

**"GLORY AND GRACE, CONFIRMED IN EVERY DETAIL!" - NOVEMBER 14, 2021
THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
THE AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM – THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION
DANIEL 12:1-3; HEBREWS 10:11-18; MARK 13:1-8
Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.**

Details, details, details. Do you have enough to take care of, these days? Would you like a few more? How does your 'to do' list look? Would you like to trade with someone? Would you like to give all those details to someone else to take care of? How would you feel if someone stepped in, thinking they can handle the details more efficiently than you? That they could get it organized, in order, accomplished better than you? As we reflect on Mark's gospel, concerning the end times, how many of us would like to know all the details, want to make sure God has it all taken care of, would like to know more, or step in a little, or think we know how God will handle it all? As we celebrate and share The Rite of Confirmation, we give thanks for all God's glory and grace affirms in each of us and every detail. Thanks be to God, Jesus and God's Word remind, empower, fill, command, surrender, calm each of us again today, to trust our true net worth is in God's grace alone; there is no detail too small, that the Lord is not aware of, that God is not in control of, that God will not confirm and affirm, that God in glory and grace will not satisfy in God's way in God's time!

1. How are you at taking care of all the details?
 - A. Life is full of details. Can you keep up? God can!!
 - B. How are you at getting it all organized? Keeping it all straight? Does it ever feel overwhelming?
 - C. How are you at letting others take care of some of the details? How about those details you feel are most important?
2. How are you at trusting God; the details he is in charge of and oversees?
 - A. With regard to the end times, there are so many details that we do not know about, that we will never know.
 - i. Here are just a few of the details.
 - a. Mark 13:2 - Every stone will be cast down. Like the Temple, every foundation we build up for ourselves alone, will one day be destroyed.
 - b. Mark 13:3-4 - In Zechariah 14:1-4, the prophet predicts one day from the Mount Of Olives, from which its high slopes Jerusalem and the Temple can be seen, one day the Messiah will come and return to establish his eternal kingdom.
 - c. Mark 13:5-6 - If you try to be in charge of every detail others may lead you astray. Likewise, if you do not follow Jesus with great detail, others might slip in. Make no mistake, if Jesus appears in your midst, you will know!

- d. Mark 13:7-8 - If you are trying to count the days based upon 'nation rising up against nation' and 'rumors of war,' you might be led to believe the end times have been near for a long, long time.
 - e. Mark 13:8 - If you prefer to keep your eyes on other details, like earthquakes and famines, you too, might feel like the end is in sight.
 - f. Daniel 12:1-3 - There might be anguish, but we will also be delivered.
 - g. Hebrews 10:11-18 - Jesus has sat down at the right hand of God; he is waiting, waiting for you, for the end times, for that day when forgiveness is needed no more, when all will be perfect!
- ii. If we trust God has a plan for us; if we trust God is active in our lives; let us trust God has the end times in control.
 - iii. Thanks be to God, God has a plan, and a watchful hand, confirming every detail, even if at times that does not feel like enough for now.
- B. Thanks be to God, our true net worth is in God's grace alone; every day, for all time, when it comes to the end times, when it comes to the now times, when it comes to each of us, God in glory and grace is in control of every last detail!
- C. Thanks be to God, as we share and celebrate The Rite of Confirmation, we believe and see anew, we give thanks, for God's glory and grace are confirmed and affirmed in each of us, and in every detail that God alone blesses and oversees!

**A Few Affirming And Confirming Thoughts From Those
God Confirms Each & Every Day – Sunday, November 14, 2021
Lord Of Life Lutheran Church - Lakeville, Minnesota**

Kimberly – No story is more personal to me than the parable of the growing seed in Mark 4. In this story Jesus teaches his disciples about the importance of balance between your life and faith. He spread mustard seeds in different environments with different conditions. While most were eaten by birds, scorched by the sun, or choked away by thorns. Only the seeds with the right balance of exposure to all the elements grew to yield a good crop. ... This story is important to me because of the balance in life and faith it suggests. Claiming how too much or too little faith could be a downfall. This level of balance is different for everyone. I feel like these past years in confirmation class have helped me find the perfect balance in my faith and I trust that today will immortalize my faith and connection to God.

Levi – Jesus matters to me because he died for my sins. He lifts me when I am weak. It is difficult to put into words that I matter most to Jesus, but it makes me want to always put him first and to make sure he knows he matters most to me, too. If I did not have Jesus in my life, I would be

missing a love that only he can provide to me. If someone asked me about Jesus, I would describe Jesus as awesome, loving, selfless, uplifting. Having a relationship with Jesus, knowing Jesus wants to have a relationship with me forever, means I have the support of Jesus. What a friend I have found in Jesus. Before my accident, I had never experienced the power of Jesus and the power of prayer like I did those critical days. It was an overwhelming feeling that I will hold on to forever. I will always be grateful for that love and support only he can provide through my belief.

