

May 17, 2015
Confirmation Day

Today is a wonderful day.

It is probably raining (at least that what the forecast on my phone predicts as of Thursday afternoon), which is always a good thing to me even if it has been raining a lot lately. But, more importantly, today is Confirmation Sunday here at *Tree of Life*. Confirmation day is one of those special moments in a pastor's career where he gets to witness some of his work pay off. Like weddings, baptisms and even in a different way funerals, confirmation is a time when a pastor gets to share the word and the faith in a special way with some very special people. Those special people today are Jeremy and Tori. With them we all rejoice at their confirmation in the one true faith. What a wonderful feeling!

Now, let me share a little bit about these two and their confirmation journey this year. First, of all let me just say that they are both wonderful kids with great hearts. This was evidenced by their willingness to try anything that a new, relatively young pastor had them try. This of course goes for their parents too. And, not once did I hear them complain about the task. They may not have wanted to do it, but I never heard them complain (ask their parents if you want the whole story). Anyway, they overcame a little bit (or quite a bit) of adversity because of the greenness of their teacher. Not only this but, they were subjected to all kinds of experiments, and faced them with good nature. Also, watching



them grow in their faith and understanding was an honor and privilege.

Confirmation is a little more than confirming new kids into our faith; it is more than adding numbers to our church; it is even more than our youngsters learning to express their faith. Confirmation Sunday is a chance for all of us to examine where our faith is at. It is a chance for us to reaffirm our own faith and reinvigorate the flame that the Holy Spirit lights in our baptism and fans at our confirmation. So, today I want you to reflect on the words spoken by the confirmands in the rite of confirmation. Take a few minutes to really think about the questions asked and the responses given. Think about how you live out those *confessions* in your life. Think about how you live those confessions differently than when you first took them. And, never forget that as these two are confirmed today, you as a congregation are also promising to support them and help them grow in their faith.

Confirmation Sunday is a wonderful day. It is a time of celebration, a time of reflection, and a time to look toward the future of our church, both *Tree of Life* and the universal church. These are the young men and women to whom we entrust the task of carrying the Word by which we are saved, sealed and delivered out into the world that others may know the love of God. What a wonderfully scary honor to be their congregation.

Pastor *Carl P. Jh*

