



Dear Parents of 8th Grade Confirmands,

December 21, 2016

Greetings! We would like to introduce you to the **Confirmation Mentoring Ministry**. We also want to update you on upcoming events specifically for 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their families. Below is a lot of information - but all important! Please read it all.

For many years, Mount Calvary has made a mentoring experience a requirement for 8th grade confirmands. We know an important element in teen faith development is relationships with adults other than parents. The goal of the Mentoring Ministry is to invite into the life of teens another adult with the hope that a relationship would be built whereby life and faith stories could be shared.

We work in partnership with these mentors through training, prayers and conversations so your child will have the greatest experience possible. Mentor Ministry takes place during the Lenten season as regular Confirmation classes are not in session. This year Lent runs from Wednesday, March 1 through Easter Sunday on April 16, 2017. **The students are asked to meet with their mentor at least four times during the Lenten season. We encourage them to meet at church on Wednesday nights or at another time that is convenient for both mentor and mentee. Some who choose a long distance mentor even Skype their meetings! We welcome creative solutions.** We hope mentors and 8th graders will also choose to attend the weekly Wednesday evening Lenten Worship at 7:00pm.

Together the 8<sup>th</sup> grader and mentor will follow a four-part curriculum specifically designed by us for the mentor ministry. We are excited because the curriculum is very interactive. Each session will provide guidance towards their completion of an 8th grade faith project which they need to complete before Confirmation Weekend, May 20-21, 2017.

During Mentor training we will be explaining in full detail the four parts of the curriculum and the parameters surrounding them.

**The dates for the MENTOR TRAINING are (choose 1):**

- **Monday, January 30**                      **7:00-8:15 pm in the Undercroft**
- **Thursday, February 9**                **7:00-8:15 pm in the Undercroft, OR**
- **Monday, February 13**                **7:00-8:15 pm in Heritage Hall.**

**The mentor need only attend one of the trainings – confirmands do not attend . If the mentor cannot attend, you can attend for them and communicate to them what they need to know.** Andrea and I are also available via email or by phone to answer their questions.

Mentor choices could include an aunt, grandparent, godparent, friend of the family, or congregation member. This person does not have to be Lutheran - only willing to have faith conversations with the student. If you are struggling with finding someone, please contact us for further options. Once a mentor has been decided upon, please email Brenda Lund ([Brenda.lund@mountcalvary.org](mailto:Brenda.lund@mountcalvary.org)) with the name, email, and phone number of the mentor. You can also feel free to forward this information letter to your chosen mentor. We are looking forward to this time and pray your 8th grader is also. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

**UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS:     (please mark your calendars now!)**

- Dating & Sexuality Parent/Student Nights    Wed. Jan. 25 & Feb. 1, 2017    6:15 – 7:30 pm    (with parents)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Gr. **Urban Immersion Retreat: Fri. Mar. 17 – Sun. Mar. 19, 2017**
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class Picture: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 - after large group (about 6:45 pm)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Finale Night: Friday, May 19    6:00 -10:30 pm at Mount Calvary (rehearsal, etc. – **mandatory attendance**)
- Confirmation Services -- Sat/Sun, May 20/21, 2017    (your child's group will be assigned a time in a January email)

Blessings,

Pastor Dave Olson  
Senior Pastor

Andrea Fieldhouse  
Director of Family Ministry

Ben Richter  
Director of Senior High Youth