

Lauren Jaburg

Good morning. I'm Lauren Danielle Jaburg. I'm a daughter, sister, student, dancer, and cancer survivor. But most importantly I'm a Christian. I believe in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

I was born May 21, 2001. I have an wonderful family. It includes my mom, Rebecca, my dad, Daniel, and my siblings, Patricia and Colin. I have a close relationship with my Godparents, Eric and Diane Anderson.

I was baptised July 22, 2001 by Pastor Michael Eckelkamp at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Baptism is when water and God's word are combined, bringing us into God's family and forgiving our sins. Along with forgiving our sins, baptism also gives us eternal salvation. Without baptism we would all be full of sin and regret, but with baptism, confession, and absolution, we are forgiven our sins.

I have a strong belief in God and I know that even before I was born, He's had a plan for my life. A month after my third birthday I was diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor which the doctors think I had since birth. God was with me, my family, and the doctors and nurses who attended me. Through God's grace, He gave the doctors the skill to identify the tumor, remove it, and provide follow up treatment. I was lucky enough to have Christian nurses and doctors who had faith in God and prayed for me. My parents call me God's miracle. The doctors gave my parents a long list of problems we might expect following surgery and radiation treatment. They said I might be in a wheelchair, but I'm a competitive

dancer. They said I could have learning disabilities and struggle in school, but I'm an honor student. They said there was a chance my tumor could come back, but it's been 11 years, and by God's grace, I'm still cancer free. How could I not believe in God and His miracles after all that I've been through?

Some argue that what happened to me wasn't fair. But I know through Ephesians 2:10 that I am God's creation and He has a plan for my life. In ten years I see myself preparing to go to medical school to become a pediatric oncologist to work with young cancer patients. Just like I had Christian doctors and nurses by my side, I hope to use my talents to heal, and my faith in God to comfort my patients and their families.

I know that all I went through before I was four was more than many will go through in their lifetime. But I know if I continue to walk with God, my life may not always be easy, but I know my life will be everything He wants it to be.