

**Sun., May 2,** Confirmation Sunday, Holy Communion, Outdoor Worship

Message: “Anchored Disciples”

Memory Verse: “This hope in Jesus is a safe and secure anchor for our whole being.” -Heb. 6:19a

Scriptures: Matthew 4:18-22, Hebrews 6:18-20

Blurb: What an exciting Sunday - it's Confirmation Sunday! Our three Confirmation students (Bethany Bonsell, Colby Keintz and Joshua Rosenbaum) will all share their faith testimonies and publically commit to follow Jesus. We will discover how those who choose to follow Jesus must anchor their lives on Him as their sure and solid rock. We will worship outdoors! Bring a hat and lawn chair, or there will also be spaces for drive-in worship.

*People are invited to sit in lawn chairs, spacing 6 feet apart from other families.*

*People can also park facing the leaders tent and stay in their vehicles.*

*Each person gets Holy Communion elements when they arrive.*

*Fellowship hall door open for bathrooms.*

*Please turn off car engines to help everyone hear better.*

**OPENING MUSIC:** *Hymn to the Holy Spirit* -Sanctify

**ACOLYTE & DOXOLOGY:** -Josh Rosnbaum & Sanctify

**WELCOME** -Pastor David

Confirmation Sunday!

Holy Communion - Open communion

**MEMORY VERSE** -Pastor David

“This hope in Jesus is a safe and secure anchor for our whole being.” -Hebrews 6:19a

**WORSHIP MUSIC SET** -Sanctify (acoustic)

*King Forever*

*Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)*

Worship Prayer -Pastor Andrew

**READING OF SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 4:18-22 -Tracy Hansen

Jesus calls the fishermen in the boats to come and follow Him. He will send them to fish for people. Matthew 4:18-22,

“18 As Jesus walked alongside the Galilee Sea, He saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, because they were fishermen. 19 “Come, follow me,” He said, “and I’ll show you how to fish for people.” 20 Right away, they left their nets and followed Him. 21 Continuing on, He saw another set of brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father repairing their nets. Jesus called them and 22 immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him.”

**LOVE MOMENT:** Hope Moves Workshop -Teresa Gruber

**APOSTLES’ CREED** -Josh Rosenbaum

**Hello. My name is Josh Rosenbaum. This is my version of the Apostles’ Creed. Please join me.**

**I believe that God is a trinity, three things at once.**

**First is God the Father, who is almighty and is the creator of everything, and who sent His son, Jesus, down to Earth. Jesus was born of a virgin and became fully human and fully divine, and was to be crucified and die to save humanity from its sin. After death, He came back to life, He showed the holes in His hands to His disciples and ascended into Heaven. Someday which we cannot know, He is to return to judge us all, living and dead.**

**Because Jesus died on the cross, we attempt to honor His sacrifice by living a God-fearing life, and in living life in remembrance of the sacrifice through the breaking of bread and the drinking of the blood of Christ. When we pass on, we shall be accepted into the kingdom of God.**

**Finally, the Holy Spirit is how we perceive God at work in our daily lives. It could be someone helping an old lady cross the street. It could be when a community gathers together to mourn the loss of a loved one and support each other. God is with us. We also believe in the life everlasting and that in heaven we will have new bodies.**

**Amen.**

#### **HOLY COMMUNION -Pastor David**

Prayers of Confession

Words of Assurance

The Great Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Receiving the Elements

Prayer of response

#### **MESSAGE: “Anchored Christians” -Pastor David**

Days like today are really exciting for ... the confirmands, who have finally completed two long and grueling years of work, suffering under the strenuous hands of Bob and me and their mentors, they are so glad to be done! They also are excited to mark this crucial milestone in their faith journeys. But today is also really exciting for ... their parents, who are so happy that their student has managed to successfully complete all the work, and through prodding and nagging, finished all their obligations, and now they see their student take that first adulting step of personally owning their faith, making the decision for themselves! But it's also really exciting for ... our church, as we take such pride and joy in these confirmands, how we've help nurture them in their faith, how we have wanted to pass on the Christian faith to the next generation, so they can also become disciples who make disciples! But you know who is the most excited of us all? It's our God! God has been excitedly waiting for this day: to hear you, Bethany, Colby and Rosh, claim Him! He made you, He loved you, He chose you, He pursued you, and now He hears you claim Him back! The Bible says that when you choose God, and do it proudly before other people, that all the angels and all the saints in Heaven celebrate. You better believe that there is a party going on right now in glory because of you and because of your choice. This is a special, holy day. Amen, church? [Amen!]

