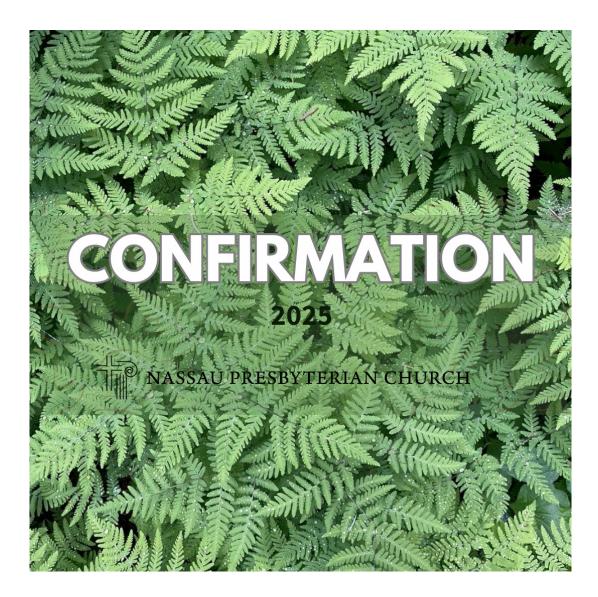
CONFIRMATION

NASSAU PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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INTRODUCTION

WHY?

Why Confirmation?

Confirmation is a chance to think critically about the faith, to sort through some questions regarding what you believe, and to decide whether you want to join our church as a full (and voting) adult member.

Why the essays?

Writing forces you to think. Once written, you have a permanent record of what you were thinking and why. Take some time. These will be keepers.

Why the memory work?

Three of the retreats have two passages you are expected to memorize to the best of your ability. Surprise yourself. You can memorize these down to the commas and periods and it is fun when you do so. The first of these passages is a prayer or confession basic to church life and the Christian faith. We say these on a weekly basis, as do Christians all over the world. You need to know them.

The second goes further. As you think about getting confirmed you may ask yourself, what does the Bible really say? Who is God anyway? Each of these second passages offers a deep glimpse into the heart of the Bible and, ultimately, into God's intention for this world. We'll give you two options. Read both. Memorize one. These offer clarity, hope, mystery, and beauty. They describe the foundations of the Christian faith. Knowing them thoroughly will help you decide whether you want to believe in what they say.

Why the 10 hours?

The Christian life is a life of faith with others before God. In being confirmed you are joining the church, which is a community of believers. What does the church do? Show up and find out. Before you join, we ask that you are present for least ten hours of activities over the year, outside of the Confirmation class. These can be Sunday morning Worship (1hr), the Sunday morning Senior High class (1hr), Sunday evening Choir and Fellowship (3hrs). Please keep track in the grid in this booklet.

Why Confirmation, again?

Have some doubts about this? Not sure it is for you? Can't quite figure out what you think about the church and this Christianity stuff? That's the point of Confirmation. You can go through the whole year and decide not to be Confirmed. It's ok. It happens frequently and those are still welcome; in fact, you still regularly see them at church.

~Mark



SYLLABUS

WHAT? WHEN?

Saturday Retreat Schedule

- * 5:00pm meet at dinner location (some local favorites: Tacoria, Nomad Pizza, Conte's)
- * 6:00pm walk to Nassau Church
- * Memory Work
- * Break (Candy at the Kisok)
- * Essay Work
- * 9:00pm pick up at Nassau Church

Retreat #1 – 10/12/2024

Essay #1: My History with the Church and/or the Christian faith (*email to Mark before the retreat*)

Retreat #2 - 12/1/2024

Memory Work: Psalm 23 (KJV) and Romans 5:1-11 (NRSV) -or-Romans 8:28-39 (NRSV)

MLK Day

Mission Project Sunday or Monday, January 20 or 21, 2025 *Optional* (Save the date, details to come)

Some of our previous projects: prepare meals for ArmInArm; work at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore

Retreat #3 – 3/1/2025

Memory Work: The Apostles' Creed and Psalm 139:1-16 (NRSV) -or-Mathew 6:25-34 (NRSV) Essay #2: Presbyterian Brief Statement of Faith

Retreat #4 - 4/12/2025

Memory Work: The Lord's Prayer and Philippians 2:3-11 (NRSV) -or-Colossians 1:13-20 (NRSV) Essay #3: Your Statement of Faith (draft)