Allison – What would be missing in my heart if Jesus wasn't there? I would be missing my purpose and faith in life. I would be lost, sad, depressed, and gloomy all the time. I would be missing a purpose in life and like Joshua 1:9 says "I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous..." this encourages you to be as mentally strong and courageous as you are physically. The Lord will guide you; he will give you an amount of strength you never knew was possible, use that strength to overcome weakness. The second part of the verse says "...do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." you have to have no fear, fear is a mind killer, and knowing Jesus is right there at every step of the way can help eliminate that fear, you are not walking alone in this journey he will always be there to guide you.

Daniella – Personally, I find comfort and strength that Jesus loves me and that He died on the cross for the forgiveness of my sins. His love is the purest and He wills for us to open our hearts and spread it to others. Being a Christian influences me in my daily life by giving me a conscience to be kind and respectful of others. ... I let His power of patience and forgiveness run through me. When I find myself in moments of hopelessness and doubt, I know that Jesus will always be with me. Thus, I depend on the strength of my faith to carry me forward. Jesus' love is like my safety net that I am not afraid to fall into. Through being a Christian, I have learned that loving God is the foundation to fully getting to know Him and myself. Weakness means nothing because I know that the Lord is always with me and that His love endures forever.

Ella – Being a Christian and a follower of Christ and knowing that he loves me and saves me helps me There were times during school that I was so stressed from all the homework ... I would leave what I was doing and go to my room and I would pray. I would just talk to Jesus for a few minutes then return back to my homework feeling recharged and know I am not alone while taking on something tough. ... I know God has time for me to reflect with Him and I know that I don't need to take on my school work alone. I know He is always there for me also when it involves sports. ... He helps me not get down on myself ... Being able to reflect with God has also helped me in my life in general, too, because if I wasn't able to talk to Him I would've kept getting more and more stressed ... I know Jesus loves me and will go out of His way for me and I love Him back for that. ... I know Jesus is there for me whenever I need Him to be.

Mackenzie – Jesus has transformed the lives of many, including me. To some people, he is a story, just a legend. But to me, he's more of a friend. People seem to talk about him like he's a made up story, but what they don't seem to realize is that he's as real as the person sitting next to you. I can talk to him and explain my day to him, even if I may not be speaking directly to him,

and what's great is, he's never too busy to listen, he's available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. When I have had a bad day and it feels like the whole world is crashing down, or even a great day, afterwards everything seems a little better, my feet a little lighter. So to me, he's more than a story, more than sitting in a church half paying attention. He is real, he is alive, and he loves me. Life won't always be easy, but he will always be there to wipe away my tears, to be a shoulder to cry on, and give me the strength to carry on when things aren't going my way.

Jada – Without Jesus I would feel like something is missing. The saying “Jesus saves, Jesus forgives” is a prime example of how important he is to all of us. Knowing there is someone who will love you unconditionally and not judge you for a simple mistake helps me push through life. Being a follower in Christ is a transformation in yourself and the world around you. ... We need to know that someone is looking out for us, even with all the destruction that's been going on. Miracles happen every day. We are all miracles in God's eyes. I choose to be a Christian not just because my parents are, but because having that unconditional love has brought me closer to my friends and family. Being a Christian has helped me find the brightness in the midst of darkness, the joy in a world full of hate, and most importantly to love everyone no matter how different. ... I thank him for giving me something to put my heart and soul into.

Quintin – God is always watching over me, whether I do good or bad. The particular reason that Christ matters to me is that he allows me to know that he is caring for me and loves me unconditionally. ... He talks to me and helps me with my problems and gives me a purpose. God shows me directions to the right path and helps me make the right choices. The benefit of putting God first is that he is the definition of peace, persuading me to do good, and calming my soul. I believe in God because I know that he is always there for me, and that he is putting me first. God provides wisdom for me and comfort. ... God cherishes me and shows love beyond what I can see. God loves me with all his heart and makes my day better every second I think of him. If I'm ever in trouble, I know that I can turn to God for help. ... Knowing that I have someone that is always there for me and on my side matter to me because I know that I will always be loved.

Addison – Since the day I was born, I know God has been in my life watching over me. He has been with me as I have grown up and I know he will continue to be with me throughout my life. I am human, and just like all humans, I have made lots of mistakes in my life. God has seen all those mistakes and forgiven me for them. He forgives me and will always love me even on my toughest days ... He challenges me to be a better person every day. I can accept that challenge by choosing to love others and accept that they too have flaws. I can forgive and I can spread the love of Jesus Christ, by choosing kindness and opting to spread joy throughout the world. It is through the love of God that I can continue to grow and be a better person. ... Even on those days when I feel alone, am overcome with emotions, or just struggling to know what to do next, I know that I can always trust that God will be there to listen.