

# Confirmation Mentor Program

## 2023-2024

Confirmation Mentor(s):

Welcome to this special time of sharing faith journeys! Being a mentor is an exciting journey together with a young person. You will learn much about each other and your faith. Have fun! Share openly! Grow in faith!

Since you will be working closely with a confirmation student, and according to the CTK protection policy for Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adults, mentors are required to complete a volunteer application form, attend safety training, and undergo a background check. If you have any concerns about this protocol, please speak with the pastor.

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. So, thank you for your commitment to help a young person grow in faith!

### **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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 congregation, no matter what denomination.
- We ask that it be someone over the age of 18, and preferably 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?**

- Review any pertinent congregational policies, for instance Protection Policy for Children, Youth and Vulnerable adults and complete any necessary paperwork.
- Complete a volunteer application form (if you haven't done so in the last year). Attend safety training, and undergo a background check. An email is received then from Trusted employees with directions, including entering your social security number over a secure website, so that they can perform the verification.
- Attend Mentor Nights with your mentee per schedule.
- If you have been asked to be a Mentor to an 7<sup>th</sup> grader, it would be preferred if you can commit for two years' time.
- Get together at least 3 times during the course of the year to do something you both enjoy. Spend one-on-one time together to develop the relationship and to work through the conversations in the mentor book, completing half in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade year and the other half in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. 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...whatever)
- You are encouraged to continue to keep the relationship up after the young person has been confirmed. The intent is not to check off a box as a requirement, but to really build a relationship.
  - Continue to be supportive and encouraging through high school, congratulate them at their high school graduation, etc.
  - You are also invited to attend their Confirmation service and join their family for the "laying on of hands" prayer and blessing during the service.

**Again, THANK YOU for your willingness to be a faith mentor to a young person!**

*You will undoubtedly make a difference greater than you know in the life of a young person!*

*And you will most likely grow through this experience as well!*