

*Clara Davel, a high school youth member of Midvale, shared what a difference it has meant in her life to be a part of our congregation during a worship talk on October 15. Her inspiring message is printed here to remind us of the impact we make together.*

Did you know, I was 2 weeks old in my first family photo in the church directory. I wanted to share this just so you know that when I say Midvale Community Lutheran Church has been with me my entire life, I mean my. Entire. Life. all 17 years.

Growing up attending Sunday school, worship, being a part of the Christmas Programs and VBS, joining confirmation and being the one and only confirmation class confirmed in the church parking lot. I have always seen Midvale as a safe and calming place for me. When I was little, I was always scared to go down to the basement of my house alone, but at that same age I had no fear walking around the basement halls of the church alone in the dark because I always knew that nothing could get me there because it was God's house, still is. But since then I have learned to not be afraid to go anywhere because God is protecting me everywhere I go. In case anyone was wondering, I am not scared of my basement anymore.

I also have always known that I will never be judged here, this community is so welcoming, loving and fun. I can't think of one bad experience that I have had here. In fact that's the reason I felt so comfortable sharing this today.

Since my confirmation I have backpacked with the high school youth group in Montana, traveled to Denver with the group for our mission trip this past summer and have enjoyed being a leader for VBS and helping to teach Sunday school. I know that this is God at work through me, through my actions, to help this church, our community and the world around us. Through Midvale and the people at Midvale, I have grown in my faith and connections with God. I now strive to be as caring as the shepherds in Sunday school. I strive to be as adventurous as the friends I have met at church. I strive to be a great leader like the great faith leaders I have looked up to since I was little. I strive to have childlike faith like the kids that come to learn about God every week. And I strive to show the love and kindness that has been shown to me at this church to everyone I meet.

Midvale Lutheran Community Church has been a part of my life until now and I know it will remain with me no matter where I go. Thank you.