All of us here today, in some way, are a product of the Twin Cities. You confirmands have been growing up in the outer suburbs. Most of us live here, and the rest of you have traveled here because *we* live here! But do you know why the Twin Cities are here? It's because of something unique here. Now, there are a lot of exceptional things in Minnesota, but the special thing that caused the Twin Cities was the St. Anthony Falls. You see, St. Anthony Falls are the only falls on the entire

Mississippi River. So, hundreds of years ago, people could travel all the way up the river—from the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico—granted they had to transfer to shallow boats like steam boats—a thousand miles up the Mississippi River until they came to the falls. Then they had to get off their boats. Those who got off on the western bank created Minneapolis. Those who got off on the eastern bank created St. Anthony and eventually St. Paul. The sprawling Twin Cities were created by the waterfalls! The river made travel so much easier, especially when you think that the alternative was walking or riding horses.

Now the falls were also very useful for power, as the water power was harnessed for mills, like General Mills and Pillsbury. Water power fueled the industrialization of the area, and it was all shipped down the river to the rest of the country and world! Railroads and highways were built to intersect the river just below the falls, and together the Twin Cities continued to grow and thrive.

Now, point of trivia, when they created the St. Anthony Dam, they put in locks that opened up navigation farther north to St. Cloud, but that is now stopped by the dam at Coon Rapids.

Anyway, due to the river terminal here, shipbuilding became a huge industry in the Twin Cities. The river boats were made to traverse up and down the Mississippi, so cargo could be transferred to ocean vessels, and go all over the world. So, just imagine: a ship built in the Twin Cities, could sail to any port in the world! Kinda blows your mind!

By the way, just two years ago the US navy, in honor of the legacy of the Twin Cities, launched the combat ship USS. Minneapolis-St. Paul. It serves as a shoreline patrol ship to locate mines and disarm other threats, with a helicopter pad and bays for drones and smaller watercraft. It's one of the fastest warships we got, as it can cruise over 50 miles an hour.

It took four years to build the USS Minneapolis-St. Paul. It can take longer than that to build other ships. It has taken 14 years to build you three. Yes, you three are ships that have been designed and built. And part of what we are doing here today is to christen you and to launch you into the life God has planned for you.

All the ships that sail from the Twin Cities have been carefully designed and painstakingly built because they are crafted for an incredible mission. They are not made to stay where they are built. They are created with a purpose: to carry their loads over miles and miles of water. So, hear this again: even though they are built in the safety of the harbor, they aren't built to *stay* in the harbor. They're built to sail: to go on open waters, ready to face terrible storms and problems, and still arrive safely. They are built for a purpose, and they are perfectly fitted for their mission.

Now, deep in the Old Testament, in 1 Kings 22:48 it says that King Jehoshaphat built three large trading ships. But then, in a brief but sad report, it says that they were wrecked and sunk before they even got going! How tragic: new, fitted ships never getting to sail. What a waste!

Confirmands, God wants you to know this: you have been wonderfully made by God. But God doesn't make people to aimlessly drift through life. (Church, turn to your neighbor and say, "You weren't made to drift!") Psalm 139 says that you were wonderfully made, made with a purpose. God designed you for a God-sized mission. This we proclaim when we launch you in the waters of baptism. But you are not made to stay where you are launched. You were made on purpose for this special time in history. There's a reason you are the way you are. There's a reason you have the talents and abilities and gifts that you have. The reason? Because God designed you so that you would be perfectly fitted for your mission. And God has been excited and anxiously forming you, shaping you, building you, and He can't wait to see you live it! One of the Early Church leaders, Irenaeus, put it like this: "The glory of God is [a person] fully alive." In other words, nothing gives God more joy, than seeing His kids discover why you were made, and living it ... sailing!

And today, here we are gathered in the safe harbor of this Twin Cities outer suburb, in these waters of baptism, to tell you how excited God is in you, how excited we are for you, to celebrate

and christen you as you are launched, as you each proclaim that 1. you have discovered that you are God's vessel, and that today, here and now, 2. you proclaim God is your Shipbuilder, 3. that you give Jesus the helm of your life, and that 4. you set your course to the mission God has planned for you.

