

7th Grade Mentor Program – St. John's Lutheran Church
Session 1 – Getting to Know You

1. Mentor and Confirmand meet in an informal setting.
2. Find out something about each other's background. Take some notes to help you remember.

Where were you born? What was it like growing up? What are some of your best memories? How about one of your sad memories?

What is one thing you really like about your life today?

What is/will work be like for you? What are your hopes for the future about your work life?

3. Find out something about each other's faith experience.

Have you always been a church-goer? What is important to you about being a church member?

Try to identify times in your life when your faith has changed. How has it changed?

When did you first know you were a Christian? Do you ever wonder about whether you really are a Christian?

4. Talk about your expectations for this confirmation process.

What do you hope will happen during this time? What are you worried about regarding this process? Are you excited or nervous?

5. Close your time together with each of you saying a short prayer asking God to be with you in this confirmation process and thanking God for your partner in the process.

7th Grade Mentor Program – St. John's Lutheran Church
Session 2 – God & Holy Spirit

1. Read the following creeds together. Mark the words or phrases that you especially enjoy or find interesting.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth...I believe in the Holy Spirit.

From the Nicene Creed

I believe in one God: The Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible...and I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

2. Mentor: Read out loud 2 Timothy 1:14

Student: As your Mentor reads think about understanding the Holy Spirit. What does it mean to you that the Holy Spirit is "within us?"

¹⁴Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us. - 2 Timothy 1:14

3. Student: Read out loud Genesis 1:27-31

According to this scripture, we are created in the image of God. God said the creation is "good." Since you are a part of creation, how does this passage make you feel? Discuss with your Mentor.

*²⁷So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.*

²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. - Genesis 1:27-31

4. Mentor: Read out loud Philippians 2:1-11

Student: While the mentor reads out loud, underline the words Paul uses to describe Jesus. Discuss with your Mentor these words.

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.- Philippians 2:1-11

5. Student: Please read out loud John 3:16

Mentor: John 3:16 is one of the most popular verses in the world. Why do you think so many people like this verse? What does the verse mean to you? Have the student share their thoughts as well.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. -John 3:16

7th Grade Mentor Program – St. John's Lutheran Church
Session 3 – Saints

1. Mentor: Read out loud Hebrews 11:1-12:1.

Student: As your Mentor reads the passage out loud, think about how this passage has been called the "great roll call of saints?" What is a saint? Discuss with your Mentor.

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁴By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain's. Through this he received approval as righteous, God himself giving approval to his gifts; he died, but through his faith he still speaks. ⁵By faith Enoch was taken so that he did not experience death; and "he was not found, because God had taken him." For it was attested before he was taken away that "he had pleased God." ⁶And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. ⁷By faith Noah, warned by God about events as yet unseen, respected the warning and built an ark to save his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir to the righteousness that is in accordance with faith.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old — and Sarah herself was barren — because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." - Hebrews 11:1-12:1.

2. Mentor and Student: Make a list of some of the people who have been important in your life of faith.

After each name on your list, make a brief note as to how they affected your spiritual life, and include at least one quality in him or her that you admire.

3. Student: Read out loud: I Corinthians 1:1-9.

¹Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind — ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. —

1 Corinthians 1:1-9.

Discuss with your Mentor the following Questions: Are you a saint? Why or why not? How does the last part of Verse 2 in this passage seem to define a saint?

4. Mentor and Student: Make a timeline of your own faith experience.

We know that faith changes over time, just as we change over time. How has your faith changed? How is your faith different from what it was two years ago, five years ago, and when you were a very small child? How do you think your faith might be different five years into the future?

How can saints, both those with us and the great Christians of the past, encourage us in our faith?

7th Grade Mentor Program – St. John's Lutheran Church
Session 4 – Ministry

1. Mentor: Read Matthew 25:31-46

Student: As your Mentor reads out loud, what do you think Jesus was saying in these verses? What are the key words and phrases from the passage? Discuss with your Mentor.

³¹When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'" - Matthew 25:31-46

2. Make a list of at least three ways your church ministers to its own members.

4. Make a list of at least three ways your church ministers to those outside of its immediate membership.

5. Make a list of ways you minister to others already. Then add some ideas for new ways you could minister to people.

What ministries are taking place in your community outside of your church (i.e. soup kitchens, shelters, meals on wheels, drop-in centers, food shelves, clothing distribution centers, etc.?)

Choose one that you will volunteer to work in together at least once during your confirmation experience.

Discuss how you feel going into this activity. Nervous? Excited? Uncomfortable?

8th Grade Mentor Program – St. John's Lutheran Church
Session 1 – Exploring Worship & Sacraments

1. Find out something about each other's faith experience.

Have you always been a church-goer? What is important to you about being a church member?

Try to identify times in your life when your faith has changed. How has it changed?

2. Mentor: Read Psalm 95:1-7.

Student: What first comes to your mind when you hear the word "worship"? Discuss with your Mentor.

