

I was born in the likeness of my father, just like my father was born in the likeness of his father, and so on. Therefore, I have been born in the likeness of the first man, Adam.

Adam sinned, and so I have been born into sin. I do not have any righteousness in myself.

Romans 3:21-22a provides a good explanation of how a person becomes a Christian:

“But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.” But how does one receive this faith? Through Baptism.

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s word. It worked in me forgiveness of sins, rescued me from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the word and promises of God declare.

“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)

That Jesus died and rose again to forgive me of all of my sins means to me personally that I have an eternal life with God now and in Heaven, everlasting joy, love, and peace, and a Rock solid foundation. I know that no matter what happens, “even though I walk through the valley of death, [God is] with me” Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection means that I am a rescued child of God.

Even though I am a child of God, I still make mistakes - I am simul justus et peccator, that is, I am simultaneously saint and sinner.

Because I am sinful, I need to be forgiven. The Lord’s supper was instituted by Jesus Christ as a means of that forgiveness.

*“The Lord’s Supper is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us Christians to eat and drink.*

*These words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” show us that in the Sacraments forgiveness of sins , life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.”*

My faith in Jesus is important to me, because it is my life, my future, and my hope. One of my favorite bible verses is Psalm 119:105 “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path” This verse has daily reminded me that God’s Word is the guidebook, map, and compass for the bewildering lands that I walk through in my life.

Now that I have completed my confirmation studies, I still need to grow as a follower of Jesus. I will continue to learn more about Jesus’ love and His direction for my life by praying daily, regularly attending church, reading my Bible daily, memorising the scriptures, and by applying and deploying the law and gospel in my words, thoughts, and actions. As a Christian (a student and follower of Jesus) my God given purpose in life is to live according to God’s Word: First, I am to love God with all my heart, soul, and mind. Second, I am to love my neighbour as I love myself. I am to witness the truth of the Good News to all nations. I am to “go and make disciples of all nations” I can not do these things by myself - I can only do them with God’s help.

In my future relationship with my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ here at Trinity Lutheran Church, I hope for and expect to, receive the sacrament, receive wisdom and knowledge, and to be in communion within the body of Christ; sharing the joys and troubles,

and forgiving each other just as Christ forgave us for our sins. I want to learn to be a loving person, because “If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)