

*2021 Confirmand
Biographies and Testimonies*



Parker C Boom



Biography - Parker Charles Boom was born July 9, 2008. He was baptized July 2009 in Arcadia, MI. Parker's parents are Scott and Laura Boom. He has two brothers, Zach and Gavin, and a sister, Shelby. He also has two dogs, Gordie and Reggie. Parker attend Nickels Intermediate in Byron Center and enjoys sports. He plays travel baseball and hockey. Parker would like to visit Alaska to see Glacier Bay National Park, and maybe even skate on the ice.

Testimony - I am grateful to be part of a Christian loving family and thankful to my parents, grandparents, and others who have guided me along the way. I have been going to church since I was a baby. All the years I have gone to church it has felt like a comfortable place and when I was younger, I didn't always participate and pay attention, but in this past year and a half, confirmation has taught me more about the Bible and brought me closer to God.

I chose for my confirmation verse, *Matthew 19:26, but Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."* What this means to me is that no man can do anything on his own, without God, but with God, we can do anything. One time this verse really hit me, is when I was in the championship game. I was on deck and I said a little prayer and when I was up to hit, I hit a walk off to

win the game. I know my athletic training gives me physical strength, but my relationship with God teaches me all things are possible and gives me spiritual strength.

Liam J Dykhouse



Biography - Liam was born on October 19, 2008, and baptized on December 28, 2008, at St. Paul. His parents are Tony and Jen Dykhouse. His grandparents are Dale and Connie Dykhouse and Greg and June Schurig. His sponsors are Anne and Mike Bartsch and Greg Schurig. He attends Duncan Lake Middle School. He enjoys playing baseball, swimming, and video games. He is a Scout and has earned his Second Class rank. He can't wait until he can travel again.

Testimony - When I was in Sunday school, we talked about many famous accounts in the Bible. This helped me extend my knowledge of these accounts, but I didn't really understand this knowledge. With Confirmation this changed. It helped me better understand the Bible and the Six Chief Parts of Christian Doctrine (Ten Commandments, The Apostle's Creed, The Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Lord's Supper, and the Office of the Keys) and God. My favorite Bible verse is *Joshua 1:9 "Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."* I like this verse because it shows that the Lord never leaves your side; He is omnipresent.

Knowing this can bring strength and courage when you are either ill or afraid. When I was younger, I was afraid of lightning. When there was a lightning storm I reminded myself that the Lord is with me, and it comforted me and gave me strength. God has blessed me with a kind, loving family and good health. I am very grateful for that, even though I don't deserve it at all because I am a sinner. I hope God continues to bless me with good health and a good life until the day I die. I want to thank Pastor Brand and my parents for helping me through the journey of confirmation.

Brody K Hammer



Biography – Brody Hammer was born August 27, 2008. His parents are Brian and Sarah Hammer. He has a sister named Brooklyn and a little black Pug named Sulu. Brody attends Thornapple Kellogg Middle School and is just finishing up 6th grade. In his spare time he loves to play basketball, baseball and football. He also loves to hunt, fish, wakeboard and snowboard. Brody enjoys spending time with his friends and family. In the summer he loves camping and traveling to new places. His goal is to make it to every MLB baseball field.

Testimony – I have been blessed to be able to attend St. Paul Lutheran Church since birth. I was baptized on October 26, 2008. When I was 9, something very sad happened to my life.

My grandma died of a brain aneurysm. I needed God the most during that point of my life to help me get through it all. My family was very sad and is still sad about my grandma's death, but knowing she was a Christian and had God in her heart has allowed us to celebrate. When I was younger, I really didn't understand the Word of God. Going through confirmation has helped me learn the Word of God in a way that makes sense to me. Pastor Brand has been a big help throughout my journey. He helped me see the Bible in a different way. MY parents and grandparents have also been there to encourage me and help me along the way. I also enjoyed taking confirmation with my sister. My favorite verse is ***Jeremiah 29:11. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."*** I know from experience from my grandma that we don't know what the future will bring, but knowing and trusting that God has a plan for me provides me with so much hope. My future in the Lord is bright. I plan to go to church almost every Sunday and learn even more about the word of the Lord. I will try my best to live a Christ centered life. I am hopeful that through my actions I am able to comfort others and allow them to feel the love of the Lord.

Brooklyn G Hammer



Biography – Brooklyn Hammer was born May 14, 2010. Her parents are Brian and Sarah Hammer. She has a brother named

Brody and a black pug named Sulu. Brooklyn attends Thornapple Kellogg Schools and is just finishing up fifth grade at Page Elementary. She loves to play basketball, soccer and softball. She also enjoys downhill skiing, reading, baking and spending time with her friends. In the summer she loves to go camping and traveling around with her family. When she gets older Brooklyn wants to become a physical therapist.

