



# St. Mark's UCC

## Confirmation Sunday

### May 7, 2023

We Gather In God's Presence

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Kathy Jurk, Organist    Glenn Grunwald, Consistory President

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude for Worship:

*Christ is the Way, the Truth, the Life*

Introduction of the 2022-2023 Confirmands and Recognition of the Parents:

Sierra Bramstedt            Jason and Anna Marie Bramstedt

Colten Sommer            Jay and Kayla Sommer

Reid Vandoske              Bob and Tara Vandoske

It Takes a Village:

Parents; Godparents; Grandparents; Aunts and Uncles; Sunday School Teachers; Church members; mentors; and trusted friends...

Call To Worship:

Reid Vandoske

Father God, you have gathered us all here today under your loving care and protection.

We all have gathered here in your generosity and grace.

Your faith has guided us in numerous aspects of our lives.

God lead us in our wondrous journey of faith.

Affirm our love and compassion through your son Jesus Christ.

We praise you in this time of prayer, song, fellowship, and your Word.

**Opening Prayer:**

Colten Sommer

Gracious God, we thank you for shaping these young people's lives and leading them through one of the most important times of their lives, confirmation. We trust in you that you have prepared them for today's service and beyond as they continue to grow and mature into people of your image. Help them, so that that they may forever believe and have faith in your unfailing Word and wisdom. Guide them, if they ever go astray and need an extra helping hand to get back on track. And most of all, protect them from any harm, whether it be physical, mental, or emotional. We pray this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

\*Hymn of Praise: #595

*They'll Know We are Christians*

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

**Confirmation Prayer (In remembrance of our Confirmation/Baptism):**

Sierra Bramstedt

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.*

**Sung Response: #328**

*O Breath of Life*

The Word in Scripture

Genesis 37:18-28

Colten Sommer

The Word Proclaimed

Detours

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

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

**Prayer:**

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 the Holy Communion, you will draw us nearer unto you in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Our Communion Liturgy:**

We gather around this table today, Almighty God, to give you thanks. You claim us as your people, bathe us in forgiveness through Baptism, and draw us together into your church. You call us into your royal priesthood, a holy people, and you give us this holy meal as food for our journey.

Today these confirmands profess their faith and your presence in their journey. Today they claim your gracious love for themselves and seek to live into a deeper and mature faith. Give them your grace and peace. Now we gather to remember and experience anew the presence of the risen Christ in our midst at this table.

We give thanks for the gracious life of Jesus: teaching and healing, challenging and loving, dying and rising.

As we eat this bread and drink of this cup, pour out your Holy Spirit on us, that we may go forth to live as those claimed by you, your holy people, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with all the world this day. To God be the glory now and forever! **Amen.**

Offertory Music:

*Jesus Calls Us*

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

Reid Vandoske

Dear God, we come before you today to dedicate these offerings to you. We ask you that through these gifts you bless this church and all who enter its doors, that it may be a place where people can come together to worship you and grow in their Christian faith. May this church be a beacon of light in the surrounding community, drawing people to you and spreading your love and grace to all who come here. Help us to always remember that this church is yours, use it to serve you and to share the good news of your salvation. *Amen.*

Closing Prayer:

Sierra Bramstedt

Lord God, thank you for your abundant love and care for us. Thank you for forgiving our sins, even for the sins we do not realize we commit. Lord, please fill us with your wisdom and your compassion for others. May you bless us with your never-ending love.

Lord, we are so grateful for all you have done in the lives of these young men and woman. 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.*

Hymn of Sending: #684

*For the Life You Have Given*

Postlude:

*Day of Gladness*

*Ms. Sierra Bramstedt*

**Scripture:** Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

**I chose this verse because** as a middle schooler entering high school, the challenges have just begun. I will be faced with many peer pressures from friends and myself. So, it is important to remember that no matter where I go or whatever I face, as long as I return to the center of my faith, I can rest assured that God will always be with me. Nothing is more important or greater than my relationship with God.

**While I had many great memories from confirmation class,** one of my favorites was when we played jeopardy for confirmation class. It was Pastor against the three of us. We won obviously. But there might have been some rule breaking so Pastor really won, but we won't talk about that...

*Mr. Colten Sommer*

**Scripture:** Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

**This scripture is meaningful to me because** it shows the faith that I must have in God and that God will reward me and protect me if I show that faith.

**My favorite memory from Confirmation class was** when we went to the Sheboygan County Food Bank because it was a really eye-opening experience.

**I have grown in my faith** because I have grown to appreciate and enjoy church way more than I used to when I was younger.

*Mr. Reid Vandoske*

**Scripture:** Exodus 14:14 "The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."

Exodus 14:14 is a verse that provides me with comfort and encouragement when I am going through a difficult time. It reminds me that I am not alone, and that God is fighting for me, even when I can't see him. The verse also encourages me to let go of my worries and fears and to trust in God's protection.

**My favorite memory from confirmation was** when we visited the food bank and got to experience all the different parts of it and what each part of the food bank does for the community.

**Through confirmation class I have grown** in a greater understanding of my faith and have learned to trust God in every aspect of my life – to always be willing to lean on him in a time of need.