**9th Grade Faith Statement Presentation**

Dear 9th Graders,

Many years ago at your baptism, your parents and sponsors promised God, you, and the church that they would foster your Christian faith journey.  Throughout Confirmation, you have been preparing to make your faith your own.  In the next few weeks, you will prepare a Faith Statement which is a summary of your faith journey as well as how and why you are going to continue to follow Christ and grow in your Christian faith.  During the My Faith Retreat you will share this Faith Statement with your peers, small group leaders, as well as some of our pastors, church staff and council members.

**Format:** Your faith statement should be at least one page, typed in 12 pt. font double spaced

**Content:** In John 15:16, Jesus tells us: “You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.” Through our baptism, we experienced God choosing us and affirming that yes we are His children. Why are you choosing to say yes to follow Him? Below are things you should include in your Faith Statement.

* What events or individuals in your life have influenced your faith?
	+ Explain how did your faith change or grow as a result? Share a story.
* What is one bible passage that is important or has a special meaning for you?
	+ What does it mean to you in your faith walk?
	+ Feel free to ask your parents, grandparents, spiritual mentors or friends for ideas.
* How do you understand the Holy Trinity?
	+ Who is God the Father, God the Savior, and God the Holy Spirit to you?
	+ Feel free to look back to the Apostle’s creed and Luther’s Small Catechism – as you develop your own ideas.
	+ How do they influence your life now?
* How will you live out the promise you make to God to follow Him and continue your own personal walk (*grow in your faith)* with Him?
	+ (Examples: Worship, Read Bible, Youth Group, Small Group, TEC…)
* How will you fulfill your promise to God that you will live out the calling to be the body of Christ and bear fruit that will last (a*.k.a. be Jesus’ hands and feet both inside and outside the church*)?
	+ (Examples: Be a part of the worship team, Teach Sunday School, Mission Trip, Pack meals at Feed My Starving Children…

Please remember that this is one of *many* faith statements that you will develop in your journey of faith. Throughout the years you will (as we all do) continue to grow and learn who God is and who we are in God and because of that some things you believe or understand will change in the future. So please know that this is nothing more than, you sharing where you are ***now*** in your faith walk. Your faith statement is not to prove you know everything or believe everything, but to give you a picture of where you are presently.

Please know that you can contact Pastor Ladd, Jean, or your small group leaders at anytime if you have questions.

God’s Peace,

 Pastor Ladd and Jean

Key Dates:

* February 7th: Meet in Small Groups to talk and begin writing your Faith Statements
* February 14th: Deadline to email faith statements to jeane@bethelhudson.org
* February 21st - March 21st: Meet with your small group to read over your faith statement (at Highlands campus)
* March 24th: Faith Conversation with Pastors (at Downtown campus)
* April 6th – 8th: “My Faith Retreat” at Camp Wapogasset
* April 18th: Confirmation Rehearsal and Party (at Highlands campus)
* April 25th: Confirmation Banquet 6pm (at Highlands campus)
* April 28th-29th: Confirmation Service