Other Important Dates

Final Statement of Faith *(email to Mark by Friday, April 25, 2025)*

Meet with Session: Thursday, May 15, 2025, 7:00-8:30pm

Confirmation Sunday, May 18, 2025: 10:00am Worship (plan to arrive by 9:00am)

2024-25 Confirmation Calendar

Aug 2024	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025
1 Th	1 Su	1 Tu	1 Fr	1 Su	1 We New Year's Day
2 Fr	2 Mo Labor Day	2 We	2 Sa	2 Mo	2 Th
3 Sa	3 Tu	3 Th	3 Su	3 Tu	3 Fr
4 Su	4 We	4 Fr	4 Mo	4 We	4 Sa
5 Mo	5 Th	5 Sa	5 Tu	5 Th	5 Su
6 Tu	6 Fr	6 Su	6 We	6 Fr	6 Mo
7 We	7 Sa	7 Mo	7 Th	7 Sa Retreat #2	7 Tu
8 Th	8 Su	8 Tu	8 Fr	8 Su	8 We
9 Fr	9 Mo	9 We	9 Sa	9 Mo	9 Th
10 Sa	10 Tu	10 Th	10 Su	10 Tu	10 Fr
11 Su	11 We	11 Fr	11 Mo Veterans Day	11 We	11 Sa
12 Mo	12 Th	12 Sa Retreat #1	12 Tu	12 Th	12 Su
13 Tu	13 Fr	13 Su	13 We	13 Fr	13 Mo
14 We	14 Sa	14 Mo Columbus Day	14 Th	14 Sa	14 Tu
15 Th	15 Su	15 Tu	15 Fr	15 Su	15 We
16 Fr	16 Mo	16 We	16 Sa	16 Mo	16 Th
17 Sa	17 Tu	17 Th	17 Su	17 Tu	17 Fr
18 Su	18 We	18 Fr	18 Mo	18 We	18 Sa
19 Mo	19 Th	19 Sa	19 Tu	19 Th	19 Su
20 Tu	20 Fr	20 Su	20 We	20 Fr	20 Mo MLK Day/Mission
21 We	21 Sa	21 Mo	21 Th	21 Sa	21 Tu
22 Th	22 Su	22 Tu	22 Fr	22 Su	22 We
23 Fr	23 Mo	23 We	23 Sa	23 Mo	23 Th
24 Sa	24 Tu	24 Th	24 Su	24 Tu	24 Fr
25 Su	25 We	25 Fr	25 Mo	25 We Christmas Day	25 Sa
26 Mo	26 Th	26 Sa	26 Tu	26 Th	26 Su
27 Tu	27 Fr	27 Su	27 We	27 Fr	27 Mo
28 We	28 Sa	28 Mo	28 Th Thanksgiving Day	28 Sa	28 Tu
29 Th	29 Su Info Session	29 Tu	29 Fr	29 Su	29 We
30 Fr	30 Mo	30 We	30 Sa	30 Mo	30 Th
31 Sa		31 Th		31 Tu	31 Fr

