

Good Shepherd Confirmation Mentor Program

The purpose of our Confirmation Mentor Program at Good Shepherd is to encourage intergenerational fellowship between youth and trusted adults in the congregation. During this program, youth will gain a better sense of:

1. Their faith in all aspects of life.
2. Their place here at GSLC and what they feel is important to them here.
3. Adult-to-youth interaction and discussion on matters of faith and serving others.

The Confirmation Mentor Program is for third year confirmation students that have been enrolled in GSLC's confirmation program.

During the next 8 months, we encourage you meet at least 4 times, and participate in one service project together. During the meetings, we have laid out topics and questions for you all to dive into:

1. Getting to know each other
2. Social life
3. Church life
4. Family life

While these are all broad topics, we encourage you to let the conversation flow freely and intertwine faith aspects as you talk. There are no limits to the conversation! This is merely an opportunity for you all to talk about faith and life from different perspectives and hopefully take something away from it that you can carry in your own life.

We will provide a wide list of questions for all topics that can be good conversation starter for you all during your meeting. **Mentors, you are encouraged to answer the questions as well!** This might help the conversation flow better. When meeting, please do remember that the place can be decided between the two of you and must be ok with the parents. It is imperative that we continue to follow our CYP policy while entering this mentor process. Examples of some places could be: McAllister's, the Fellowship Hall (when others are in the building), Starbucks, or at an open and local place of your choosing. With parent's permission, you may drive your confirmand/pick them up to meet/go somewhere. Mentors, CYP 12 must be signed by both the parent of the confirmand and the mentor each time you meet with your confirmand.

The service project can be anything in or around the community that you find adequate for the both of you. If you need help on finding a place, please reach out.

Mentors, after each meeting/your service project, I would like a sentence or two explaining what you talked about and what your biggest takeaway was. If you can get a picture of you two at your meeting/service project, that would be ideal. You can email or text me (Mel) all of this. I encourage you to have your youth write up a short summary as well.

Mentors, you will also be asked to help your confirmand work on their faith statement throughout your time with them. You can use these questions that you chat about to be a guiding force. The ONLY requirements that are set for the statement are:

- Your statement stays within 3-5 minutes.
- You answer these questions, somehow, within your speech:
 - o We spend a lot of time talking about religions and denominations. How would you explain what it means to be a Christian Lutheran?
 - o What do you believe?
 - o Who in your life has influenced your faith? How can you be an influence to others?
 - o As of now, what do you dream of doing in the next 5 years in your faith life? How will you serve God by doing that?
 - o What is your biggest takeaway from your 3 years in confirmation?
- Create a motto for yourself (5-8 words) that drives you in your faith life. What is it and how did you come up with it?

You are welcome to add anything else you want to say in your speech, but please do use these questions as a guide.

If you are needing more information/inspiration on anything, please do not hesitate to contact Mel at youthfamministry@gslutheran.org or by cell at 630-506-0986.

Getting to know each other questions:

1. What kind of music do you like?
2. What's your favorite sport to play?
3. Where were you born?
5. What's your favorite ice cream flavor?
6. What instrument(s) do you play, or do you want to learn?
7. What's your favorite YouTube channel?
8. Which cartoon character do you wish was real?
9. What's the weirdest thing you've ever eaten?
11. Do you have any hidden talents?
12. How would you spend a rainy day?
13. Who is your favorite superhero?
14. What's your favorite line from a movie?
15. What's the most unusual thing in your school bag right now?
17. What's the most meaningful gift you've ever received? OR What's a meaningful gift you have given?
18. What's the bravest thing you've ever done?
19. What was your favorite book you read this summer? OR What is something that you learned how to do this summer?
20. What's the first thing you do in the morning?
21. What's one thing that made you laugh recently?
22. If you could ask your favorite celebrity one thing, what would you ask?
23. If you were invisible for a day, what would you do?
24. If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?
25. If you could invite four famous people to dinner, who would you invite and why?
26. If you could visit any planet, where would you go and why?

