

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

MENTOR GUIDELINES FOR CATECHISM CLASS 2006-2007

You are being asked to serve as a mentor to a young person in St. Paul's Catechetical program. This means that one of our youth has seen something positive in your faith life and the example you provide, perhaps even regards you as a role model. This is both a compliment and a responsibility, but one that should be rewarding and fun! As you form a relationship and begin to discuss spiritual issues, please consider the guidelines which follow:

1. **Be yourself.** You were chosen because of your evident willingness to embrace the ways of love and acceptance of others expressed through your love of God. A youth recognized this and was prompted to ask you to serve.
2. **Be available.** The idea of mentoring is to help those who are younger and less experienced in life, by listening to their concerns and sharing your own related life experiences. Let your young person know the times that are convenient for you to talk by phone, meet, share a pizza, go for a hike, go bowling, etc. However, in addition to scheduled times, your role can be invaluable if you can be open to the young person whenever s/he needs you to talk – school crisis, peer issues, confusion, etc.
3. **Care.** Let the young person know that you really care about his/her spiritual growth, concerns and well-being.
4. **Challenge.** If you observe attitudes or behavior that are incongruent with Christian values and teachings, don't hesitate to question the disconnect and challenge the young person to try to better understand the need to integrate beliefs with behavior.
5. **Guide.** If the young person is showing evidence of emotional strain or serious confusion, encourage him/her to contact the pastor. Help them to take the initiative to make the contact. Do not betray trust by reporting something that would embarrass the young person. On the other hand, if you feel that something is going on that would be a threat to the young person or others, it is your obligation to act and contact parents and/or pastor.
6. **Initiate.** If the young person has not contacted you for some time, call him/her and demonstrate your concern. We ask that you document six (6) outings that you share with one another throughout the year. A form is available for this purpose.

7. **Ask.** We don't expect you to be a teacher or catechist. But you can help by asking the young person to describe some of the things s/he has been learning in the catechetical process. If s/he asks you for some information and you are at a loss or unsure, don't hesitate to simply say, "I don't know. Let's ask the pastor (or let's look it up)"
8. **Sponsor.** We ask that you be available, if possible, for your young person to stand with him/her at his/her Confirmation. This is a sponsorship role in which you are saying, "I recommend and support this young person for responsible participation in the life of God's church."
9. **Have fun.** Let this be a positive, joyful experience in the presence of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.
10. **Use good judgment.** Avoid being alone with your young person with no one else in view. (Activities can be done with another mentor/youth pair.) The times in which we live require this vigilance.

Please accept our sincere gratitude for your willingness to serve and become part of this young person's (_____) spiritual growth.
(Name of youth)

May God bless you both in this endeavor.

Questions, concerns: Call Diane Brubaker at the church office 610-944-8388