Feb 2025	Mar 2025	Apr 2025	May 2025	Jun 2025	Jul 2025
1 Sa	1 Sa Retreat #3	1 Tu	1 Th	1 Su	1 Tu
2 Su	2 Su	2 We	2 Fr	2 Mo	2 We
3 Mo	3 Mo	3 Th	3 Sa	3 Tu	3 Th
4 Tu	4 Tu	4 Fr	4 Su	4 We	4 Fr Independence Day
5 We	5 We	5 Sa	5 Mo	5 Th	5 Sa
6 Th	6 Th	6 Su	6 Tu	6 Fr	6 Su
7 Fr	7 Fr	7 Mo	7 We	7 Sa	7 Mo
8 Sa	8 Sa	8 Tu	8 Th	8 Su	8 Tu
9 Su	9 Su	9 We	9 Fr	9 Mo	9 We
10 Mo	10 Mo	10 Th	10 Sa	10 Tu	10 Th
11 Tu	11 Tu	11 Fr	11 Su	11 We	11 Fr
12 We	12 We	12 Sa Retreat #4	12 Mo	12 Th	12 Sa
13 Th	13 Th	13 Su	13 Tu	13 Fr	13 Su
14 Fr	14 Fr	14 Mo	14 We	14 Sa	14 Mo
15 Sa	15 Sa	15 Tu	15 Th Meet Session	15 Su	15 Tu
16 Su	16 Su	16 We	16 Fr	16 Mo	16 We
17 Mo Presidents' Day	17 Mo	17 Th	17 Sa	17 Tu	17 Th
18 Tu	18 Tu	18 Fr	18 Su Confirmation	18 We	18 Fr
19 We	19 We	19 Sa	19 Mo	19 Th Juneteenth	19 Sa
20 Th	20 Th	20 Su Easter	20 Tu	20 Fr	20 Su
21 Fr	21 Fr	21 Mo	21 We	21 Sa	21 Mo
22 Sa	22 Sa	22 Tu	22 Th	22 Su	22 Tu
23 Su	23 Su	23 We	23 Fr	23 Mo	23 We
24 Mo	24 Mo	24 Th	24 Sa	24 Tu	24 Th
25 Tu	25 Tu	25 Fr	25 Su	25 We	25 Fr
26 We	26 We	26 Sa	26 Mo Memorial Day	26 Th	26 Sa
27 Th	27 Th	27 Su	27 Tu	27 Fr	27 Su
28 Fr	28 Fr	28 Mo	28 We	28 Sa	28 Mo
	29 Sa	29 Tu	29 Th	29 Su	29 Tu
	30 Su	30 We	30 Fr	30 Mo	30 We
	31 Mo		31 Sa		31 Th

Track your progress

HOURS OF CHURCH Activity

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SENIOR	HIGH FE	LLOWSI	1IP	
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RETREAT #1

MY HISTORY WITH The Church

As you work on your essay, you may wish to consider the following questions:

- * Why have you gone to church?
- * What are some things you've liked about church?
- * What are some things you wish were different?
- * What role has the church played in your family and in your life?
- * What are some of your best memories of church?
- * Are there songs, services, trips, or sermons that have made an impact on your life?
- * Who in the church has been a good friend to you?

Email your essay to Mark (mark@nassauchurch.org) before the retreat

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RETREAT #2

MEMORY WORK

Psalm 23 (KJV)

¹The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. ²He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. ³He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. ⁵Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

> "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. -Jeremiah 29:11 (NRSV)

Romans 5:1-11 (NRSV)

"Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. "But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

-OR-

Romans 8:28-39 (NRSV)

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

RETREAT #3

MEMORY WORK

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:

Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

He descended into hell.

The third day He arose again from the dead;

He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Psalm 139:1-16 (NRSV)

¹O Lord, you have searched me and known me. ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. ³You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. ⁵You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. ⁷Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, ¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. ¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," ¹² even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you. ¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
 Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.
 ¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you,

when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written

all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

Matthew 6:25-34 (NRSV)

²⁵ Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' ³² For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴ So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. -Luke 11:9-10 (NRSV)



A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

- (1) In life and in death we belong to God.
- (2) Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- (3) the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
- (4) we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
- (5) whom alone we worship and serve.
- (6) We trust in Jesus Christ,
- (7) Fully human, fully God.
- (8) Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
- (9) preaching good news to the poor
- (10) and release to the captives,
- (11) teaching by word and deed
- (12) and blessing the children,
- (13) healing the sick
- (14) and binding up the brokenhearted,
- (15) eating with outcasts,
- (16) forgiving sinners,
- (17) and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
- (18) Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
- (19) Jesus was crucified,
- (20) suffering the depths of human pain
- (21) and giving his life for the sins of the world.
- (22) God raised this Jesus from the dead,
- (23) vindicating his sinless life,
- (24) breaking the power of sin and evil,
- (25) delivering us from death to life eternal.

Highlight or Underline in **GREEN** the parts you think you believe; in **YELLOW** the parts you aren't sure you understand or things you have questions about; in **RED** the things with which you disagree.

- (26) We trust in God,
- (27) whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
- (28) In sovereign love God created the world good
- (29) and makes everyone equally in God's image
- (30) male and female, of every race and people,
- (31) to live as one community.
- (32) But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
- (33) Ignoring God's commandments,
- (34) we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
- (35) accept lies as truth,
- (36) exploit neighbor and nature,
- (37) and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
- (38) We deserve God's condemnation.
- (39) Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
- (40) In everlasting love,
- (41) the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
- (42) to bless all families of the earth.
- (43) Hearing their cry,
- (44) God delivered the children of Israel
- (45) from the house of bondage.
- (46) Loving us still,
- (47) God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
- (48) Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
- (49) like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
- (50) God is faithful still.

