
Thoughts

'My Life—In Church'

::: ZERO :::

*“Grace to you and PEACE from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

1 Co 1:3. (NRSV)

::: ONE :::

Dear Sisters and Brothers,
dear confirmands,

Today is the day of an ΕΝΔ and a ΒΕΓΙΝΝΙΝΓ.

Today for you means the end of Confirmation
Class. It's been a long was—since February
2022.

So many topics you came across:

- Get to know the book of books
- Diving into the Story of God, his people,
and this world
- All about worship, about celebrating life...
- Jesus & The New Testament
- The story of our church

- The Old Testament
- Power People: Mothers & Fathers of the Faith
- How I became who I am... my story today and tomorrow
- Christians for Future - our responsibility for the earth
- And finally, the preparation for Confirmation—under the headline “My Life—in Church”

::: TWO :::

In our Workshop Day on April 1st, you worked so thoroughly on your perception of your current life in church, here at Peace Church, and about your future life in church...

And you have presented what you have learned in Confirmation Class and/or your ideas in various ways— as we could experience here in the service—and as we can see in the bulletin.

ANOTHER APPLAUSE!

So, this day today is the end of Confirmation Class for you.

However, believe me, it is not the end of learning about God, and his way with you, with us...

The search for God in all of his variety never ceases. At least not in my life.

Yet, take this as a chance—to grow into an always deepening relationship with him, through the good and the bad times.

::: THREE :::

But this day is also a beginning.

To be honest: It's "only" half a confirmation today.

This day means: We confirm that you are prepared to make a decision about becoming a professing member of the church—having been a baptized member since the day of your baptism.

So, this day is also a new start. The start of your future life in Church, the start where it's up to you to become a professing member of our church, Pace Church, the United Methodist Church, the Church of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

But wonderfully, as I have understood, all of you have already made the decision to become a professing member of this church—together with seven more people—next Sunday.

So today, it's all about this wonderful half of confirmation, your confirmation!

And we will celebrate! Oh yes, we will!

But it is so tough to say this: Next week we will have to celebrate again!!!

No, to be honest: I couldn't be any happier but experiencing that all of you really feel at home in this church—and therefor decided to become professing members of Pace Church, the United Methodist Church, the Church of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

::: FOUR :::

No, we never know where our life will lead us, where God might call us to go.

Look at me. I wanted to become an engineer in environmental protection technology. Physics, Maths, Chemistry—you know?

But then he called me to minister in his church.

I couldn't believe it. And no, this way hasn't always been a walk in the park.

But in the end: To walk your way side by side with God, the Creator, the Lover, the Redeemer, from what I can say, is the best thing that can happen in life.

::: FIVE :::

I want to finish with this:

You confirmands, you who are here in front, who will be blessed, you can rely on this congregation, on your sisters and brother.

And just like in me as a pastor, your pastor, you have so many people, sisters and brothers of all ages, around you who care about you and want to support you in your future life—in the world and in church!

And IF YOU ARE WILLING to support these young people—on their way in the world, AND THIS CHURCH, say 'Amen'!

::: Amen.