

Confirmation 2026-2027 Big Picture

MISSION

To give students (and parents and Fellow Travelers) space to develop Christian discipleship that lasts a lifetime.

VISION: E³

Experience.

Jesus revealed who he was and what God's Kingdom was about with show and tell. We will get our hands dirty with experiences that can grow our faith as disciples. These experiences include, but aren't limited to: life stories, acts of kindness, relational service, and spiritual disciplines.

Explore.

Jesus was a person of questions: He asked questions, and people asked him questions. He wanted to mine for the heart of the matter with people. We're going to do that. We will strive for a culture of questions, conversation, doubt, and discovery.

Express.

Throughout Jesus' ministry and after his time on earth, ordinary people made extraordinary expressions of their belief in him. They did it in words and actions. They did it with the power of the Holy Spirit. We will build towards expressions of faith that last a lifetime.

VALUES

Safe space

Honesty

Respect

Listening

Questions

Growth

Giftedness

Hands-on learning

Service

Fun

Core Commitments

Worship Every Sunday

Students and their parents are expected to participate in worship every Sunday (if in town and healthy). This isn't to create burden or red tape. It's to create a sense of rhythm and immersion in the confirmation experience—to prepare students for a lifetime of discipleship.

Confirmation Learning Sessions

Students are expected to participate in all confirmation learning sessions (if in town and healthy), as outlined in the schedule below.

St. Mark's Youth

The majority of confirmation learning sessions have been intentionally planned to coordinate with St. Mark's Youth gatherings on Sunday evenings. Unless otherwise noted, confirmation meetings will take place from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. – students are then strongly encouraged to join the youth group for dinner, fellowship, and fun from 5:00 – 7:15. It's important to develop a sense of community with peers, and youth group gatherings are one of the best ways to build and maintain relationships.

Service Opportunities

We will have several missional service opportunities during the program. On September 20th, we ask that students sign up to participate in St. Mark's annual Mission in Action Day. The spring brings our annual Midwest Mission Food Pack that students are also encouraged to join. In addition, pumpkins arrive for our largest annual fundraiser and a great community outreach event on September 18th – we ask that students and families join us for unloading and setting up the patch and sign up for shifts during the season that runs from September 21 – October 31. (Links to sign up for all of these will be found on the St. Mark's website and are on the confirmation calendar.)

Retreat

There will be a full-day confirmation retreat on Saturday, April 17th (location TBD). More details will follow as the date approaches.

Growing with God

For many years, Growing with God has been an important part of the confirmation experience, led by Greg Binder. Students will plant and begin nourishing seeds and then be responsible for caring for the seeds until they are ready to be planted and shared with the students and families of East 10th Street UMC. Students will sign up to care for the plants during and following confirmation and will be encouraged to attend the final planting in May.

Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation Sunday is April 25th. We will have one, combined service celebrating our students and their journeys at 10:00 am (students will need to arrive no later than 8:30 that morning). Students' families are welcomed and encouraged to attend to support their students.

Additional Information

Fellow Travelers

As part of the confirmation program, adult church members will serve as Fellow Travelers (mentors/encouragers) for our students. **You and your son/daughter may request a specific person to serve as Fellow Traveler. I will need that name as soon as possible.**

Walk Up Songs and Confirmation Video

As part of the introduction on Confirmation Sunday, we'll play a "then and now" slideshow/video of the confirmation students. Students will be asked to select a "theme song" that will be played when they are introduced on confirmation Sunday. Please provide a few pictures of your son/daughter as a baby or toddler for the video. Studio pictures are fine, but casual or fun pictures are even better!

Information on submitting photos will be forthcoming – please begin gathering now so you can submit them as soon as we open the site!

Thank you for your commitment to our 2026-2027 Confirmation class! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Karla at kelliott@stmarkscarmel.org or (317) 846-4912, ext. 216.