Testimony – I am very blessed to be growing up knowing God is by my side. My bible verse is *Jeremiah 1:5*. ***“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”*** I chose this because it is important to know you are a child of God and God made us all unique in our own ways. We are all unique and special. My grandma Hammer went to a Presbyterian church and when she passed away I had to look to God. I had to know she was ok and in the hands of our God.

I have grown up at this church. I was baptized on June 27th, 2010 at St. Paul Lutheran Church. I went to Sunday School and when I was a kid I didn't really understand, but now I understand. Over the past year and a half, I have gotten to learn a lot and understand even more. My grandparents go to the same church and have helped me through confirmation too. My middle name is Grace and it plays a big role in everything, because, one of my favorite Christian songs is Amazing Grace. I know God is with me just by my middle name. Confirmation will lead me on a good path in life. My future as a Christian is bright because I understand the word of God and will keep my Christian faith. I will never forget that. I would like to thank Pastor Brand for helping me and giving me a chance to go through Confirmation at a young age. I would also like to thank my family members like my mom and dad who encouraged me to it. They helped me so much. I would just like to thank them for all they did for me during the hard times in this and also the good times. I would like to thank my grandparents for helping me and giving me the strength to do what I have always wanted to do. I am excited to be in this awesome Christian family.

Hannah E Holmes



Biography – Hannah was born July 9, 2010. Her parents are Dameon and Lisa Holmes. She will be in 6th grade starting in the fall at Kraft Meadows. She loves to eat pizza, Doritos, and ice cream. She likes to swim, go on bike rides, sing, and play the piano. Hannah has one brother named Liam and a cat named Sonic. Hannah started her Christian journey when she attended VBS in the summer of 2016. Hannah’s dream vacation is to go to Hawaii with her best friends and she wants to be a teacher when she grows up.

Testimony – When I first started going to St. Paul after VBS in the summer of 2016 I thought it was just something we were doing as a family. It was fun attending Sunday school but as I continued attending church and learning about the bible, I felt that God’s message had a more important meaning and that I could apply his teachings to my everyday life. I had the unique opportunity of being baptized when I was 6 and my brother Liam was 2. I was old enough to understand what the meaning of baptism was and I was included in the decision. I remember seeing my brother getting baptized and seeing all of my family members sitting in the pews looking up at my brother and I.

Isaiah 40:10 “***Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you with my righteous right hand.***” This is the scripture I chose because as I grow in my faith I realized that he has been and will be

there with me through the good and the bad. God's message started meaning more to me when I started confirmation. I realized that the word of God had a lot of power in my life and ever since then I have wanted to learn more about God. I look forward to growing in my faith by going to youth group and continuing to go to Sunday school. I want to thank Pastor Brand for letting me into confirmation early and helping me through it. I also want to thank my parents for helping me when things got hard. I love St Paul and am so thankful to call this my church.

Teagan RM Markham



Teagan was born January 5th, 2008 to Luke and Rebekah Markham. She was born in Bethesda, Maryland and later moved to Fort Belvoir, Virginia while her father was in the military. Her journey to God first began when she was baptized on May 8th, 2008 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Caledonia, Michigan. She has four siblings, Jason, Matthew, Rylee, and Raylynn, she also has three dogs. She attends Duncan Lake Middle School and is currently in 7th grade and will be in 8th grade this fall. Some of her favorite things to do include doing art and biking. Some places she would like to visit are Paris, France and Tokyo, Japan. She also enjoys baking and projects.

Testimony - When I was born, on January 5th, 2008, I was very blessed to be born into a Christian family. My journey to God first began on May 8th, 2008, when I was baptized; the day of my spiritual birth. I have gone to church my whole life, but I did not always understand what I was hearing. The first

church I went to was St. Paul Lutheran Church.

