

# Bethel Lutheran Church

## Mentor Ministry

**I'm a mentor... now what?**

***Here are a couple of thoughts about being a mentor:***

1. "Getting through the questions" is not as important as having a meaningful conversation. If you spend a lot of time during a meeting talking about one subject, that is okay. The questions are tools to get a conversation going. With that in mind, it is still a good idea to talk about as many of the questions as you can.
2. Simply asking the student all the questions on the sheet and having them answer is not the point of a mentoring relationship. Both of you should answer the questions that are provided. This helps to develop a relationship. Avoid the other extreme of talking too much. Sometimes a little silence is a good thing.
3. All conversations that you have with your student must remain confidential. This is VERY important when it comes to developing trust. The only time when confidence can be broken is when someone talks about hurting him/herself or someone else.
4. Mentors are not adults who have all the answers. Saying "I don't know" to a question is okay. You may feel inadequate in your knowledge of the Bible and Christian faith. If you are like most people, you have questions and doubts of your own. Healthy Christian relationships don't usually happen because one person in the relationship knows all the correct answers and feeds them to the other person. Healthy mentor/mentee relationships depend on our openness to learn as much (or more) than we hope to teach.
5. Also, mentors are not adult advice givers. Avoid evaluating your mentee's ideas and life, instead be attentive and listen. Mentors are adults who are willing to listen and share their own experiences without being judgmental and having all the answers.
6. E-mail, telephone or send a note to your mentee to ask them how things are going. Stay in touch with them after your 'official' meetings are over with. Maybe invite them out for ice cream sometime.
7. Say hello to your mentee by name when you see him/her around town, at worship or at school events.
8. Be patient.
9. Always think of opportunities to affirm your mentee. If you think of something good to compliment your student about, say it. They will appreciate it.