



## WELCOME TO WALKING THE WAY

Campfirmation is a three year, retreat-based faith experience meant to supplement a congregation's confirmation program and/or accompany a 7-9th grader's faith journey. Jesus meets us where we are and walks with us on this journey, accompanying us, and teaching us with every step. This is an opportunity for us to experience this journey together while considering how we are called to live out our faith in daily life.

### Three Year Scope:

The following questions guide our faith experience through each year of Campfirmation.

- 2023 - 2024 Where is Jesus?
- 2024 - 2025 Who is Jesus?
- 2025 - 2026 Why Jesus?

### Goals:

- *Equipping Leaders:* Providing leaders, wherever they are, with the guide and structure needed to provide a meaningful Congregational Campfirmation experience for their 7-9th graders. All they need to do is provide the leaders, supplies, and young people.
- *Partnership:* Partnering with congregations, families, and community members to support our young people on their faith journey.
- *Building Connections:* Providing youth, congregations, and families an opportunity to build their connections with peers, ministry partners, and community members to more fully realize what it means to be the Body of Christ in the world.
- *Collaboration:* Sharing our gifts, wisdom, and creativity to build faith, nurture a new program, and support our young people on their faith journey.
- *Experiential Faith:* Providing opportunities for our young people to understand faith as a lived experience, embodied in our daily lives, and enacted wherever we are.
- *Diversity of Voices:* Providing opportunities for our young people to learn from a variety of leaders with varying titles, from distinct places, and expressing unique gifts as they live out their life of faith.

## Components of Campfirmation

- **Outlines for four day retreats** to be led in your community context. Retreats are typically 4-6 hours long and include large and small group faith formation, team building, games, activities, service and outreach opportunities, community connection, and guest speakers. Outlines will be developed in a way that leaders can plug in their volunteers or local community groups, depending on the needs of the event. Supplies and leadership needs will be clearly listed in the materials.
- **Monthly “Trail Marker” e-mails** for households or congregations to use around the dinner table, at youth group, or Sunday School. Each email includes a monthly faith practice, discussion questions, and way to engage with their congregation, family, or neighborhood.
- **One Congregational Companion** to serve as a primary contact/communication person for their congregation.
- **Four zoom gatherings** for parents, Congregational Companions, and caring adults to discuss themes, pray, and support one another.
- **Closing Worship and Commissioning** order of service for Third Years and all who support their ongoing faith journey. This service can be used in congregations at a confirmation service or simply to mark the closing of the campfirmation year.

## 2024-2025 Retreat Themes

- **The journey of Jesus:** An overview of the arc of Jesus’ life journey, his ancestors, community, and context. How his journey meets us on our journeys.
- **The character of Jesus:** The practices, beliefs, and actions that informed Jesus when he was alone and in community. How his character informs who we are and how we live.
- **The teachings of Jesus:** Primary philosophies and religious teachings from Jesus that transformed and continue to transform the lives of “those with ears.” How his teachings transform us.
- **The justice of Jesus:** The practices, actions, and teachings that defined Jesus’ understanding of and call for justice in the world. How Jesus’ call for justice laid the foundation for the Passion. How the call for justice and passion of Jesus shapes our understanding of vocation and theology.

## 2024 - 2025 Dates

Adult Zoom    Monday, Oct. 7, 2024  
Adult Zoom    Monday, Nov. 4, 2024  
Adult Zoom    Monday, Dec. 2, 2024  
Adult Zoom    Monday, March 1, 2025

## How to Register as a Congregation

If your congregation wishes to participate in Congregational Campfirmation, have your contact Casey Cross at [associate@lutherheights.org](mailto:associate@lutherheights.org). We will send an invoice. **Congregational commitments are due by July 22, 2024. The cost per congregation is \$400.**