When I was young, I did not know what I was learning. I thought that I did not need all of this in life. I did not think that it was important at the time. When I went to Sunday school, I thought it was just a way for my family to get rid of me for a while. I did not know that it was to teach me about God. As I got older, I started understanding God's Word better. I started to understand what I was being told, and I started trusting Jesus. Jesus started becoming a bigger part of my life as I grew older, as well as the Bible. My Confirmation Bible verse is ***Ephesians 1:6," To the praise of the glory of his grace, which he freely gave to us in the Loved One."*** I chose this verse because it reminded me that Jesus dying on the cross gave us all a chance to one day join him in Heaven. It also reminds me that I should praise the fact that he gave us all this chance. This verse has made it so I shall not fear death, because I know I will be saved if I believe. Believing in God makes it so that I know that I will be rescued from sin. I learned that I can trust in Jesus and know that he will save me. When I started going to confirmation that is when I started believing in God's Word more than ever. The things I learned in confirmation showed me that there is no reason to not trust God, or not believe he will lead me on the right path. I now know that I will be saved because I believe God gave me forgiveness so that one day if I believe I can join him in Heaven. Believing that he would save me when I die, made it so that I was not afraid of death anymore, I knew he would save me. I pray that other people can have the same chance as well, because he gave everyone in this world his love and mercy, so that one day, we can all join him in Heaven...



Hanna Pulawski



Biography – Hanna was born on July 9, 2007 and she was baptized in October of 2007. Her parents are named Todd and Lisa Pulawski, and has two siblings her twin brother Hunter and her older brother Hudson. Her grandparents are Bob and Barb Pulawski and Tim and Deb Jones. Her baptismal sponsors are Todd and Leah Bowman. Hanna attends Byron Center West Middle School. Hanna enjoys participating in sideline cheer and the dance team. She likes to do several activities such as playing tennis outside in school, hanging out with friends every chance she gets to, and even walking down town to the gas station or Walgreens.

Testimony – I have chosen the verse **Psalm 119:105** “*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*” When I read this verse, this helped me understand that God will guide me through the darkness of this world and that there is a shining light to brighten the pathway I need to take. I now understand that I need to continue to have faith in God and that he will be with me throughout my life, to support and guide me in good and difficult situations. God’s presence is always there; such as when I’m in school facing tough situations with school friends or homework. His presence will be there when I’m older making big life decisions; such as what career I want to do. This past year I have learned how praying will help me through life and this will keep me on the right path. I wanted to thank my parents & friends for taking me to confirmation class and

for what they all do for me. Also, thank you to everyone who is here at tonight's confirmation class to support us in our faith.

Hunter Pulawski



Biography - Hunter was born on July, 9 2007 and he was baptized in October of 2007. His parents are named Todd and Lisa Pulawski, and has two siblings, his twin sister Hanna and older brother Hudson. His grandparents are Bob and Barb Pulawski and Tim and Deb Jones. His baptismal sponsors are Todd and Leah Bowman. Hunter attends Byron Center West Middle School. Hunter enjoys playing sports, such as football, baseball, and wrestling. He likes to do several activities such as playing video games, hanging out with friends, swimming, and spending time with family. Hunter would like to visit Niagara Falls one day because it sounds like it would be a great view.

Testimony – When I was younger, I did not know if God was a real person or was our Savior. I went to church and bible school, but did not realize how God really would impact my life. This all changed when I was 10 years old. I was involved in an unexpected accident where I got hit in the head by a stick that somebody threw. This caused me to have a large cut over my eye; which was pretty bad. I had to go to Urgent Care to get stitches to close the cut. This unexpected accident made me realize that God and His presence is real in my life. Thinking back to when this happened, His presence was with me, helping me stay calm and making sure that I was okay. I chose the

bible verse *Romans 8:28* “*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good to them that love God, for those who are called according to his purpose.*” I feel this relates to my situation. This connects to my story because at that time I believed in God so everything worked out, I had faith that I would be okay. I will cherish this memory because it reminds me that I am protected throughout my life. Each day, I look for reminders to keep the faith in God. I appreciate both my mom and dad, they play a big role in my life to make sure I’m cared for and that I continue to follow my Christian values.

Addison E Saidoo



Biography - Addison was born on August 19, 2006 and baptized on October 1, 2006. She is currently in 8th grade at Duncan Lake Middle School. Her parents are Crystal and Jason Saidoo. Her grandparents are Cindy and Mike Cicalo, Paul and Denice Saidoo and Sue Cocke. Great-grandparents are Bill and Jeanette Barnum. Addison has one sister, Alexis, who is also a part of this confirmation class. Her godparents are Michael & Mandi Cicalo. Addison has a true passion for dance and is a part of Caledonia Dance Company. You will often find her at the studio working on her technique and rehearsing for their various community performances and dance competitions. Her favorite genre of dance is contemporary, but she also works in other genres including jazz, ballet, acrobat, tap and hip hop. She also performs in CDMC’s annual

production of the Nutcracker ballet. Addison has been a part of NJHS in middle school and currently serves on the Executive Board. She is also involved in the school's choir program and theater through the Caledonia Resource Center.

