



Boldness and Confidence

Confirmation Sunday

1 John 2:28-29; 4:17-18; 5:13-15

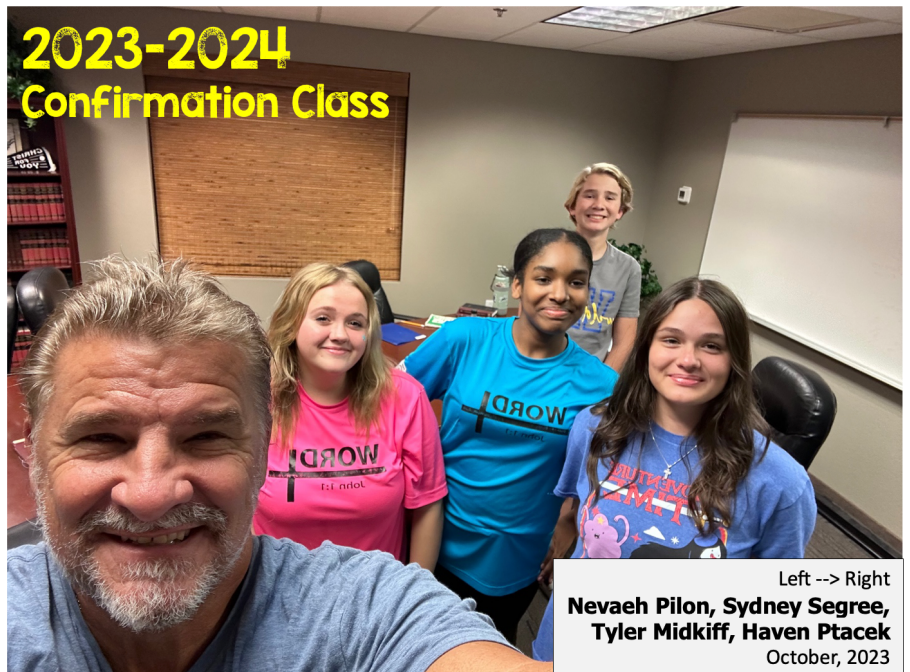
Hebrews 4:14-16 Luke 11:9-13

May 5, 2024

Pastor Dave Bolte

One of the highlights of our lives as conservative Lutheran Christians is Confirmation Day. Confirmation Sunday, which we are celebrating today, is a day when our youth stand before their families, this congregation, the world, and their God to **boldly** confess their faith. They have been in training for up to four years, learning the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the doctrines of the Christian faith. Today at the 11:30 service, they will **boldly** confess that faith as their own. Many of you were confirmed, and I hope you remember the day.

Many years ago, I once visited an elderly lady in a nursing home, she was 98 or 99 years old. And every time I went she would tell me the story of her Confirmation Day. Her mom had saved up money and made her a beautiful new dress for Confirmation ... and she was so excited! But when Confirmation Sunday came, it was a rainy day, and she knew that her dress would be soaked by the time she got to Church. But her dad figured out a way to get her safely into the wagon, and she rode underneath a tarp in the horse drawn wagon all the way to Church! Every time she told me that story there were tears of joy in her eyes – *85 years later!!* It was such



special day for her! Confirmation is a highlight in our lives as conservative Lutheran Christians; it's a special day, and an opportunity to remind ourselves of the **boldness** that we have in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the New Testament there is a special word for **boldness**; you might recognize the word **Parrasia**. **Parrasia** is a Greek word that means **boldness and confidence** in the presence of God. It has the idea that you have **direct and unlimited access** to God! Technically it means “**free speech**” -- that you can speak freely in front of an authority. You have that **freedom and boldness** with God through faith in His Son Jesus Christ. In Christ you are well pleasing to God; He loves you and brought you into His family. He has given you **parrasia**; you have **boldness and confidence** in the presence of God.

This word is used in several different ways in the New Testament. One way that this word is used is that you have **confidence and boldness**, on the Last Day, when Christ returns with great glory and power.

And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall **appear**, we may have **confidence**, and not be ashamed before Him **at His coming**. 1 John 2:28

By this is God's love perfected with us, so that we may have **confidence** for the **Day of Judgment**. 1 John 4:17

The word **Parrasia** is used in both of these verses, and it means that you have **confidence and boldness** at the **return of Christ on the Last Day**, which is also the **Day of Judgment**. For most people, Judgment Day is a day of terror and fright, for their sins will be exposed, their guilt pronounced, and they will be judged and condemned in their unbelief. **But not so for you!**

Through faith in Christ, you have **parrasia; confidence and boldness** in the presence of Christ when He returns in glory on the Last Day. Your sins have been taken away by the Son of God; Jesus was judged and condemned for you when He died on the cross, and in His Resurrection from the dead on the Third Day you are declared **righteous: not guilty** of your sins. Ever since your Baptism, you have heard words of Absolution: the *formal announcement* that your sins are forgiven in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy

Spirit. You are in a **perfect relationship** with God! That doesn't change on the Last Day! You will hear the same verdict of righteousness on the Day of Judgment! On that Day, one last time, you will hear the words of Absolution: that your sins are forgiven, your guilt has been paid for, and you will live forever in God's heavenly Kingdom because of the Lord Jesus Christ!

