

February 1, 2017

Dear Confirmation Students and Families,

Lenten Faith Mentoring is a vital and exciting part of the Confirmation ministry at Augustana. This is the 21<sup>st</sup> year we have been involved with this program that intentionally matches each of our confirmation students with an adult member of this congregation. This is an opportunity for Confirmation students get to spend quality time with an adult, other than someone in their family, in a series of one on one sessions that will help you better understand how someone other than a parent, lives as a Christian in the world.

For several weeks now during confirmation we have been suggesting that you select an adult to mentor you during this Lent. There are some awesome adults at Augustana who are more than willing to serve as a Mentor. The key is that you have to think about whom that might be and ask that person to serve God in this way.

We have enclosed a letter that is designed to be given to the adult you select as your mentor. It gives them a description of what they will be doing. It covers all of the vital information and details they will need to be an effective Lenten Faith Mentor. Please be sure they get this letter.

Another enclosed sheet, the Lenten Mentor Information Form, is to be **returned to the church office by February 20, 2017**. This is the document that officially notifies us that a Lenten Mentor has been secured.

Several questions come up each year that I want to take time to answer:

**Do I have to find my own Lenten Mentor?**

Yes, you do need to find your own mentor. If you can not find a mentor after making a **serious effort**, you may contact Abby Norlin-Weaver for assistance. A serious effort means you have talked this over with your parents, asked several persons to serve as your mentor and run into significant road blocks. Simply not wishing to ask someone does not qualify as a serious effort. If you do not locate a mentor by the February 20<sup>th</sup> reporting deadline we will, of course, work with you to assign you a mentor. You will have no choice in who that is. All confirmation students **must participate** in the Lenten Mentoring.

**Does a Lenten Mentor have to be a member of Augustana?**

Mentors **should** be members of Augustana. In rare cases we grant an exception to this policy but permission must be granted by Abby Norlin-Weaver. Our expectation is that mentors be members of this congregation. This policy is in place for your safety and for the integrity of the program.

**Can one Lenten Mentor have more than one student assigned?** By design, a Lenten Mentor program matches one student with one adult so that the time for one on one faith based conversations is maximized. However, we are not inflexible and we realize that in certain situations the impact of Lenten Mentoring may be enhanced by one adult mentoring two students at the same time. This arrangement does need to be approved by Abby Norlin-Weaver.

**Can a high school student be a Lenten Faith Mentor?** Yes, we do allow a high school student to serve as a Lenten Mentor, however, this must be approved by, Abby Norlin-Weaver. A high school aged mentor must be at least 2 years older than the student they mentor.

**When does Lenten Mentoring begin? What are the dates and times it meets?**

For students, it begins with the first session on Wednesday, March 1, 2017. This is an introductory session during which you will meet your Mentor, sign a covenant, exchange contact information and enjoy an introduction to Lenten Mentoring. This year we will also experience the ministry of Rev. Sarah Ciavarri, as we kick off another great year of Lenten Mentoring at Augustana.

Then, mentoring pairs meet for the next 5 consecutive Wednesdays, concluding this part of our Confirmation program on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Each session begins promptly at **5:50 PM** with a large group gathering in Fellowship Hall. It is vital that you and your mentor attend these openings. We pass on important information regarding each week of mentoring and introduce the topic for the weeks. Then you are free to scatter out in the building or to go to local establishments for your discussions. We remind you that during Lent we worship at 7:07 each week. We encourage you, your mentor and your families to attend these services.

I encourage you to take advantage of the unique opportunity to get to know another adult that the Lenten Faith Mentoring program provides. There are amazing adults that would value the opportunity to spend time with a younger person sharing life experiences. We have much to teach each other!

Blessings,

Abby Norlin-Weaver  
Director of Youth and Family Ministry