

# What is mentoring anyways?

Mentoring is a time-honored way of passing down faith. A mentor is a wise and trusted counselor/teacher. Confirmation at Faith includes this faith tradition which is designed to enhance a young person's faith by having intentional faith discussions with a Christian adult who is typically not the primary caregiver in the student's life.

For confirmation students, a mentor must be someone who meets the following criteria:

- Chosen by the student, with parent approval
- At least 25 years of age
- An active Christian; any church
- Is willing to be influential in the life of a young person

This program will take place primarily during Lent and will follow a semi-prepared curriculum. This will be a new experience for the students new to the program.

*Parents are always encouraged to work with their child to choose a mentor.*

*It is the student's responsibility to invite an adult into the mentoring relationship with them.*

During Lent, mentors and students need to meet for three prepared sessions (students are able to choose three of five topics for these). These sessions will explore issues of faith and life. Each session may be done with other student/mentor pairs, over dinner or any way that best nurtures the relationship.

Please report completed legible mentor times on a "Notes for the Record", including details, times, mentors name and signature from mentor.

The lessons available are as follows:

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

How to Pray

How to Forgive Someone

How to Share Your Faith with Someone

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

How to Identify and Avoid Evil

How to Cope with Loss & Grief

How to Be Saved By Grace through Faith, Not Works

Mentors may go to <http://www.waconiafaithlutheran.com/ignite-confirmation> to download the lessons. Mentors may want to download these forms ahead of time, so they know the subject matter to be discussed. If at any time you have questions or concerns, please contact me at the info below.

God's Peace,

Ally Klug

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# Basic Mentor/Student Meeting Guidelines

The following basic guidelines are intended to inform the parents and to help both the mentors and students establish and enjoy fruitful discussion and productive meeting times that are built in an environment of trust, honesty and openness. Many of these guidelines are “common sense” rules. Others are based in models that foster healthy relationships. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list, but a starting point to begin to think about the mechanics of this very special relationship.

1. After discussion between parent and student, students are expected to “make the first move” to invite a chosen adult into this mentoring relationship.
2. Parents should be responsible for communicating to the mentor any specific circumstances under which the mentor will be expected to operate.
3. Mentor and student should together establish the time, date, and place of each meeting.
4. Meetings should be about 45-60 minutes in length, but may vary if mutually agreed upon by student and mentor.
5. Transportation to and from the agreed upon meeting place is the parent’s responsibility. However, mentors may work with parents as they see fit. The parents must approve any transportation of the student by the mentor.
6. Never conduct one-on-one meetings between mentor and student in a private place. Always meet in a public setting (church narthex, sanctuary, restaurant, etc.)
7. Meetings may take place in a student’s home if the student’s parents will also be home.
8. Never use alcoholic beverages or tobacco when mentoring with a student.
9. All matters of discussion between the mentor and student are to be kept confidential, unless otherwise agreed upon. Confidentiality is an important ingredient in building trust.
10. Remember, it is ok not to have all the answers for each other.
11. Don’t be afraid of silence during your discussions.
12. Alert one of the pastors if problems or difficulties develop, or situations arise which require assistance.

Remember to enjoy this time of faith exploration and growth together!