

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 the student 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 Vicar Susan
- Meet with mentor each week after Lenten Services
- 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 CLC at least 21 years old and 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 student after six Lenten Services for 20-25 minutes to discuss outlined faith/life issues (Discussion Guides are provided.)
- Attend annual Mentor Wrap Up
- Pray regularly for your student
- Respect and uphold the confidentiality of discussions

Concerns or Questions:

Pastor Katherine:

320-864-5077

pastorkatherine@christluth.com

Vicar Susan:

320-864-3099 (office)

320-292-1032 (cell/text)

clceducation@christluth.com

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. Ideally, mentors and students would sit together, socially distanced, during each of the Wednesday Evening Lenten Services.
2. After Worship, the student and mentor should find a space in the sanctuary or in an open area of the church, narthex, fellowship hall, etc., to discuss the questions in the Student-Mentor booklet. ***Student and mentor should remain socially distanced at all times and should at all times wear their masks.***
 - a. If it is not possible for the student and mentor to meet on a specific Wednesday evening, mentor and student are responsible for rescheduling and agreeing on a new date and time to meet at church.
3. 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.
4. Meetings should be 20-25 minutes in length.
5. Any transportation of the student to/from the church by the mentor must be approved by the student's parents in advance.
6. Meetings should be held in a public place such as the church or a local restaurant.
7. Neither party should use alcohol, drugs or tobacco products when meeting.
8. Keep all matters of meeting discussion confidential.
 - a. Exceptions: when the student/mentor gives consent to share information, or when information regarding harmful behavior is shared, either in the past or that could take place in the future must be reported to Pastor Katherine.
9. For some questions there are no right or wrong answers. Many of the questions require thought and thoughtfulness. Mentors and students are encouraged to invite and challenge your partner to engage in reflection and sharing.
10. Do not be afraid of silence during your conversations.
11. Alert Pastor Katherine or Vicar Susan if problems or difficulties arise in your relationship.