

Introductory Meeting for Mentors

Supplies needed

- Copies of Mentoring Overview and Schedule (back to back)
- Guidelines for Mentoring and Boundary Relationships sheet

Welcome!!! It is great to have you here!

As part of the confirmation curriculum here at _____ Lutheran Church, each of the 7th and 8th graders were asked to pick a mentor. There were told to find someone they respected for their faith. We'll go over these different characteristics in a moment. It is crucial for youth of this age to be surrounded by as many Christian adults as possible to see how they live their lives and to be able to talk to, confide in and have as role models. These youth are in the beginning stages of becoming adults – in the world and in the church. As confirmed members, they are eligible to vote and take a more active role in leadership in the congregation. You can kinda think of this program as a student teaching program.

And what we do here together is aimed at helping them with that....I am truly excited about this program - I just genuinely think it is a great thing that we offer our kids! And what we're able to offer them is only possible because you've agreed to be part of it! I want to thank you for that! But tonight also I want to just take this time together to explain exactly what this year will look like and what's expected of you - and just to deal with any questions you may have - so you can put any anxiety you might have brought with you aside and just look forward with excitement to a great year too!

So, you're here because you've said "yes" to being a mentor. I'm here tonight to be as clear as possible about what exactly you've said "yes" to! And then also tonight we're gonna spend some time in prayer, claiming the promise that we don't do things like this alone...God is with us, to bless, and to guide...

Prayer

Introductions...Who you are...who is your student....connection you have to them...feelings on being a mentor

(Take attendance and check/edit this list as they introduce themselves)

Overview of Mentoring program

For two years of confirmation classes and Sunday school classes, we teach our kids some of the basics of the faith - the Bible, the Catechism. Alongside that instruction, we do something different. We're going to spend some time really digging in to what it means to be adult Christians in the church.

We want to help these youth become not just church members the way we're members of

some kind of club where we come to a couple meetings a year and pay our dues. We want to be a place where our members are growing - and keep growing - as disciples - followers of Jesus.

And so during this year or years, we're going to focus with students on some of what it means to be adults in the church who are trying to live and grow as disciples - followers of Jesus.

We're going to look at what we're calling a "Discipleship Theme" or a "Discipleship Trait." These discipleship themes will be various behaviors or practices that adult Christians do as a rule try to put into practice in their day-to-day lives. As 7th graders, they are going to have the classroom side of this...you and your student will gather with me about every other month and we'll talk about each of the traits. As 8th graders, they and you have heard the talks and already discussed them. This year, you are going to do some hands on activities to start living out those discipleship traits. It's not only about hearing it, but also living it.

And you're here because while Pastor, Sunday school teachers will teach all of that to the kids, you also are going to be a part of the way they learn. Since we're trying to grow them into adult Christians, during this year we link them with an adult Christian. We asked the kids to think of someone whom they respect as an adult person of faith. And if they had a little trouble with that, they asked me and I gave them the name of a person or two whom I respect as an adult person of faith. And each of those kids then asked one of those adults to be their mentor for the year(s). And that's what you're doing here. You've agreed to be a mentor, and to be part of the way in which our kids do grow into adult Christians.

What does a mentor look like? And what does a mentor do?
(pass out and discuss Characteristics of an Effective Mentor)

Questions about that? Well here is what that will look like specifically...

Pass out and discuss schedule for the year *(some may have seen this already, some may not)*

Questions about that?

As you can see, we are asking that each month you meet with your student one on one with a discussion sheet provided. Some months there are classes and some months there aren't.

Each of these sheets will have a theme or topic to discuss. I ask that you take these seriously and really work with your student on these. I also ask to try not to wait until the night of the next meeting to do the meetings. These are meant for you to do not on the nights we meet, but at another time.

You should have gotten your first discussion sheet last week and I have a few extras here if you need them. Next week when you meet with your student and myself, you will be given another sheet.

Questions about that?

OK...Then that's pretty much what we're asking you to do.

-There's lots of room for flexibility and creativity above and beyond that...

e.g.

-remember birthdays, baptismal anniversaries, etc.

-attend a game or concert

-attend worship together (especially if the student does not have an adult who worships with them) *(cf Ernie Thompson and Nicole Rognes)*

Then there's one last thing...cf "Boundaries for Mentoring relationship" *(read and discuss as needed)*

You are also not on this journey alone. I will be here every month if you have questions or need to talk about whatever is going on. I am here for you just like I am for the kids you will be mentoring. Please don't be afraid to call me, email me with any questions or concerns you have, whether they are about your youth or your own life. I have included my email and phone numbers on the bottom of the last sheet in your packet you got tonight. I encourage you to use them and I'll be in contact with you all throughout the year.

So...Your assignment...Make sure you do the first discussion sheet with your student before date . 7th graders and mentors will meet with me that night. 8th graders will get their first hands on activity that night and I will email or mail your copy to you.

Any other questions or concerns you may have?

Closing Prayer