We saw this in the Scripture passage read this morning. Jesus comes to Peter and Andrew, to James and John, who are in boats. They are trying to fish, but are getting nowhere. They were just drifting all night long in their own waters. But then Jesus says, "Come, follow me. I will make you fish for people." And they leave their small boats behind and get into Jesus' mission boat. That's when they became alive!

Psalm 37:23 says, "The Lord will direct the steps of those who follow Him. And their lives will be a delight to the Lord." Do you see the promise that God makes back to you here? Those who choose Him, to decide to follow Jesus, the verse says, for them, "the Lord will direct their steps." God has a mission for you. He has a life path for you. It's not just to drift around the harbor, staying safe. He has a route already planned. Time to sail!

And don't miss the last part of the verse: "their lives will be a delight to the Lord!" God delights in you! Can your spiritual ears yearn the celebrating in glory? Maybe not yet, but perhaps in time as you grow spiritually. For now, hear the joy and delight we your church family have in you.

So, with great excitement we celebrate the launch of your personal faith journeys. You are called to go and sail the course God has planned for you. The open water awaits. God goes with you and will guide your way.

But that doesn't mean that giving your boat to Jesus means smooth sailing. There's a vivid story in the Bible when Jesus and the disciples are in their boat on their mission. And, a storm suddenly arose. The wind howled, the waves crashed, and the boat began to swamp. They tried using all their sailing expertise, doing all they knew, but their ship was sinking. The storm was just too much.

There are times you will face storms bigger than you can handle. Yes you are well equipped and perfectly fitted. But your course charts you out to the deep waters, to the deep realities of life. And out there, there are some storms that are just too big. They threaten to swamp you. What did the disciples do? They finally turned to Jesus and cried out, "Lord, save us!" Jesus woke up, calmed the storm, and calmed their fears. Here we learn what Jesus' disciples need to continue to do: turn to Jesus and cry out, "Lord, save me!" Out in the deep waters you learn that God is real, that Jesus reinforces your faith, and that the Holy Spirit will keep you on your life's purpose. Through that testing you will discover that your faith is real.

I want to pass along one crucial sailing survival strategy. When storms arise that threaten to overwhelm you, lay anchor. Sailors lay anchor as a way of grounding their ships on a rock that will not move. The storm can thrash and rage, but your anchored ship will be held steady, and unlike the three ships of Jehosaphat, you will not be crashed and destroyed.

I have always given each confirmation class a unique and special confirmation cross. It's a way for you to live the faith you proclaim today. This year, your crosses are what are referred to as the Mariner's Cross, or the Cross of Hope. They are a cross, with an anchor at the base. This is one of the earliest symbols of Christianity, along with fish and shell, and it is used in the first century Christian catacombs of Rome. The early Christian sailors saw in the anchor the symbol of Jesus' cross and a grounding base. Hebrews talks about how Jesus give us hope like an anchor. Hebrews 6:18-20 says, "God did this so that we, who have taken refuge in Him [think of a laying anchor in God during a storm in life] we can be encouraged to grasp the hope that is lying in front of us. This hope [in Jesus] is a safe and secure anchor for our whole being, and it enters the sanctuary behind the curtain." This is a reference to the place of God's presence behind the temple curtain, the Holy of Holies. God is no longer separated because Jesus takes us into God's presence. Verse 20, "That's

where Jesus went in advance and entered for us, since He became a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.”

So, here is your special confirmation memory verse. I’ve also chosen a special Bible verse as a gift to each confirmation class I’ve ever had. The verse for you this year is Hebrews 6:19a, “This hope in Jesus is a safe and secure anchor for our whole being.” As you wear your cross, may Jesus be your hope, your safe and secure anchor for your whole being!

Your course ahead will be both good and bad. Storms will come your way. There will be times when all that you do seems pointless. There will be people who will make you feel bad or that you are not good enough. There will be situations where you feel you’re getting nowhere. There will be times when you will feel betrayed, violated by those around you.