27. If you won a million dollars, what would you do with it?
28. If you could trade places with a character from your favorite movie or TV show, who would you choose and why?
29. If you had to change your name, what would you change it to?
31. What's something you have in common with the person next to you?
32. If you were a famous person, what would you be famous for?
33. Would you rather play sports or watch them?
34. Would you rather be part of the Incredibles family or the Weasley family?
35. Would you rather live in a world of legos or a world of cartoons?
36. Would you rather have a pet dinosaur or a pet dragon?
37. Would you rather live in a house made of cheese or a house made of cookie dough?
38. Would you rather be a mouse or an elephant?
39. Would you rather be invisible or be able to fly?
40. Would you rather live at Disney World or Sea World?
41. Imagine you discover a beautiful island where you decide to build a new society. What is the first rule you put in place?
42. If it was raining meatballs, would you eat them?
43. If you could pick 3 animals to put together and create a new animal, which animals would you pick? What would it be called?
44. If you could be any emoji, which one would you be?
45. If you were a superhero, what would be your superpower?
46. If you had a time machine that could only work once, what point in the past or future would you visit?
47. If you were running for president, what would your campaign slogan be?
48. If you had a TV show about your life, what would it be called and who would play you?
49. If you had to create a nickname for yourself, what would it be?
50. If you had a robot to help you with school, but it could only do one task, what would it do?

Social Life questions:

1. What is hard about accepting yourself?
2. How would you describe your personality?
3. Do you find you are harder on yourself than other people? Explain why or why not?
4. Is it hard to change? Explain why.
5. How do you deal with pressure or stress?
6. What are healthy ways to deal with stress/pressure?
7. Why do you think we have so much anger in our society?
8. Do you feel pressured to be someone that you're not? Explain.
9. Why do you think some people bully or attack others? What is their motivation?
10. What is your biggest fear? From where do you think most people draw their self-esteem?
What gives them identity?
11. If you're feeling down, what cheers you up?
12. Do you think you're a patient person? Why or why not?
13. How does it feel to not have what you want when you want it?
14. Is it easy for you to work towards a goal, or do you get frustrated and quit quickly?
15. Have you ever set a long-term goal for yourself to work toward? What was that
experience like? (Examples, improving in sports, music, hobby/activity, academics)
16. Do you set realistic expectations for yourself? Explain.
17. What qualities make someone a good friend?
18. Do you think you're the same person in your social media that you are in person? What is
different?
19. What is something you wouldn't post about yourself on social media?
20. What makes relationships hard?
21. Do you feel you are good at conflict resolution? Explain.
22. What's the most important element of a good relationship to you and WHY?
23. Do you find yourself to be confrontational or more passive when conflict arises?
24. How do you feel when someone tries to get you to do something you don't want to do?

25. Why do you think some people brag or exaggerate about themselves? What do you think they're hoping to accomplish?
26. Why do you think people talk badly about other people sometime? Why put someone else down?
27. Which best describes you during conflict among friends and family—a peacemaker, a fighter, a defender, an instigator, or a hider? Is there another way you'd describe yourself?
28. Among groups of friends, are you the person who comes up with ideas about what to do, the person who goes along with what everyone else is doing, or a combination of the two?
29. Have you ever held a grudge against someone? What was that experience like for you?
30. Why do you think some people give up on life?
31. Are there certain people you don't like following on social media? Why?
32. What does equality mean to you?
33. What could you do, as a young person, to help improve the life quality of someone in need (Go-Fund Me, Kickstarter, could lead into mission ideas).
34. How often do you help others? How?
35. Have you ever taken part in mission or served others? What was the experience like?
36. How would you like to be remembered? (Your legacy)
37. Do you find most of your friends are similar to you or different?
38. What is a good way to get to know someone different than you? Think situations or conversation topics.
39. If you could take away someone's pain, whose would it be?
40. Did you meet your best friend at school? If not, where did you meet them?
41. Do you ever feel lonely? When?
42. What emotion do you have the hardest time expressing?
43. When was the last time you cried, and why?
44. What is one thing that you can't live without? Why?
45. If you could have any superpower, what would it be? Why?
46. If you were to write a book about yourself, what would be the title?

47. What bores you? Why?

48. Do you consider yourself adventurous? Why or why not?

49. If you had to pick a theme song for your life, what would it be?

50. What is one thing that you couldn't live without that's not technology-related?

Church Life questions:

1. What makes someone a Christian?
2. Do dogs go to Heaven?
3. Where is Heaven?
4. What does God look like?
5. Do you have to say certain words to become a Christian?
6. Do you have to do certain things to be a Christian?
7. Do you have to be baptized to be a Christian?
8. Where did God come from?
9. Do miracles still happen today?
10. What about nice/good people who don't believe in Jesus?
11. Is there a Hell?
12. Does God forgive everyone?
13. Do all animals go to Heaven?
14. Are there other gods?
15. What does Heaven look like?
16. Can you still be a Christian and not attend church?
17. If your family is Christian, does that make you a Christian?
18. Is there only one way to God, or do all religions lead to the same God?
19. What do you think about evolution or the Big Bang Theory?
20. Where do dinosaurs fit into the Bible?
21. What does it mean for you to be created by God? How does that play out in your life, or does it?
22. What is one question you would like to ask God in person?
23. What do you think is the purpose of the Bible?
24. Is prayer important to you? Why or why not? Is it hard or easy for you?
25. Do you act differently in certain situations than others? Do you act differently at school than at church? Different at home than with your friends?
26. Do you think the Bible is relevant to your life, why or why not?