- (51) We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
- (52) everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
- (53) The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
- (54) sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
- (55) and binds us together with all believers
- (56) in the one body of Christ, the Church.
- (57) The same Spirit
- (58) who inspired the prophets and apostles
- (59) rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
- (60) engages us through the Word proclaimed,
- (61) claims us in the waters of baptism,
- (62) feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
- (63) and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.
- (64) In a broken and fearful world
- (65) the Spirit gives us courage
- (66) to pray without ceasing,
- (67) to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
- (68) to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
- (69) to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
- (70) and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
- (71) In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
- (72) we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
- (73) and to live holy and joyful lives,
- (74) even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
- (75) praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"
- (76) With believers in every time and place,
- (77) we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
- (78) can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- (79) Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Highlight or Underline in **GREEN** the parts you think you believe; in **YELLOW** the parts you aren't sure you understand or things you have questions about; in **RED** the things with which you disagree.

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RETREAT #4

MEMORY WORK

The Lord's Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)

Our Father which 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.

They will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God their Savior. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob.

-Psalm 24:5-6 (NRSV)

Philippians 2:3-11 (NRSV)

³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

-OR-

Colossians 1:13–20 (NRSV)

¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him.

¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

MY STATEMENT OF FAITH

As you work on the Statement of Faith, you may wish to consider the following questions:

- * What words and terms (ie: love, faith, sin, God) are key to my faith, and how do I understand them?
- * What statements from the memory passages or prayers do I want to include?
- * What questions have been answered? What am I still unsure of?

All statements should, in some way, include responses to the following:

- * Who is Jesus?
- * Why do I want to join the church?

As you prepare your statement, it would be a good idea to know what the church asks during the service of Confirmation. Read through the Act of Confirmation at the end of this packet.

ACT OF CONFIRMATION

Pastor: Calls the confirmands forward. They face the congregation.

(To the congregation) The Confirmation Class is presented by the session, for the reaffirming of the baptismal covenant into which they were baptized. They now desire to publicly profess their faith and to assume greater responsibility in the life of the church, and God's mission in the world.

(To the Confirmands) We rejoice with you that you now desire to declare your faith and to share with us in our common ministry.

- * In baptism you were joined to Christ and made members of his church.
- * In the community of the people of God, you have learned of God's purpose for you and for all creation.
- * You have been nurtured at the table of our Lord and called to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Hear these words from Scripture: You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house (Matthew. 5:14–16 NRSV).

In the same way, let your light so shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your God in heaven.

Now, as you publicly declare your faith, profess your faith in Christ Jesus, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which you were baptized; I ask you to answer these questions:

- * Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? If so say, "I do."
- * Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love? If so say, **"I do."**
- * Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love? If so say, **"I will, with God's help."**
- * You have publicly professed your faith. Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, share in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? If so say, "I will, with God's help."

Pastor: Asks Teaching Elders, and Ruling Elders, and mentors to come forward for the laying on of hands.

(Confirmands kneel)

Defend, O Lord, your servant

with your heavenly grace, that he/she may continue yours forever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more; until he/she comes to your everlasting kingdom.

(Confirmands stand)

Pastor: Closing Prayer

CONFIRMATION DATES (2024-2025)

Confirmation Information Session Sunday, September 29, 2024 • 10:30-10:55 a.m.

Retreat #1 Saturday, October 12, 2024 • 5:00-9:00 p.m. Email "My History with the Church" to Mark Edwards before this retreat

Retreat #2 Saturday, December 7, 2024 • 5:00-9:00 p.m. Do your memory work!

Morning of Mission (optional) Sunday or Monday, January 20 or 21, 2025

Retreat #3 Saturday, March 1, 2025 • 5:00-9:00 p.m. Do your memory work & highlighting!

Retreat #4 Saturday, April 12, 2025 • 5:00-10:00 p.m. Do your memory work! Bring the draft of your Statement of Faith to this retreat. *Email the final copy to Mark Edwards by Friday, April 25.*

Meet with Session, Assembly Room Thursday, May 15, 2024 • 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Confirmation Service Sunday, May 18, 2024 • 10:00 a.m.