



ST. MARK'S &
ST. JAMES UCC

Confirmation Sunday

April 19, 2026

We Gather In God's Presence

Meditative Music
Bells Ring Prelude:
Gathering for Worship

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty

Introduction of the 2025-2026 Confirmands and Recognition of the Parents:

St. James:

Wyatt Henschel	Jamie and Heather Henschel
Lexis Kuester	Angie Staudinger and Mike Kuester
London Kuester	Angie Staudinger and Mike Kuester
Carson Russart	Tim and Amanda Russart
Landin Wakefield	David and Megan Lutze

St. Mark's:

Peter Grunwald	Todd and Stacy Grunwald
Brooklyn Vandoske	Bob and Tara Vandoske

It Takes a Village:

Parents; Godparents; Grandparents; Parents; Aunts and Uncles; Sunday School Teachers; Church members; Pastor Keith Weiland; and trusted friends...

Call To Worship:

Wyatt Henschel

Come, beloved of God, and rejoice in the One who calls us by name.
We come to celebrate God's grace and faithfulness.

Today we witness the journey of faith—promises made, hearts renewed, and lives committed to Christ.

We give thanks for the Spirit's work in every season of life.

Let us worship the Lord with joy, for God is making all things new.

With open hearts and willing hands, we follow where Christ leads.

(Bold text means to read in unison)

Opening Prayer:

London Kuester

Lord God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power, that we might not fall into sin nor be overcome by the adversities of life. Fill this place with your Holy Spirit, so that we will see you more clearly and love you more dearly, today and every day, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hymn of Praise: (#217)

Rock of Ages

♥ Young at Heart ♥

Choral Anthem:

Spirit Song

Presentation by the Confirmands – Vows of Faith and Commitment (See Bulletin Insert)

Confirmation Prayer:

Peter Grunwald

O Holy Spirit of God, take me as your disciple. Guide me, illuminate me, sanctify me. Bind my hands, that they may do no evil. Cover my eyes that they may see no evil. Sanctify my heart that evil may not dwell within me. You are my God. You are my guide. Whatsoever you forbid me, I will renounce. And whatsoever you command me, in your strength I will do. Lead me then unto the fullness of your truth. *Amen.*

The Act of Confirmation:

Hymn:

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Arise, Your Light Is Come!". It is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line has four verses of lyrics. The piano accompaniment includes chord symbols above the notes. The lyrics are: Verse 1: "A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey; show"; Verse 2: "A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door; pro -"; Verse 3: "A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born, bind"; Verse 4: "A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song! Rise". The piano accompaniment includes chord symbols: N.C., A, D, A, D, A, E/B, B7, E, A, E/G#, D/F#, A/E, Bm/D, D#m7(b5), E, A/C#, D, A/C#, Esus, E7, A.

Scripture Reading:

John 17:6-11

Landin Wakefield

"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

The Word Proclaimed:

They Are Yours!

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

The Sacrament of Holy Communion: Ours is an open table for guests, family and friends**Prayer:**

Carson Russart

Lord God Almighty, we magnify your holy name and give heartfelt thanks that you allowed Jesus to lay down his life for our sake. We recognize that by the virtue of Holy Communion, we are covenanted with Christ Jesus, and he has borne all of our infirmities, sin, and reproach on the cross of Calvary. We pray thee that by the virtue of Holy Communion, you will draw us nearer unto you in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love.

You are invited to this table of life as we join together and seek communion with God.

God is with you! **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to our Creator. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

always and everywhere

to give you thanks and praise, O Lord!

Jesus proclaimed this Sacrament on the night in which he was arrested. He and the disciples were gathered in the upper room. Jesus took the bread, breaking and lifting it, he gave thanks and shared it with the disciples saying – this is my body broken for you. As often as you eat it, do this in memory of me. When the supper was ended, he took the cup, again he lifted it giving thanks and then shared it with the disciples saying – this is my blood made in covenant with you for the forgiveness of all your sins. As often as you drink of it, do this in remembrance of me.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O Lord, as we eat this bread and drink of this cup, that we may go forth as the body of Christ sustained in faith by the blood that cleansed our souls. Let us be your holy people, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with all the world this day. To God be the glory now and forever!

Offering:

Offering, tithes and gifts can be made before or after worship in the offering baskets/plates at the welcome area of the church. St. James is also set up to take on-line offerings through the website (stmstjucc.org).

Offertory Music:

Walking With The Master

~ The offering is brought to the altar by Landin Wakefield ~

Doxology: (#551)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, you heavenly host,
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Prayer of Dedication: (*Honor the Lord with your wealth. (Proverbs 3:9a)*)

Lexis Kuester

O Heavenly God, we praise Your Almighty Name! You have blessed our nation with immense wealth and opportunity. You have blessed us with your grace and mercy time and time again. And you have commanded us to honor you with our wealth. We pray that you will be honored greatly this day as we give to you what is already yours. May these gifts be multiplied tenfold that we may continue to serve in mission and ministry to those in need. We love You God! *Amen.*

Closing Hymn: (#464)

Dwell In Me

Closing Prayer:

Lord, we ask your blessings today. Help us to desire to know you better each and every day. Help us to see you in our day-to-day living. Help us, not only to be better people, but to **want** to be better people.

