. We implore You to pour out Your Holy Spirit on their hearts and minds so that they will truly love and revere You, confess the faith with joy and boldness, endeavor to live according to Your commandments, and praise and glorify You as their faithful God and Lord, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

“Hold That Fast Which Thou Hast”

The following excerpt is taken from “Hold That Fast Which Thou Hast,” a 1951 Confirmation sermon preached by Rev. Dr. Norman Nagel, one of the greatest Lutheran theologians and pastors of our day. May his words penetrate the hearts not only of our confirmands, but of all of us who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

My dear catechumens, today you step forward before God and this body of Christians as young men and women who are responsible for their lives. You will make your oath of allegiance. You will confess the creed, which is to declare that you will live your lives by God and His truth. You promise that He shall be the controlling center of your lives today and even to death. God shall be your rock tower of strength, at the center, unmovable, a sure stronghold. Each part of your life shall have its true value and meaning in being connected to God. You shall know that Christ and His Words are true, for you mean to live them. We have often said how when the greatest love in our lives is the love of God, then all the other loves in our lives will be larger, healthier, and happier. We love our parent, spouse, child, or friend best when we love God most. With God at the center, all other things and relationships will fall into their proper place, each with its true value and meaning. Today you give your word that God will be in control in your life. You confess Him as your Lord. You belong to Him, and your life you plan according to His plan and on the rock foundation of His Word . . .

Live by the strength and purpose that are ours in Christ so you may hear at the end, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:21). It will be well done, well lived, if it has been lived by faith in Christ and by the power of His love. May the Spirit of God ever confirm your faith through the life-giving Word of God that your hold on Jesus may never slacken so your life shines forth Jesus and is a life beautiful and worthwhile, a life ever watched over by the care and love of your heavenly Father. May He bring you safely to your first Communion that there you may receive the pledge and proof of the redeeming love that died that you might have life as the child of God. May you there be confirmed in faith and hold fast to your Savior and your Lord throughout the life that you this day do solemnly dedicate to God. Amen.¹

¹ *Selected Sermons of Norman Nagel: From Valparaiso to St. Louis* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2004).