

Sermon: October 3, 2021

"Confirmation"

Joshua is about to lead his people into the "promised land." Moses has died ... it's been a 40 year journey. God speaks to Joshua:

*"Get ready now. Cross the river into this land I have given you
No one will be able to defeat you. I will never abandon you. Be determined and confident.
Do not neglect any part of the law I have given you. You will
succeed wherever you go."*

This is what I need to say to the young people being confirmed today.
*"You have crossed a river. Not a big one. Just two years of us being together.
We will always be with you. We will never abandon you.
Be determined and confident. Hold true to what we have tried to teach you:
GOODNESS. KINDNESS. THE POWER OF LOVE.
Yes you will succeed."*

So often we let other people define success for us.
Success is an "inside joy." It's about how you feel about yourself ... it's about who you are.
There is nothing I want more for the kids in our church than for
them to feel good about themselves. For them to grow ----- respecting themselves and others.

On paper ... being "confirmed" means you are now an adult member of the church.
Well confirmation is deeper than that ... it's more than that!!

I'm sure a lot of older folks have our share of "confirmation/catechism" stories.
Back "in the day" ... when I was a confirmation student ... we had to fill out reports on the
pastor's Sunday sermon. It was painful!! All I could think about was getting it over with. Whatever
the message was got lost in being pre-occupied with this written assignment.
Can you imagine what it would be like if our confirmation students had to make a report
on my sermon?

- *What did Pastor Don talk about? answer: the sunrise.
- *What did he talk about last week? the sunrise.
- *What was the high point of the sermon? getting a toy ... sorry, that was the kids' sermon.
- *How often to you go to church? Not very often.
- *Why? Pastor Don says religion is not about going to church ... it's about being "kind."

Yes, confirmation is deeper than all that. It's more than being a member of an organization.
Confirmation is a life-long journey ... during which our faith needs to be re-confirmed,
time-and-time again.

I think of all we've been through the past couple years ...
We've been tested and slapped ... we've doubted and cried ... we've laughed and hung onto each other.

We need CONFIRMATION that the good Lord is with us.
Every day ----- we watch the news, see the sunrise, look at all the names in the prayer book.
I sure need "confirmation" that this "higher power" comes "down" to penetrate the
heart and soul of each one of us.

page 2.

I think of my buddy Adam, who picture is just outside my office. He's been gone 26 years. His older brother Rusty was confirmed here. Somehow he connected with Rachel. They went to the same high school. Rachel has two kids ---- Siena and Sabrina. Now Rusty has two kids!! Sabrina is in the middle of a tough journey with cancer.

Their family is strong.
They need our prayers.
They need "confirmation" every day that God's spirit graces their path.

Yes, confirmation is something we do every year for a few young people.

I realize more and more ----- CONFIRMATION IS A WAY OF LIFE.

Don Borling
All Saints Lutheran Church
13350 S. LaGrange Road
Orland Park, IL 60462
October 3, 2021

www.allsaintsjoy.com allsaintsjoy@sbcglobal.net 708-448-2939