Testimony - I was baptized October 1st, the same year I was born. I was almost 2 months old at the time. When I was 3 years old my family and I moved to IL because my dad got a job with the Chicago Bears. When I was 6 or 7 we moved back to Michigan to the house I live in now.

I was and still am a very social person. I didn't really have a problem making friends wherever I went, either at school or at dance. It was just something that came very naturally to me. When I lived in IL I went to Waterford Dance Academy and the STEPS Performing Arts Center. At STEPS I met one of my best friends who I'm still really close with. I now go to Caledonia Dance Company and the people there have become like a second family to me and I am so thankful and blessed to have them in my life. In 6th grade my family went through some pretty rough stuff, thankfully God was there for it all and everything worked itself out. 7th grade I disconnected with some of my closest elementary friends, but I made new ones that I fit in better with, pretty fast. Then Covid 19 came to Michigan and everything got shut down. Things from there got pretty bad. It was hard for me to not see my friends constantly and not be able to actually go to dance and have that safe place. I started 8th grade, my last year of middle school with a mask. We had to go through so much this year, we didn't get our field trips which me and my friends always had the most fun on. I could only sit with 3 of my friends at lunch and we have to follow all the Covid guidelines which can be very hard when all you want to do is sit and talk with your friends and hug them. Having been through all of this and more, is why the verse *Psalm 55:22* stood out to me so much. ***“Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you, he will never let the righteous be shaken.”*** Hearing this verse is a reminder to me that I will always have someone I can go to because God is always there, no matter where I am. He is someone I can go to

and always know that He will be there to listen and protect me. I would like to thank my parents for helping me throughout confirmation and my life. I would also like to thank Pastor Brand for teaching me more about my faith in God.

Alexis O Saidoo



Biography - Alexis was born on August 5, 2008 and baptized on September 14, 2008. She is currently in 6th grade at Duncan Lake Middle School. Her parents are Crystal and Jason Saidoo. Her grandparents are Cindy and Mike Cicalo, Paul and Denice Saidoo and Sue Cocke. Great-grandparents are Bill and Jeanette Barnum. Alexis has one sister, Addison, who is also a part of this confirmation class. Her godparents are Michael & Mandi Cicalo. You will find Alexis involved in various sports and activities including soccer and basketball. She was recently inducted in NJHS and is also involved in the school's choir program and theater through the Caledonia Resource Center. Alexis has always loved animals and has recently started horseback riding. She has quickly developed a passion for that and her horse (which her family leases) Mali. The barn is quickly becoming a second home to her. She plans to participate in equestrian competitions with Mali in the future.

Testimony - I was born a month earlier than expected. I was not allowed out of the hospital until a week later, because something was wrong with me that is still unsure. Because of

God, I was able to power through it. That's why my favorite Bible verse is ***Joshua 1:9, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*** I was baptized when I was just over a month old and officially brought into God's family.

Ever since 3rd grade, I have continually had injuries in one or both of my feet or ankles. It seems like once I recover from one, another injury happens. I have been diagnosed with chronic ankle instability, which I may outgrow. Until then I just have to deal with it. Not too long ago, I fell off my horse and hurt my foot again. This happened just after I had been cleared from a more extensive injury that happened during the first game of my basketball season. Those first two words "Be strong" really means a lot. I was so sick and tired of always getting hurt. I had just gotten off crutches, and now I was nearly back to square one. That's when the words "Do not be frightened" came in. I got right back on my horse Mali. You could tell she was sorry. That didn't change the fact that I was in pain and may not be able to ride or play soccer again for a while. The last few words "Do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you" helped me think that everything was not as bad as I thought. That no matter how much was going on, I shouldn't be upset because God was with me, no matter how good or bad the situation may be. Throughout the scariest moments of my life, God is right there with me, helping me through. Whether it is physical or mental, God is there. I want to thank my family for helping me through this. They push me to go further and keep working. I also want to thank Pastor Brand. He has helped strengthen my belief in God and his Word. He has also helped me expand my knowledge in the words of the Bible.



Micah Seifert



Biography - Micah was born March 12th, 2009 in Overland Park, KS and was baptized at Beautiful Savior in Olathe, KS in April 2009. His parents are Jim and Amber Seifert. His paternal grandparents are Jamie and Eric Seifert. His maternal grandparents are Gina Davis and Charlie Brown. He has a younger brother Tobin and a younger sister Bailey. He moved from Olathe, KS to Byron Center, MI in fall of 2013. He attends Byron Center Nickels Intermediate school. He plays the viola and piano. He enjoys reading and video games.

