



# CAMPFIRMATION

## 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:

- *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

- **Four day retreats** at various locations, most often hosted by participating congregations in the Treasure Valley. 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.

- **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 or two Congregational Companions** to serve as small group guides at retreats and as a primary contact/communication person for their congregation. *See Companion handout for detailed description.*
- **Four zoom gatherings** for parents, Congregational Companions, and caring adults to discuss themes, pray, and support one another.
- **Closing Worship and Commissioning** for Third Years and all who support their ongoing faith journey.

## 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, *locations TBD*

Adult Zoom Monday, Oct. 7, 2024

**Day Retreat** Saturday, October 26, 2024

Adult Zoom Monday, Nov. 4, 2024

Adult Zoom Monday, Dec. 2, 2024

**Day Retreat** Sunday, January 12, 2025 beginning with worship at our host congregation.

**Day Retreat** Saturday, February 22, 2025

Adult Zoom Monday, March 1, 2025

**Day Retreat** Sunday, April 13, 2025 with closing outdoor worship and Commissioning Service.

## How to Register as a Congregation

If your congregation wishes to participate in Campfirmation, have your congregational leader or administrator contact Casey at [associate@lutherheights.org](mailto:associate@lutherheights.org) with the names and number of expected participants. **Congregational commitments are due by July 22, 2024. The cost \$200 per participant.**

Households will register their child similarly to registering for camp at [lutherheights.org](http://lutherheights.org). Our administrator, Nicki at [info@lutherheights.org](mailto:info@lutherheights.org), will set up a transfer code that will be applied to each congregational household's account at the time of registration.

## How to Register as a Household

If you would like to participate in Campfirmation, but do not have a sponsoring congregation (you are not a member, or the congregation is not participating in Campfirmation), you can register in the same way you would register for camp. The primary adult listed at the time of registration will be included in the communications as the program begins. **Registration is due by July 22, 2024. The cost per participant is \$200.**

