

Confirmation Faith Mentor

Faith Mentoring is part of the confirmation program at Christ Lutheran Church. Confirmation students select adult mentors who will discuss faith/life issues with them during the confirmation process and will meet with them during six weeks of Lent for each of the three years of Confirmation. Faith Mentors do not take the place of parents, pastors, teachers, or peers, but provide one additional connecting point to the community of faith. Most Faith Mentors are ordinary people who play important roles in the growth of a young person's faith. Faith Mentors are special people. They offer trust and respect; they are honored to participate in another person's faith journey. No special background or training is required for someone to be a Faith Mentor, but the orientation sessions will be helpful.

Important Characteristics for Faith Mentors to have include:

- A love for God and enjoy being with young people
- Able to accept youth where they are and let them progress at their own speed
- Accessible, open and willing to take the time to listen
- Caring, non-judgmental, supportive attitude
- Mature and trustworthy
- Faithful in their own Christian life

Responsibilities of Confirmation Students:

- Select mentor and report name of mentor to Susie
- Meet with mentor before or after Lenten Services and other mentor/student activities
- Pray regularly for mentor
- Respect and uphold the confidentiality of discussions

Examples of potential mentors:

- A respected member of CLC
- A teacher, coach, 4H leader, Boy/Girl Scout leader, Sunday School teacher/helper
- Someone with a hobby or interest similar to the young person
- Someone working in a field the young person wants to pursue or explore

Students & Parents seek a mentor who is:

- An active member of C.L.C. at least 21 years old, of the same gender.
- **Not** a relative or parent of another Confirmation Student(s) or anyone with a child entering the program over the next 3 years.
- A good Christian witness
- Someone they feel comfortable around

Responsibilities of Faith Mentors:

- Attend Faith Mentor Orientation annually
- Meet annually with young person before or after six Lenten Services for 20-30 minutes to discuss a specific faith/life issue (Discussion Guides are provided)
- Attend Mentor Wrap Up annually
- Pray regularly for your student
- Respect and uphold the confidentiality of discussions

Concerns or Questions:

Pastor Katherine: 320-864-5077

Susie: 320-292-1032

Meeting Guidelines

The following guidelines are intended to help both mentors and students establish and enjoy meetings which provide an environment of openness, trust, and honesty.

1. If possible, mentors and students should sit together during Lenten services and have their discussions immediately after Worship. If this is not possible, mentors should establish the time, date and place of each meeting. Mentors and students are responsible for contacting one another if they are unable to meet.
2. Mentors must inform and get permission from the student's parents if a meeting is being held other than Wednesday nights or at another location other than church.
3. Meetings should be 20-40 minutes in length.
4. Getting the student to and from mentor meetings is the parents' responsibility. Any transportation of the student by the mentor must be approved by the parents in advance.
5. Meetings should be held in a public place such as the church or a local restaurant. Do not meet in parked cars or in a home.
6. Neither party should use alcohol, drugs or tobacco products when meeting.
7. Keep all matters of discussion confidential. (Exceptions: when the other party gives consent to share information, or in the sharing of harmful behavior that has already taken place or when a person has information that could prevent such action from taking place in the future.)
8. For some questions there are no right or wrong answers. Other questions require thought. Feel free to challenge your partner to more reflection and sharing.
9. Don't be afraid of silence during your conversations.
10. Alert Pastor Katherine or Susie if problems or difficulties arise in your relationship.