



“For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.”  
1 Corinthians 12:13 (NRSV)

October 30, 2022  
Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)  
West Branch, Iowa

## Jacob Langley

Parents: Scott and Tara Langley

Baptismal Sponsors: Joshua Slama, Kelly Dahm

*"I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." – Joshua 1:9 (NRSV)*

On November 2, 2008, I, Jacob Allen Langley, was baptized at Faith Lutheran Church in Eldridge, Iowa. My parents are Scott and Tara Langley, and my God parents are my Uncle Joshua (on my mom's side) and my Aunt Kelly (on my dad's side). My dad was also baptized on the same day with me. Baptism to me means, washing away sin. God promises I will be part of his family.

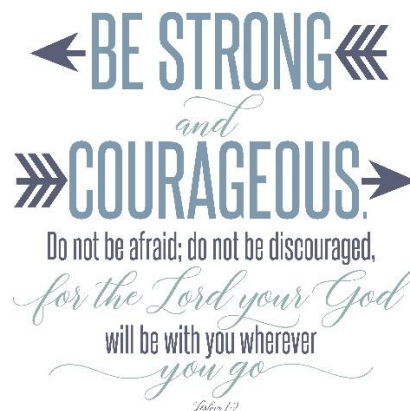
My favorite part of church was Vacation Bible School. I loved playing battleship in the pews and water fights with Pastor Chad. Plus, I really enjoyed hanging out with my friends on Wednesday night faith.

My favorite Bible verse is Joshua 1:9, "I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." I picked this verse because it reminds me of when my mom says, "Win or lose, I will always love you."

What does Jesus mean to me? He is a helper. He helps me when I struggle in math, sports, and everyday life. One example is when I do something wrong in football, I know I can try again and that he is helping me. He promises to protect us, love us, provide for us, and forgive us. He is our Savior. He frees me from sin. This frees me to serve God by doing good things to help people in need, such as holding doors open and picking up trash if you see it. In general, living out my faith by being a good person.

Praying is a way to talk to God. Holding hands and saying grace at the supper table, for example. Prayer helps me be thankful for the things I have.

I see God at church, in Pastor Chad, and school when I'm struggling on something. God is everywhere with me!



## Aizlyn Marsh

Parents: Scott and Amber Marsh

Baptismal Sponsors: Heidi Halligan, Jenna McGill, Phil Marsh

*“It is not fancy hair, gold jewelry, or fine clothes that should make you beautiful. No, your beauty should come from inside you. The beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit. That beauty will never disappear, and it is worth very much to God.” - 1 Peter 3:3-4 (ERV)*

I was baptized on June 8th, 2008, when I was around two months old. I was baptized in Independence, Iowa at Immanuel Lutheran. Baptism, to me, means that I have been admitted into the church as a child of God. The promises God made to me when I was baptized were that I would always be loved, my sins would always be forgiven, and that I would always be a child of God. To be baptized into Jesus Christ's death and resurrection means that if we enter his death through baptism, the same power that raised Jesus from the dead would raise us up as well. It will raise us up into the newness of life. Worship has shaped my faith by allowing me to learn more about the promises God has made to us and the promises we make to God when we are baptized. I believe worship is important because it helps divert your focus back to God. Worship can change our perspective on the world. It pushes us forward into our destiny and cleanses our past. It also allows us to hear God and God to hear us. I believe that it is important to continue going to worship after confirmation because it will help us continue to walk on the correct path. Things like confirmation, bible school, Sunday school, etc. have shown me that I can depend on God whenever I need help. They have shown me that God will always care for me and others around me. Confirmation has helped me grow by showing me how to be kind to others, how to help others, and how to act towards people. A teacher who has helped me shape my faith was a 7-8th grade teacher I had named Ms. Zinkgraf. She has taught me more about how to be kind. She has taught me a lot about how to do what God has asked of me.

To be a child of God means that I will surrender my life to Jesus as my Lord and Savior. Being a child of God means that I will keep believing in him. When I say I believe in God, it means that I know that he has a plan. I know that he will help me through dark times in my life. I know he will always be there for me. If I were to describe Jesus to a person who doesn't know anything about him, I would tell them that he is gracious, he is loving, he is kind, he was a human who had emotions. I would tell him that he is the Lord almighty and that he will save them from their sins. I know God is present in my life because things always brighten up when I am feeling down. Whenever I stray from the right path, he always leads me back. A time when I have felt really close to God was when my grandpa died. I felt comfort knowing he was in a better place. I felt comfort in God's presence because I knew he would stay by my side. When we confess God to be the creator, it means that we know he has created us and has good plans for us. We know he wanted us to be on this Earth. When we confess Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, it means that we know he will save us from our sins. It means that we will worship him and only him. We will follow his directions and trust in him. To live as one who is forgiven means that God has forgiven my sins. He knows what I have done wrong, and he has forgiven me for what I have done. If someone asked me "What must a person do to be saved," I would say "You have already been saved. God saves everyone even if they don't believe it." To have the gift of the Spirit means that God has given us the power to do what he wants us to do.

To be a member of Christ's church means that I serve God and others responsibly and faithfully. As a member of the church, I believe it is my duty to help others on their journey of faith. I believe it is my duty to keep having faith in God. I will stay involved with the church after confirmation by watching or going to Sunday services. I will also help with events when help is needed. I see myself living as a disciple everyday by helping others do what is right. I also see myself living as a disciple by introducing others to God. Jesus dying for me, and the rest of the world means a lot to me. It shows me that no matter what I do, there is always someone who will love and forgive me. We respond to this gift by sharing it with others. We forgive others who have sinned. Others also forgive us for sinning.

Confirmation is another way of receiving the gifts of God. It is important to me because it deepens my faith and relationship with God. When I am asked if I renounce the sin in the world and say I do renounce them, this means I will try my hardest to keep sin out of my life. I will try my hardest to stay out of trouble and do good things. The verse I have chosen to be read aloud is 1 Peter 3: 3-4, "It is not fancy hair, gold jewelry, or fine clothes that should make you beautiful. No, your beauty should come from inside you. The beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit. That beauty will never disappear, and it is worth very much to God." I chose this passage because it is very important to me. This verse is part of my faith because it lets me know God will always love me no matter what others think of me. It also lets me know that God doesn't care about how I look or the way I dress. He cares about how I act towards others. This is why I have chosen this verse.

