

ALL EYES ON YOU



This morning, we observe a wonderful Westchester Lutheran tradition, Eighth Grade Recognition Sunday. For the congregation, it's an opportunity to marvel as these bright young people share with us their excitement about graduating Thursday. For the students, it begins a week of celebrating their accomplishments, honoring their dreams – and having to stand before us while we gaze at them, take pictures of them, and expect great things of them.

While we look forward to hearing them tell us about the years they've spent here and what they've learned, we know it isn't easy to speak your heart when all eyes are on you. In those anxious moments, we tend to focus on the worry of not finding the right words and to lose the joy of sharing our feelings with people who love and support us.

But as people of God, we need to remember that while eyes may be on us, our eyes should be on Him. It is when we allow our gaze to turn inward that we stumble from His path, and then do and say the wrong thing. When our eyes are on Him, we see our way clearly, and our hearts and hands are filled with love and eager for service in His name.

So the next time we feel we are on the spot, let's remember that we are! As Christians, we stand on the spot where Christ gave His life for us. Rooted in that miracle of grace, we are strong and determined and, most importantly, saved. And when we feel that people's eyes are on us, we have a choice about what they see: They can see us in our human frailty or they can see Christ shining through us. Let us choose to stand proudly in His light and in His name. And let us pray that this year's graduates will go forward in that same way, today and always.

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:14-16