

First & St. Paul's Lutheran Churches
Confirmation Class – January 24, 2024 – 5:30-7:30pm
Hughes Hantge Funeral Chapel
With Derek Zebell and Cindy Christopherson

Supplies and notes

- The group will be 12 8th-9th graders and their parents or guardians, with two pastors – for a total of 26-35 people
- Snacks – bars or cookies and small water bottles will be provided by one of the parents

5:30-5:40 Gather, grab snacks and find a seat
Welcome and brief introductory comments by Pastor Amy
Opening prayer
Introduce Derek and Cindy

5:40-6:00/6:10 **Derek and Cindy – sharing** (*The length of this time is fluid – hopefully around 20-30 minutes, depending upon how many questions are asked*) Please share what you would like, and use this list of prompts to see what has been shared in past years.

- Tell us a little about yourself, who is family to you? Where do you live? What communities or area do you serve in your work?
- How did you decide to do what you do? What is your story?
- What kind of education and training did you need?
- What happens when a death occurs in a home? In a hospital or care center? Or in an accident scene? What is your role?
- Talk a bit about cremation – the process and also prevalence.
- Talk a bit about what is different when someone is an organ donor.
- Walk us through the process that a family goes through upon the death of a loved one.
 - What kinds of things do they need to think about?
 - What kinds of decisions do they need to make?
 - What details do funeral directors help them work through?
- What does a funeral assistant do? What is their role?
- What do you love about your job? What is hard about your job?
- How does your faith strengthen you in your work and show through what you do?
- What gives you hope?
- Other things you'd like to share?

6:00/6:10 **Break into two groups**

- Half will have the booklet from the Funeral Chapel to look through, the planning page to discuss, and some questions from the pastors to talk about.
- The other half will tour the facility (and likely ask a lot more questions as you go to the different areas)

6:30 **Switch groups**

7:00 **All come back to the chairs.** Any more discussion, comments, questions?

7:10 Pastors share the poem “**the Dash,**” and reflections on healthy ways of discussing and dealing with death and dying. Any brief stories to share?

7:20 **Closing prayer**

Questions for Youth and parent/guardian discussion

1. Share what you remember about experiences you have had with death.
2. Have you lost anyone close to you? What was it like? What is it like now?
3. What scares you about death?
4. What comforts you in time of death? Where do you find hope?
5. What questions do you have about death and dying? (You may not have the answers! It is ok to wonder together. Write them down, and share with the pastors so we can talk more as a class another day.)
6. Have you thought about your own funeral? Use the tool provided to talk about some of the specifics.
7. How do you want to be remembered?