

Confirmation Mentor Program

First Lutheran, Hector

St. Paul's Lutheran, Hector

2024-2025

Welcome to this special time of sharing faith journeys! Being a part of a student/mentor relationship is a meaningful aspect of our Confirmation program. Together you will learn much about each other and your faith. Have fun! Share openly! Grow in faith!

The goal of mentoring in the Church is to help develop committed followers of Christ who learn faith from the model of another. Our purpose is not so much to pass on a body of knowledge or information from mentor to young person as it is to enable the building of a relationship so that an environment for sharing faith and life can occur.

The Bible contains many examples of faith-mentoring relationships. Barnabas mentored the great apostle, Paul. It was Naomi who mentored her daughter-in-law, Ruth. Moses was a mentor to his successor, Joshua. And we have our own mentors in faith, too.

What does it mean to be a mentor to a Confirmation student?

- As a student enters the Confirmation program (most often at the beginning of their 8th grade year), we encourage them to think of someone who they might like to ask to be their mentor.
- Who do they know in their lives that they look up to, that might be a model for them in faith? It doesn't have to be someone from their congregation, but should be a part of a Christian congregation, no matter what denomination.
- We ask that it be someone over the age of 18, and not a family member—after all, *part of the intention is to build up a community of healthy, faithful adults in each student's life...beyond the family members they already have.*

What are the qualities that make a good mentor?

- Believe in God, active in some way with the Church
- Open to sharing with young people about your life and faith
- Enjoy relating with youth/willing to build a one-on-one relationship with a young person
- Be proactive, supportive, and encouraging
- Be willing to learn from your mentee, as well
- Believe in your mentee's gifts and potential
- Ability to both keep confidence, and determine when confidences must be broken
- Respect healthy boundaries when relating to your mentee
- Pray for your mentee regularly
- Be aware of any requirements for volunteers working with youth, specific to the congregation your mentee attends.

What are Mentors asked to do?

- **Attend Mentor Nights with students during the school year.** This year we will be focusing on The Bible and the larger narrative of scripture. During our Mentor Nights we invite mentors and students to engage in the learning together, and we hope to spark fruitful conversations as we dig in.
- Mentor Nights are on the following dates, and will begin at 6:00pm, light snacks will be provided.
 - September 25th 6:00-7:15pm
 - November 20th 6:00-7:15pm
 - Spring Date TBD
- **Review your congregation's Protection Policy for Youth**, complete and turn in the necessary Volunteer Information Form. *(The policy and forms will be provided to all mentors.)*
- It is preferred if you can commit to serving as your student's mentor for two years and through the end of their Confirmation journey.
- Complete student/mentor assignments as given by the pastors.
- **Get together at least 2 times during the course of the year outside of class** (once in 2024 and once in 2025) to do something you both enjoy and spend one-on-one time together to develop the relationship. If your families regularly spend time together, that's great as an additional way to be together, but it's the one-on-one time that is key. Some suggestions for your time together might be:
 - Go out to eat
 - Attend a play/game that they're in and make sure they know you're there
 - Go golfing together
 - Go to an event together
 - Volunteer at an event together/do some service together
 - Get together to bake
 - Go to a movie
 - Teach each other about something you love (e.g. video games, farming, quilting, airplanes, music, sports, art...whatever)
- Mentors are encouraged to continue to **nurture the relationship** after the student has been confirmed. The intent is not to check off a box as a requirement, but to build a supportive, healthy relationship with one another.
 - Continue to **be supportive and encouraging** through high school, congratulate them at their high school graduation, etc.
 - Mentors are also invited to **attend their Confirmation service** and join their family for the "laying on of hands" prayer and blessing during the service.

The intent is not to check off a box as a requirement, but to build a supportive, healthy relationship with one another. In this way both being a mentor and having a mentor is a very meaningful part of the Confirmation process.