Testimony - I was born March 12th 2009. I was baptized on April 19th 2009 in Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church and attended there till I was the age of four. My family became members of Saint Paul Lutheran Church in 2014. I started Sunday school there and at the beginning the lessons didn't really make sense in my mind, but it was when I went to Mr. Todd's (Kunst) class in Sunday school that the lessons started clicking. My favorite Bible verse is **“For God so loved the world that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” John 3:16.**” I chose this verse because I learned it in Sunday school and it has stuck with me throughout my life. It also reminds me that Jesus died to save us from our sins so we can go to Heaven. In the future I would like to keep going to church and maybe even join the church choir or help out with reading passages or collecting

offerings. I would like to thank my parents for helping me when I needed it as well as bringing me into and keeping me in the Christian faith.

Luke D Smith



Biography – Luke Smith was born February 1, 2008 to Dave and Heather Smith. He was baptized June 29, 2008. His grandparents are Dan and Lois Smith and Nick and Lane Walker. Luke’s baptismal sponsors are Abbie and Doug Cutler. Luke is a 7th grader at Duncan Lake Middle School. He enjoys running cross country and track, basketball, fishing, and playing the piano.

Testimony – My Christian journey started with my family. They brought me to worship here at St. Paul. Many experiences at St. Paul have helped me shape my life. I started Sunday school at an early age, learning about Jesus. I went to preschool here. I am in the youth group and am now finishing up Confirmation class.

Over the past 2 years I have learned many things in Confirmation that I probably would’ve never learned without the class. For example, I learned that Jesus instituted wine for communion. Juice cannot be used. I also learned that the bread is the body of Jesus, it doesn’t turn into the body. Another

thing I learned was that any method of applying water in baptism is ok as long God's word is present. I always thought that the water had to be applied a certain way but I now know that it doesn't matter.

It was a little hard to choose which verse I was going to use as my verse but in the end I picked ***1 Timothy 4:8 "For while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come."*** I chose this verse because I feel it relates a lot to my life. I run and you have to train to run well. When training for a race you have to not only focus on speed, but also endurance and strength.

Speed in spiritual training doesn't really matter as much as long as you understand and believe God's word. Strength in spiritual training displays itself in "Godliness", when we live a life devoted to Him. Spiritual strength is important at the times when your faith in God is tested the most. Endurance in spiritual training is having to wait for Jesus to return and bring us all home to heaven.

The second part of the verse says "that it holds promise for the present life and for the life to come." I like that part because it is saying that you need to focus more on spiritual training than other things. I know that I should focus more on my spiritual training than my physical training.

So what this verse means to me is that I need to focus on spiritual training more than anything else because it will pay off more for me in the long run when Jesus comes back to Earth. I will now continue my Christian journey here at St. Paul and spread God's word everywhere I can at school, the cross country course, the track, and my neighborhood.

I will continue to learn more and more about God as I grow up and grow closer to God. A lot of runners will tell you that if you are trying to stay with someone than lock your eyes on something specific about them and don't take your eyes off it.

I am going to keep my eyes on God and focus on him and stay as close as I can until the end of the race.

In conclusion, I want to thank my parents and Pastor Brand for helping me through Confirmation class when I didn't understand something or couldn't find the answer, they were there to help me find it.

Aiden M Vogeli



Biography - Aiden Vogeli was born on January 22, 2008 to Andy and Reina Vogel. He has 2 brothers named Josh Vogeli and Joel Vogeli. He was baptized on February 10, 2008. Aiden enjoys playing soccer, going up north to our camper, tubing, and hanging out with his gecko and dog. Aiden goes to school at Cross Creek Charter Academy.

Testimony – I was born into a loving family consisting of 2 older brothers, and a Mom and Dad. I was born with hearing issues and was sick for 2 years. When I finally found the right doctor that knew what was going on, he performed a surgery to allow me to hear. When I first heard my mother whisper into my ear, I was told that I was amazed.

I think that this is like baptism. When we are born, we are blind, deaf, and an enemy of God, but, when you are baptized, you hear the word in a different way even if you were like me with some sort of hearing problem. I also think of confirmation

as another increase in my hearing of the Word. I used to not really listen to the sermons or in church, but now I listen and I try my best to understand. Even if I don't understand certain words, or the occasional distraction like bursts of energy that randomly happens.

This is also another reason why I chose my bible verse as *Luke 1:37 "For nothing shall be impossible with the help of God."*, which is in both stories. My mom and dad were praying for me when I was born and God provided. We found the right doctor to fix my illness. My mom and dad still pray for me to complete confirmation, and God provides by helping me to hear the lessons, the sermons, and His Word.

