

You should have seen these six young people about 20 months ago when they walked into their first confirmation class. They weren't sure what to expect or what they were getting themselves into. All they knew for sure was that they had to come to church one evening every week for the most of the next two school years. They weren't exactly excited about that. Our goal was to teach them the basics of the Christian faith, to help them learn about Christ, and to grow in their relationship with Him. In sense they were given the ABCS of faith. That's what I want to talk with you and with them about this morning. (Jackson 5's ABC in background)

It all begins with the letter A, which stands for "Learn ABOUT the Lord." A lot of people call themselves Christians, but they don't know much if anything about the Christian faith. Ask people what it means to be a Christian, and you'll get a whole variety of answers. Ask them who Jesus is and they will tell you a lot of different things. What is the truth about the Lord? Watch this! ([BluefishTV.com video – Truth vs. Deception](#)) Jesus is the truth. He is the only Lord and Savior. That is the foundation of the Christian faith. Jesus Christ is Lord, God who loves us and broke into our world to restore us to His family. Carly took this message to heart and chose this verse as her personal Bible passage for today. "Your word is lamp to my feet and a light for my path." (Psalm 119:105) We have to know about Jesus if he is going to be the Lord of our life.

B – Believe in Jesus. It is one thing to know who Jesus is and another thing to believe in Him. To believe is to know, accept as true, and trust. There is no faith without trust. John Madden, former Professional football coach and TV announcer, may know that flying is safer than driving, but he doesn't trust airplanes. So Madden during the football season Madden drives from location to location. He won't fly. Our faith won't fly either if we don't put our trust in Jesus. He died on the cross to pay for our sins. He rose from the dead to give us forgiveness and life. He did that for everyone. The price for sin has been paid in full. But if we don't put our trust in Him, we don't receive the benefit of what He has done. Stephanie's verse reminds us of how important that is. Part of her verse reads, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2) Sara expressed her confidence in the Lord in her statement of faith, "I'll always know that he (God) is everywhere, listening to me."

That brings us to the letter "C," which stands for Confess. These six young people have made a public confession of their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Jesus said that if we confess Him before people, He will confess us before the Father in heaven. But if we deny him, he will deny us. That is why today is such an important day for our confirmands and for all of us. Peter confessed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. When Thomas saw Jesus after the resurrection he said, "My Lord and my God!" Have you confessed your faith in Jesus? Joe

did with these words, “As my faith grew stronger, I knew I could depend on God to offer solutions to any problems I might face. God can imagine a future for me that I cannot even think of for myself.” The Lord can help us face all of the challenges of life.

The ABCS of faith aren’t over yet. After we know about Jesus, believe in Him and confess our faith in Him, we are called to Serve Him and others in His name. On the night of the Last Supper, Jesus was the servant of the disciples when He washed their feet. He told them that they needed to do the same. Faithful service is the mark of the Christian faith. Jesus tells us that anything that we do to help others, we do for Him. So as Christians we are called to a life of service to God and to others. We can’t just live for ourselves. Life doesn’t work that way. Christ’s verse reminds us how important it is to help others. “And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right.” (2 Thessalonians 3:13) Megan made the point in her statement of faith when she wrote, “By learning more about God it has inspired me to help other people however I can.”

There is at least one more thing that we have to remember. We don’t do this alone. While no one else can believe for us, or confess our faith for us, we don’t stand alone. The Lord is always with us. He strengthens us in our faith through when we come to the Lord’s Supper. These young people will take communion for the first time today. But they are not coming up by themselves. They will stand together at the Lord’s Altar. They will stand with family and friends. God calls us to live out our faith in His family called the church. The early Christians set an example for us to follow. Acts 2 describes the new Christians with these words, “All the believers were together and had everything in common. ... Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.” (Acts 2:44, 46) We have to stay part of God’s family if we want our faith to remain strong. When we live apart from the Lord and His Church, our faith will grow weak.

After they made their confirmation promises, each of the confirmands received one of these, Luther’s Rose. Dr. Martin Luther, the Reformer from the 1500’s, created this rose as a symbol of the Christian faith. Let’s take a look at it.



- Black Cross – Man’s Sin & Jesus’ Sacrifice
- Red Heart – Faith in Christ gives life

- White Rose – Faith gives joy, comfort & peace
- Blue Field – Our hope is now and in the future
- Golden Ring – God's blessings last forever

What more could we ask. May the Lord bless you and keep you His own now and forever.
Amen.