

**“Seeds of Life”**  
**Short Message for Youth Service, April 25, 2021**

**Dear church,**

We called this service “Seeds of Life,” and as we celebrate this Sunday with our confirmation class, with our youth, I would like to point out that every single one of them is not only a child of God but a seed of life.

**Coleen Arena**, you may be quiet and a little bit shy, but God created you in his image and you contribute more to all the people around you than you can imagine. We are blessed by your steady, faithful participation in our sessions.

**Karl Hussey**, you may sometimes fight for attention with your “alter ego” named Curt, but admit it: deep down you love your twin brother. Your joyfulness, your playfulness and not trying to be more mature than you are has blessed us all.

**Cate Kroznuski**, your questions, contributions and willingness to speak up are always appreciated. You have a lively spirit and a strong sense of self, for that we are grateful. You could become a leader that others follow. And if you couple that with a little bit of humility, God will do amazing things through you.

**Ben Clark**, you have a calm and steady way of approaching things. You will also be the only boy in a group of seven confirmation graduates this June. Thank you for always being a good sport and for sharing your musical gifts with us so frequently. In life you will play the sort of music that brings peace and stability to people.

**Lilia Mc Govern**, you have been through a lot in your short life, and yet you have been fighting to conquer the forces that have made your life difficult. We are all rooting for you and we can’t wait to see you in person after all these months. May you find the peace that transcends all human understanding and binds up every hurt!

**Nick Hoffman**, where did you come from? Sometimes it feels like the powerful ocean of life washed you at shore and dropped you off at St. Peter’s. We have been blessed by your presence. You can be an enigma, one of God’s mysteries, but I believe there is much more in you, and it is yet to be discovered. We look forward to that happening in your second year of confirmation.

**Annie Coover**, you keep us honest all the time, and you insist on plausible answers to your innermost questions. In that sense you are probably more Lutheran than you realize. Our spiritual father Martin Luther fought with the God of his childhood, the image of God that held him captive. But in the end, he was able to find more spiritual truth than the average person. Please continue to keep us honest!

**Mason Charles**, you are the oldest of six, which means that life must be tough at times with five younger siblings in your orbit. You are probably much more important to your younger brothers and sisters than you will ever realize. Among us, you are

always kind and you participate even when the technology isn't perfect. We really appreciate you for who you are.

**Lizzie Griffin**, sometimes your voice is soft and hard to hear, but I remember when you sang in church as a young child, leading the Cherub Choir with your beautiful voice. You were rocking! And so we encourage you to be YOU with more confidence as you mature, and to let your voice be heard, because it is an important voice, more important than you think.

**Curt Hussey**, you may sometimes fight for attention with your "alter ego" named Karl, but admit it: deep down you love your twin brother. Your joyfulness, your playfulness and not trying to be more mature than you are has blessed us all. Wait, did I say this before?

**Bree Bodolus**, you have grown this last year and you have grown up so much. We are always blessed when you read scripture passages with such accuracy. We also imagine that it must be hard to be "voluntold" all the time and being an introverted daughter of a very extroverted mom. WE thank you for supporting her so steadfastly, especially when you are the videographer for the children's chat recordings.

**Laura Albert**, thank God there is always one student who will respond to a question when nobody else does. More often than not, that's you. Thank you for being such a good sport and for trying to come up with interesting answers to our questions when everyone else is afraid to get it wrong. We enjoy your energy and your contributions and hope you will continue to be a Seed of Life in our church.

**Erica Worman**, you too are part of the quiet group, yet your reading is often impeccable and your spirit gentle and soothing. You selected Lavender as your favorite plant and like Lavender you bring peace and calm to body, mind and soul. Never be afraid to show your colors, the beautiful light purple of your favorite plant.

**Cassidy Flanagan**, you did a great job today. Is there perhaps a career in the making? Thinking back to your days as a young child in church, you have never been afraid to speak up and speak out, to be a leader and performer. God has made you that way and we love you that way. Please don't change that. Just listen to where God is leading you.

All of you are precious seeds of life and together you are as colorful as all your favorite plants together. As we blessed you on the day of your Baptism, allow us to bless you again today that you may continue to grow and bear fruit that will be visible in acts of love and kindness, the ability to be thoughtful, and achievements that benefit many in our community. May the Creator God be forever your guide!

Amen.