27. Do you think Christians are easily recognizable to others? Why or why not? Should they be?
28. Have you ever thought about what God's calling is in your life?
29. What does the Bible mean to you?
30. How often do you read the Bible?
31. How does someone follow Jesus? What does it look like?
32. What confuses you about prayer?
33. How do you show Jesus to people who are different than you? What are actual examples from your life?
34. How will you continue to pursue God after you graduate from our youth group?
35. How would you respond to someone who tells you that all religions are the same?
36. What bugs you the most about sin, and what are you doing in response to that?
37. What aspect of your faith—or which Christian belief—do you struggle with the most, and why?
38. In the future, what part of your faith or faith life do you most want to pass on to your own kids or loved ones?
39. Of all the gifts God has given you, which do you appreciate the most? How do you show your appreciation for it?
40. Which three words would you use to describe your current relationship with God? Why?
41. How do you expect your relationship with God to mature or change in the future?
42. If you could have dinner with three people from the Bible, who would you invite? What would you ask them?
43. What do you think heaven will be like?
44. Does a loving God really send people to hell?
45. Do you believe that everything in the Bible is meant to be taken literally?
46. Do you think miracles still happen today? Why or why not?
47. What do you expect God to do for you—either currently or in the future? What do you think God expects *from* you?
48. Should Christians generally avoid secular entertainment, or is that unrealistic?

49. How has GSLC shaped your faith?

Family Life questions:

1. Do you ever play pranks on your siblings?
2. How would you describe your siblings?
3. Do you ever hide anything from your parents?
4. What's your favorite memory with your family?
5. What do your parents do that frustrates you?
6. What's a major event from your childhood that you love to tell?
7. What did you want to be growing up?
8. Of all the things your parents taught you, what do you think helped you the most?
9. Do you have any special family traditions?
10. Do you have any inside jokes with family members?
11. How many cousins do you have?
12. How often do you spend time with your family?
13. Does your family have a big impact on your faith life?
14. What do you think your family motto is/should be?
15. Who in your family has had the biggest influence on your life?
16. What's the best thing about your mom or dad?
17. Are your parents strict?
18. Are your parents flexible?
19. Are your parents overprotective?
20. How did you get your name?
21. What games did you use to play with your brothers/sisters?
22. How often did you go on family trips?
23. Who are you most like in your family?
24. Do you have any pets?
25. Do you consider your pets siblings?
26. Do you see your extended family a lot?
27. Do you consider close friends as family?
28. How can we fill our family life with love?

29. How can one become a good father or a good mother?
30. What do trust and understanding between parents and children imply for daily life together?
31. How is faith shown in the family?
32. How important is prayer for families?
33. Should families pray together?
34. Is there a book that you read a lot as a family?
35. What is your favorite meal that your family makes?
36. Does your family have any nicknames for you?
37. How much influence does your family have on your faith life?
38. Is there a special prayer that your family says together?
39. Do you feel like you can ask your family anything when it comes to faith?
40. If you had to compare your family to a famous sitcom family, which family would it be?
41. Does your family prefer the early services or the later services at church?
42. What do you like that your family is involved in?
43. What is the best thing about your parents?
44. What is the best thing about your siblings?
45. Where would you like to travel to with your family?
46. Are you proud of your parents?
47. What is your family's favorite holiday to celebrate together?
48. Is your family competitive?
49. Do you think your family has to just be blood relatives?
50. How does your family comfort you when you are happy/sad/mad/angry/etc.?

Banner Making

Near the end of your confirmation year, we will gather to create banners for you to decorate with your mentor. The Confirmand will be responsible for one half and the mentor will be responsible for the other half. There will be 4 sections to each stole. The 4 sections that you all will work on are:

- Personal Interest (fav things, hobbies, etc.)
- Corporate faith (what it means/what elements define you as a Christian)
- Personal faith (your life here at GSLC/how you do view that or put it into pictures)
- Bible verse

Personal interests	Corporate faith
Personal faith	Bible verse