

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM
Confirmands:
Emily L. Butsch and Morgan M. Haupt
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Statement of Faith

Emily L. Butsch
Affirmation of Faith

*“For she is clothed in strength and dignity,
and she laughs without fear of the future.”*
Proverbs 31:25 (New Living Bible Translation)

I chose this verse for my faith statement not *just* because it related to me and many other woman I know, but it also means something very personal to me.

Before we get into that, I want to tell you something about my cousin, Hannah Butsch. Hannah was a healthy adult, more competitive and confident than most others were, and she was stunningly beautiful. She competed in CrossFit and many other competitions, trained hard for events, and man, was she strong. She had the Proverbs verse I chose for my confirmation verse tattooed on her back, along with the word “beloved” tattoo on the inside of her arm. We learned not to take anything for granted and God taught us more.

Hannah died December 18, 2017 in a fatal one-car crash. She had fallen asleep behind the wheel. While my Aunt and my other cousins, Hannah’s siblings, were rushing to see her at the hospital while they could, they were stuck in the Atlanta airport due to power failures. They were stuck there until the power came back on.

When they finally got to the hospital, they got a chance to say good-bye, but Hannah was not there. She was in heaven, and she was God’s angel now.

I did not know why God would have done this, or what he was thinking. I was confused, and sad, and most of all angry. “Why? Why Hannah?” I’m sure we have all thought, “why me” or “why this” at some point or another.

It took a few weeks to realize that some good things had come out of this. First, when we drove to Atlanta for her funeral, I got to visit with my grandmother and other cousins who I had not seen in a while. Another good thing that happened from this --- Hannah was an organ donor. She saved at least 5 other people with her healthy organs. In a way, her death blessed at least five other people and their families.

I do not think God caused Hannah to have the accident. I don’t think he would have let her get in the car knowing she would get in an accident. Maybe she ignored God’s message. I

DO think that through this tragedy, God was able to show us that sometimes things can pull us together... and together, we can get through anything. I got closer with my other cousins, and even though the circumstances under which we had to meet were upsetting, it was nice to catch up and see what had been going on with them in the past 2 years. I found comfort being with them.

God also gave us grace at the funeral. Hannah had such a strong faith, it was impossible to separate her from what she believed. We saw old pictures and videos of her life. We were reminded she was at peace.

All around, Hannah was a great person. Of course, we all make mistakes sometimes. Hannah was nowhere near perfect – and she knew that. She was very humble. Even when she had grown up and moved out, she still always found time for God in her life.

I want to be like that when I grow up. I want to be strong, full of faith and a person who is known for their good deeds and their love of God. That was what Hannah was and being full of faith is what we all should strive to do.

Statement of Faith

Morgan M. Haupt

Affirmation of Faith

“God is within her she will not fail.”

Psalms 46:5 (NIV Bible Translation)

I decided to use this verse for my faith statement because it brings me hope. It reminds me that God is always with me no matter what. Over the last two years at being at Haven, I have learned many things. Most importantly, I have learned that while life at times can be hard and challenging, I am never alone.

God has blessed me with an amazing family that I love to death and all of my wonderful friends. Without them life would be a whole new challenge.

There are a lot of struggles that we go through, especially in middle school. I think sometimes we just need to take a break from the world to talk to God and remind ourselves that we are not alone and that we will not fail while God is with us. There are many times that I think I am going to fail, like when I take a big test or play volleyball. When I fear failing, I just need to remind myself that God is with me and that everything will work out fine.

During middle school, I have played on the volleyball team every year. We were never the best team and we lost just about all our games. In the 8th grade, we thought things would change for us but other teams had improved, too, and we hadn't improved enough. We lost game after game. We normally only scored 15 points, if that. My team and I knew we were terrible and it was to the point that it was a joke.

As the end of the season crept up on us, we wanted to win even more, so we begged for more practices so we could get better. It was one of the last games and we were up against the best school but we knew if we really tried our hardest, we could win. With that, we said a small prayer and ran into the court.

We played our hearts out. During the first match, we were so close to beating them we were only a few points behind. As the next match started, we knew we could win. It had come down to the last few points and we were at a tie. Payton was up to serve. If we got the next two points, we could win. The last point was scored and the whole team ran onto the court as we jumped for joy. We had finally won and many things helped us get there. God was one of those things because as we prayed, it didn't matter to us if we lost because we knew we couldn't fail.

To me, faith is trusting God. I believe that God is always there for us and with us, even when we have trouble seeing the light.

God is forgiving when we disappoint him time and time again. The Lord always loves us no matter what. Everyone makes mistakes especially me, and knowing God has already forgiven me makes it easier to look back at those mistakes and not see failure but a lesson.

I am a disciple of Jesus. To me that doesn't mean I'm perfect but that I am proud to be a follower of Jesus. I try to spread his word to others around me. I can do that by showing them the joy I have being his disciple and by telling them about all his wonderful miracles and how he was blessed me and everybody else. I hope that my actions inspire others to also follow in Jesus' footsteps.