Choral Anthem:

The Blessing

ALL:

Lord, we are so grateful for all you have done in the lives of these young men and women. We are thankful for the ways you have led each of us into a relationship with you – deepened in our prayer time, strengthened in our study of scripture, confirmed in our fellowship with others in faith.

Let us go now in courage, in humble trust, in fervent grace to live the life you have called us to; not only as Christians but, as a body of Christ and church that is sharing Christ's message of love, grace, healing and service.

Let us close our time of worship by joining hands, and praying the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

Postlude:

Sing and Rejoice Greatly

Mr. Wyatt Henschel

Scripture: Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom"

Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

I selected this scripture: because it carries a defining moment of grace during the crucifixion of Jesus, showing Jesus on the cross forgiving a criminal who asks for mercy, promising him, "Today you will be with me in Paradise".

The thief is an example of salvation by faith alone. Jesus promises "paradise," and uses the word "today," highlighting that salvation is not a distant hope but a present reality for those who trust in Him. Even while dying, Jesus is recognized by the thief as a King with a kingdom, showing that the cross was not a defeat.

My favorite memory from confirmation: is learning more in depth about our lord savior with my friends. But mainly learning in depth about the bible and the story of Jesus.

Ms. Lexis Kuester

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:8

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

I selected this scripture: because it means everyone should be loved no matter if it's your enemy or your best friend. Love everyone and care for them while keeping a special relationship with them and it means love should be carried over the world with kindness and compassion.

My favorite memory from confirmation: is when we went to Lakeland College and I got to read John 4 with our group and learned the Samaritan woman went to the well and got the living water, which means eternal life.

Ms. London Kuester

Scripture: Ephesians 4:32

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

I selected this scripture: because it reminds me of kindness. People don't think kindness is bigger and better than what it actually is.

My favorite memory from confirmation: Nothing beats the movie night and volleyball games at Lakeland University. It was the highlight of my whole journey, because we had so much fun sitting on the couch with people we don't normally hang out with.

Mr. Carson Russart

Scripture: Philippians 4:13

"I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength"

I selected this scripture because: it means I can do anything through Christ no matter what I do he is always with me.

My favorite memory from confirmation: is the retreat at Lakeland University. It was an experience with all the other confirmands from other churches gathered in one place.

Mr. Landin Wakefield

Scripture: Mark 3:33-35

And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother."

I selected this scripture because: I want to be a member of this church and this reminds me that in Christ, we are all part of the same body.

My favorite memory from confirmation: is the Lakeland retreat. Especially, throwing burritos at each other. Like burrito dodgeball.

Mr. Peter Grunwald

Scripture: Matthew 19:26

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible. But with God, all things are possible."

I selected this scripture because: If you trust and believe in God, and listen to his guidance, the things I think can't be done by me, **can** be done by God.

My favorite memory from confirmation: is the time Mr. Vandoske taught us the history of St. Mark's. A close second would be the Lakeland retreat.

Ms. Brooklyn Vandoske

Scripture: Philippians 4:13

"I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength"

I selected this scripture because: I know that when I have God in my heart, He will give me the strength to handle any challenges that life throws at me.

My favorite memory from confirmation: is when Ron Vandoske walked us around the cemetery and taught us about the history of the church. After we got to hang out, watch a movie and eat pizza.

A banner with a light wood-grain background. The text 'Confirmation Class' is written in a large, black, cursive font. Below it, in a smaller, black, sans-serif font, is the text 'Some Bible, a little bit of prayer, a dash of faith and a WHOLE LOT OF JESUS!'. The bottom right corner of the banner features a photograph of an open Bible with a black cover, showing text on the pages.

Confirmation Class

Some Bible, a little bit of
prayer, a dash of faith
and a **WHOLE LOT OF**
JESUS!

When an infant is baptized, a covenant is made between the congregation, the parents and God about raising the child in the faith. Confirmation is the process where the baptized one makes the decision whether or not to make the faith their own.

Confirmation is not graduation from Sunday school or from further faith study. It is the foundation upon which the faith journey is built. Confirmation provides the bare bones of, and tools for, faith exploration so that the individual can grow in faith and in faithful living. Confirmation is the point at which a person moves from having parents and guardians spoon-feed them to learning to feed themselves the nourishment of faith, and to serve others as well.

The purpose of the Confirmation Class is to support and equip the students for, and beyond, the Act of Confirmation. More than memorizing Bible passages or learning church traditions, this program teaches the Confirmands how to think critically and for themselves about the Bible, faith, practices of faith, everyday choices, and ethical situations.