That is why you have **parrasia, confidence and boldness** at the **return of Christ on the Last Day**, which is also the **Day of Judgment**. In Christ, your sins are forgiven, you have a good, clean and clear conscience! A good, clear, and clean conscience gives you **parrasia**!

Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 1 John 3:21

There's that word again! A good, clear, and clean conscience gives you **parrasia! -- confidence!** In fact, rather than dreading the Last Day, and living in terror of Judgment Day, **we are looking forward to it!** It's a day of great joy for us who believe in Christ! If anything, it's like Homecoming Day for us¹! On the Last Day, you will *see Christ face to face*, with your own eyes! It's the day of the *Resurrection of the dead* and the *great reunion of our loved ones* who have died in Christ! **God's love is perfected in you in this: you have parrasia on the Day of Judgment** (1 John 4:17).

Another way that the word **parrasia, confidence and boldness**, is used is in terms of prayer.

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:16

This is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He hears us. 1 John 5:14

Through faith in Christ, you have **confidence and boldness** in prayer. The Lord God Almighty, the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth, invites you into His

¹ There is another New Testament word you may know that describes this: Maranatha! It is a transliterated Aramaic phrase used in 1 Corinthians 16:22 that means "Our Lord, Come!" Really, "Maranatha!" is a bold confession of the "parrasia" you have in Christ on the Last Day and the Day of Judgment! With Parrasia, bold confidence in Christ and His righteousness, we joyfully and longingly cry 'Maranatha!', "Our Lord Come!"

presence through prayer. You know Him as your Father in heaven, through faith in Christ, and that He loves you and cares about every detail of your life².

One of the gifts of salvation that is given to you is *confidence and boldness* to approach God in prayer. You have *unrestricted and authorized access to God*. No one in the Old Testament times could ever approach God like you can now in these New Testament times³! You have *unrestricted, unlimited, direct and authorized access to God* every moment of every day of your life. You know He loves you, and promises to be with you and help you. He has promised to use His mighty power on your behalf and for your benefit: to bring joy to you, to answer prayer, and to make all things work for good in your life. You are welcomed in the presence of the King of Heaven with *confidence and boldness*!

Faith in Christ gives you *confidence and boldness* in your relationship with God. Each day you can approach Him knowing that you have *unrestricted and unlimited access* to Him. On the Last Day, you have *confidence and boldness* before God because you trust in His Son Jesus, who forgives you all of your sins.

11:30 SERVICE: Nevaeh, Sydney, Haven, and Tyler, our prayer for you today – on your Confirmation Day -- is that you will wholeheartedly confess Christ ; and boldly live with confidence in your faith in Christ for the rest of your life!

Let this Confirmation Sunday remind you of the confidence and boldness you have in Christ; and may you live your Christian faith in life with that confidence and boldness! Amen!

² Remember how Martin Luther teaches it in the Small Catechism: “God would hereby tenderly invite us to believe that He is our true Father, and that we are His true children, so that we may ask Him with all **boldness and confidence**, as children ask their dear father.” Your Father in Heaven welcomes you into His presence at any time to talk about anything!

³ This even includes even Abraham, Moses, and David! No High Priest , no Prophet, no Judge, and no King ever had this kind of unrestricted and direct access to God in the Old Testament! But YOU DO through faith in Christ! It is an unbelievable gift that God has given to you! You have unhindered access to the Lord God Almighty: your Father, your Savior, and your Comforter!

God the Father in heaven,
we thank you for giving us *parrasia* through faith
in Jesus Christ.

We thank you for the *boldness and confidence*
we have in our Christian faith and life.

Today Lord we ask that you give that boldness
and confidence to our young Confirmands:
**Nevaeh Pilon, Sydney Segree , Haven Ptacek,
and Tyler Midkiff.**

Send them your Holy Spirit so that they may
remain faithful to you throughout their lives;
living their faith boldly in word and deed.

And Lord, grant to all of us that same boldness
and confidence,

so that we all may live with boldness and
confidence in You, Your Word and Your
Promises.

We pray all these things in the Name of Jesus,
our only Savior and Lord, Amen!

1 John 2:28-29

And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when He appears we may be confident and unashamed before Him at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of Him.

1 John 4:17-18

This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

1 John 5:13-15

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

Hebrews 4:14-16

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Luke 11:9-13

Jesus said, "And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 11 What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; 12 or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

