

St. John's Lutheran Lutheran
MENTOR PACKET
Lent 2024
Faith Mentoring Program



Gathering Light!! – 2451 Fairview Lane, Mound, MN 55364 Lenten Worship, 7:00pm in the Sanctuary

To: _____ (Faith Mentor)

From: _____
(Youth Name) (Phone Number)

Faith Mentor: Please read this packet and respond to the youth within 3 days.

Dear Prospective Faith Mentor,

Thank you for your time and your prayerful consideration.

You have been asked to serve as a Faith Mentor! What an honor to serve as a Faith Mentor for one of God's children! This is a special opportunity for you to build a relationship with a youth in need of your attention and care. Please consider helping them to explore issues of faith and how faith plays out in their daily life.

You have been asked specifically by this young person to be their Faith Mentor, so you can assume that you already enjoy a basic level of trust with them or at the very least they think you are cool and want to spend more time with you! This is an honor and a privilege as there are sometimes very few adults whom youth will trust or turn to. The simple invitation by the youth is an excellent foundation on which to build your relationship.

The purpose of this consideration packet is to provide you with the information necessary to understand the Lenten Mentor Program so that you can be fully informed as you make your decision about participating and accepting the invitation.

Let me suggest you do the following:

- * First, read the contents of this packet. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Pastor Raul.

- * Next, take some time to pray about this decision. You will play an important role in this young person's faith formation. We want to make sure that each mentor is committed and prepared to serve in this role.

- * If you feel led by God to say "yes" then fill out the registration form and give it back to your youth as soon as possible. Your youth must turn in your registration form AND their registration form together no later than Wednesday, February 14! If you feel you are unable to accept this invitation please get back to your youth as soon as possible so they can select someone else to serve as their mentor.

Either way please contact your youth within 3 days of receiving the packet.

If you accept the invitation, please plan on attending the Lenten Mentoring Orientation on the evening of Wednesday, February 21 at 6:00 p.m. May the Lord bless you as you make this decision!

Pastor Raul Garcia III, Associate Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church 952-906-7161 pastorraul@stjom.org

Lenten Faith Mentor Program

Faith Mentor Information and Consideration Packet

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF FAITH MENTORING?

The purpose of Faith Mentoring is to:

- Expand a Confirmation youth's circle of trusted adults in the congregation. A Search Institute report published that only 29% of youth felt that adults in the church cared for them. The same report said that teenage youth need a minimum of 5 adults in their life that they can trust and talk to in order to become a healthy and contributing adult.
- Offer each Confirmation youth the opportunity to see and learn how another adult (besides their parents) live out their Christian faith.
- Offer each Confirmation youth an opportunity to explore and make sense of their faith. In the same Search Institute report, more than 60% of the youth surveyed said they wanted to know how to learn to love life more, recognize right from wrong, and gain a sense of purpose.

WHAT CHARACTERISTICS SHOULD A MENTOR HAVE?

Faith Mentors play an important role in the growth of a young person's faith. The mentor often is also transformed in this experience. The gifts that are needed can be captured in three words; available, authentic and affirming.

Available- Being available is making time for a relationship. Being available means following through on commitments and being physically and mentally present in your time together. It is also being emotionally available to form a relationship and spiritually available to the Spirit as it works in you, the youth and the relationship.

Authentic- When one is authentic they are honest, honest about who they are, where they are at in the world and how they see God in their lives. Youth are surrounded by things that are fake and insincere; people, institutions, media. Youth yearn for something that is real, someone who is authentic.

Affirming- Everybody needs and longs for others to affirm their lives and decisions. Youth are in desperate need of affirmation- especially after spending a day in a Middle School when all of the messages they receive seem to tell them they are not smart enough, pretty enough, strong enough, or cool enough. An affirming Faith Mentor will simply confirm the validity of a youth's life, their experience and their feelings. A Faith Mentor needs to love a youth for who that youth is and remind them that they are loved by God.

Remember that a youth does not need a "know-it-all" or someone who has all the answers. They don't want someone who lives a perfect life and makes no mistakes. What they want and what they need is someone who will be available to them to listen and care, someone who will be honest and real about the struggles of faith and life and someone who will make them feel loved and accepted.

Lenten Faith Mentor Program Faith Mentor Information and Consideration Packet

WHAT TRAINING DOES A MENTOR NEED?

You already possess the most basic skill and that is the gift of faith. There is no other special background or training that is required for someone to be a Faith Mentor.

THE COMMITMENT

Orientation: Wednesday, February 21, 6:00p.m. (Mentor, Parent and Youth Celebration and Kick-Off)

Lenten Faith Mentoring nights:

Wednesday, February 28

Wednesday, March 6

Wednesday, March 13

Wednesday, March 20

Wednesday, March 27

The schedule:

There is some flexibility in the evenings as the Mentors and Mentees gather together. They will be framed around the worship service on a Wednesday evening. We will ask that you and your mentee attend a service together and then meet for 30 minutes before or after the service.

MISSED MEETINGS:

If a youth or a mentor is unable to make one of the meetings they can choose to meet at a different time to make up the missed study guide. These times can be arranged for Sunday mornings or Wednesday nights (before or after the regularly scheduled meeting time). All make-up meetings must be scheduled with the parents' permission!

MENTOR RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

- Sign and uphold the Faith Mentor Covenant.
- Attend the Orientation on Wednesday, January 21, 6:00 p.m.
- Meet the parents of the youth you will be mentoring and exchange contact information.
- Meet regularly with your youth on the scheduled nights at the scheduled times.
- Use discussion sheet when meeting as Mentor and Mentee
- Pray regularly for your youth during the Lent season.

If, after prayerful consideration, your answer is YES, complete this form and return to your youth so that they are able to submit it by Wednesday, Feb. 14

Lenten Faith Mentor Program Adult Mentor Registration Form/Volunteer Application

Please return all paperwork to Pastor Raul

I will be the Faith Mentor for (youth's name): _____

Your Name (mentor's name) _____

Relationship to youth you are mentoring: _____

Email you can be reached at: _____

Please check this regularly as we will communicate with you regarding this ministry.

Please read and sign:

- * I have read and understand the information packet.
- * I will commit to the program and the schedule.
- * I am able to attend the Orientation on Wednesday, February 21 at: 6:00 p.m.