At times like these, I want your anchor cross of hope to remind you to get grounded. Go back to your secure rock—who is Jesus—and fasten yourself to Him. When I was your age, there was a well-known Christian named Mother Teresa. She was a tiny, little nun but had the secure faith of an anchor. She wrote a poem that I want to share with you. It will help you see what it looks like to have your anchor secured in Jesus when the storms of life rail around you. It’s called, “Anyway.”

“People are often unreasonable, illogical and self centered; Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends & some true enemies; Succeed anyway

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous; Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough; Give the world the best you’ve got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it’s between you and your God; It was never between you and them, anyway.”

Confirmands, Jesus-followers: you might be the only kid in your class who comes to youth group. You might be the only one willing to go on those crazy mission trip days this summer. You might be the only one who is willing to get out of bed Sunday mornings to go to worship. You may be teased and shamed for believing in Jesus, for participating in Church activities, for reading your Bible, for believing in the power of prayer. Being a Christian isn’t going to be easy, and others will tear you down.

So, wear your anchor cross. Anchor your life in Jesus, anyway. Why? Because in the end, you were built and fitted for a God-sized purpose, and a life that God delights in. You were made to live for Jesus, to be His disciple, come what may.

What the world really, really needs are people who are willing to be faithful followers of Jesus, even when it isn’t safe or easy to do so. We need people to leave the harbor and go into open water. That means proclaiming your true purpose as God’s child, what makes you come alive. And to show the joy in living for Jesus, anyway.

What the world needs, are more *anchored* young men and women, like you. Amen!

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

### A. Introduction

Confirmation is part of the Sacrament of Baptism. A sacrament is a form of worship in which an inward and spiritual grace is demonstrated by an outward and visible sign. It is an act of worship that Jesus both commanded and demonstrated by His own example.

Jesus told His followers to believe and be baptized.

Baptism is a sign of how Jesus washes away our sin and makes us clean through forgiveness. It is the initiation rite declaring that we are part of Christ's holy Church. It expresses that God's saving work in Jesus is applied to us, and that we are given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is grace: a gift given into us freely when we are given the Holy Spirit in us.

## **B. Rite of Baptism**

Baptism is part of God's covenant. God makes us, loves us, and chooses us. God promises to be our God. With infants, parents make the vow to raise the child knowing Jesus, to be part of God's family. But each person must confirm for him-or-herself the decision to choose Jesus and proclaim faith in Him. For Colby and Josh, who were baptized as infants here at this church, today is the completion of their baptism, as they now make their part of the covenant, 13 years later! For Bethany, today is the day of her baptism, and she affirms and confirms her faith in Jesus.

## **C. Thanksgiving over the Water**

Water is the outward and visible sign of baptism. It is the outward sign of the inward washing clean of original sin and of the ownership by sin. It is the outward sign of the inward renewing and refreshing of new birth that the Holy Spirit brings.

[Pouring of the water]

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and by this gift of water call to our remembrance the grace declared to us in our baptism. For you have washed away our sins, and you clothe us with righteousness throughout our lives, that dying and rising with Jesus we may share in His final victory. Church, remember your baptism, and give God thanks! Amen.

## **D. Confirmation of Baptism**

I now call up our confirmation students to share with us their faith testimonies and to be confirmed in their Christian faith. We begin with Josh Rosenbaum.

### **1. Joshua Robert Rosenbaum**

a. Faith sharing -Josh

b. Confirmation:

Grandpa Bob Rosenbaum was Josh's confirmation mentor. I invite him to come up.

I also ask Josh's family to please stand where you are to show your support for him, and to show that as a family you stand together in your love for Jesus.

Josh, I want to place around your neck your confirmation cross with the anchor. Bob, please put the prayer shawl over his shoulders, so that he will remember that he is wrapped in the arms of God's love, and is enfolded by this church family.

Church, I ask you to extend your hand towards Josh as we bless him in prayer.

**Joshua Robert Rosenbaum, the Lord defend you with His heavenly grace and by His Spirit confirm you in the faith and fellowship of all true disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Cassi also presents you with your Confirmation Bible, so that you will always have access to God's Word of life and truth.

Praise God!

Josh, you can go back to your seat, and now it is time for Bethany to come up.

## 2. Bethany Mae Bonsell

### a. Faith Sharing -Bethany

### b. Baptism:

Bethany has professed her faith in Jesus and asks for Christian baptism.

Julie Hovey was Bethany's confirmation mentor, and I invite her to come up.

I also ask Bethany's family to please stand to show their support for her, and to show that as a family they stand together in their love for Jesus.

Bethany, I want to place around your neck your confirmation cross with the anchor. Julie, please put the prayer shawl over her shoulders, so that she will remember that she is wrapped in the arms of God's love, and is enfolded by this church family.

Church, I ask you to extend your hand towards Bethany as we bless her in prayer.

**Bethany Mae Bonsell, the Lord defend you with His heavenly grace and by His Spirit confirm you in the faith and fellowship of all true disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Cassi also presents you with your Confirmation Bible, so that you will always have access to God's Word of life and truth.

Praise God!

Bethany, you can go back to your seat, and now it is time for Colby to come up.

## 3. Colby Hudson Keintz

### a. Faith Sharing -Colby

### b. Confirmation:

Matt Lindholm was Colby's confirmation mentor. I invite him to come up.

I also ask Colby's family to please stand to show their support for him, and to show that as a family they stand together in their love for Jesus.

Colby, I want to place around your neck your confirmation cross with the anchor. Matt, please put the prayer shawl over his shoulders, so that he will remember that he is wrapped in the arms of God's love, and is enfolded by this church family.

Church, I ask you to extend your hand towards Colby as we bless him in prayer.

Colby, the Lord defend you with His heavenly grace and by His Spirit confirm you in the faith and fellowship of all true disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Cassi also presents you with your Confirmation Bible, so that you will always have access to God's Word of life and truth.

Praise God!

Colby, you can go back to your seat.

And as you do, we go gain to...

## E. Confirmation Verse

...this year's Confirmation Bible verse. Church, say that with me.

"The Lord will direct the steps of those who follow Him. And their lives will be a delight to the Lord." -Psalm 37:23

## F. Rite of Baptism: Bethany Mae Bonsell -Pastor Andrew

**G. Baptism Blessing Song: *May You Run and Not Be Weary* -Pastor Andrew**

I'm now going to ask Pastor Andrew to lead us in our sung blessing for those who are baptized and who confirm their faith in Christ. *May You Run and Not Grow Weary*. Church, again I invite you to extend your hands in blessing to a confirmation student near you. Pastor Andrew?

<b>May you run and not be weary</b>	<b>May your heart be filled with song</b>
<b>And may the love of God</b>	<b>Continue to give you hope And keep you strong</b>
<b>And may you run and not be weary</b>	<b>May your life be filled with joy</b>
<b>And may the road you travel</b>	<b>Always lead you home</b>

**H. Joining Forest Hills UMC**

People who are baptized and who have publically professed their faith in Jesus are eligible to become professing members of our church. All who come are a part of our church family. But those who commit to “own” and “drive” the ministry of our church become Professing Members. Today Colby Keintz has chosen to become a professing member of Forest Hills Church, and Bethany Bonsell, who will have her Professing Membership in Rochester, is joining Forest Hills as an Affiliate Member. Colby and Bethany, please stand where you are.

*Names*, you have professed your faith in Jesus and are a part of Christ's universal church on earth. As members of Forest Hills United Methodist Church, will you faithfully participate in this congregation by prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness? If so, say “I will.”

*Response: I will.*

Church, we celebrate again! Please extend your hands to those standing near you, and proclaim the blessing written in your bulletin.

*Congregation extends hands to the new members and prays the blessing on the screen.*

**Dear God, we bless these confirmands. Thank you for bringing them into this community. We commit to bless them, to help them, and to be Christ to them. May they find your love and care here. May they find your work to join here. May they grow in love and truth. Bind us together in your Holy Spirit, and bind us closer to you. May we all live and grow together that we may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life. Amen.**

You may be seated!

We want you to know that we celebrate you! We have a reception here today following this worship: cupcakes!

**CLOSING SONG: *One True God* -Sanctify**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS -Pastor David**

Offering: *Drop offerings in the box as you leave.*

May 9: Outdoor worship (bring lawn chairs!)

**MEMORY VERSE -Pastor David**

“This hope in Jesus is a safe and secure anchor for our whole being” -Hebrews 6:19a

**BENEDICTION -Pastor David**

*Cupcakes available as people leave.*

*Drop offerings in the box as you leave.*