*¹O come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
²Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
³For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
⁴In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
⁵The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.
⁶O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
⁷For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.
O that today you would listen to his voice!- Psalm 95:1-7*

5. Why do you think it's important to attend worship services regularly?
Why or why not?

6. In what ways does worship affect your day-to-day life?

7. What happens in baptism?

8. Student: Read Romans 6:1-4. What does baptism mean for your daily life? Discuss with your Mentor.

¹What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. - Romans 6:1-4

9. What does Holy Communion mean to you?

8th Grade Mentor Program – St. John's Lutheran Church
Session 2 – Prayer and Bible Reading

1. Define prayer. What does prayer mean to you? How does it help you?

2. Do you pray very often? When and where do you usually pray? What things do you usually pray about?

3. Mentor: Read Matthew 6:5-15.

Student: What does Jesus say here about prayer? Discuss with your Mentor.

⁵"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁷"When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹"Pray then in this way:

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.*

¹⁰Your kingdom come.

*Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.*

¹¹Give us this day our daily bread.

¹²And forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

*¹³And do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one.*

*¹⁴For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also
forgive you; ¹⁵but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father
forgive your trespasses. - Matthew 6:5-15*

4. How can the Lord's Prayer be a model for all our prayers? (Think about what kind of things are included in the Lord's Prayer.)

5. Does God answer every prayer? Why do you think that is?

6. Why do you think it's important to read and study the Bible on your own? Why or why not?

7. What tools can you use to help you understand the Bible better?

8th Grade Mentor Program – St. John's Lutheran Church
Session 3 – The Church and You

1. Why do people join a church? What are the good things about being a church member?

2. Student: Read Ephesians 4:1-7.

Mentor: Discuss with the student what is it that we share as Christians in this congregation.

¹I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.
- Ephesians 4:1-7

4. In what ways do you see the members of the congregation working together to get something done?

5. Student: The Church is often called "the Body of Christ." Read Romans 12:5-8.

Mentor: What part of the "body" are you? What are some gifts God has given you? Help your student identify the "body" and gifts they have.

⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. - Romans 12:5-8

7. Student: Read the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30

Mentor: How are you be good steward (manager) of the talents and gifts God has given you? How can your student be a good steward of their talents and gifts?

¹⁴For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' - Matthew 25:14-30

8. How do you use your gifts and talents at home, school/work, community, church?

9. Discuss some ways that you could make better use of your gifts.

8th Grade Mentor Program – St. John's Lutheran Church
Session 4 – Hope and Growth

1. Mentor: Read Romans 8:31-39.

Student: Discuss with your Mentor how being a follower of Christ gives us hope.

*³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,
"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."*

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 8:31-39

2. What hopes for the future do you have? What difference does your faith make in how you view your future?

3. Student: Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-58. Do you ever think about death? What do you think heaven will be like? Discuss with your Mentor.

⁵¹Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

"Death has been swallowed up in victory."

⁵⁵"Where, O death, is your victory?"

Where, O death, is your sting?"

⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. -1 Corinthians 15:51-58

4. Have you ever had to deal with the death of someone you loved?

5. How does your Christian faith give you hope in the face of death?

6. Mentor: Read Matthew 16:24-26

Student: Read Matthew 20:20-28

Mentor: Read John 13:34-35

Student: What do these passages say about being a disciple?

Discuss with your Mentor.

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? - Matthew 16:24-26

²⁰Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favor of him. ²¹And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." ²²But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." ²³He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."

²⁴When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. ²⁵But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ²⁶It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; ²⁸just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." – Matthew 20:20-28

³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."- John 13:34-35

7. Write your own definition of what being a Christian disciple means. Begin your definition with "A Christian disciple is..."

8. Mentor: Read Romans 12:1-2.

Student: As your Mentor reads, what do these verses say is the goal of Christian growth?

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.- Romans 12:1-2

9. How have you seen yourself grow over the years in your understanding of God?

10. How do you feel about your relationship with God at this point in your life?

11. List some of the ways our church gives people an opportunity to grow in their faith. In which of these areas have you participated in the past?

12. Which ones do you think you will take advantage of in the future?

9th Grade Mentor Program – St. John's Lutheran Church
Session 1-Learning & Growing in Your Faith-Always!

1. Mentor: Read aloud the following Bible passage.

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. - Colossians 2:6-7

Student: Restate this Bible passage in your own words.

2. Student: Tell what you have liked best and least about Confirmation.

3. Mentor: When have you learned most about your faith? Was it in a class, or through personal Bible reading, or with the guidance of a special friend, or during a crisis, or other?

4. Student: Read Psalm 119:1-16.

Mentor: Ask your student how he/she applies this passage to his/her life or ask for comments about this passage.

1 Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD. 2 Happy are those who keep his decrees, who seek him with their whole heart, 3 who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways. 4 You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. 5 O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! 6 Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. 7 I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous ordinances. 8 I will observe your statutes; do not utterly forsake me. 9 How can young people keep their way pure? By guarding it according to your word. 10 With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments. 11 I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you. 12 Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes. 13 With my lips I declare all the ordinances of your mouth. 14 I delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches. 15 I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. 16 I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word. –

Psalm 119:1-16

5. Mentor: Read Ephesians 6:10-20

Student: Talk about your thoughts about this reading. Discuss with your Mentor.

6 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. 15 As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. 16 With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. 19 Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak. - Ephesians 6:10

6. Mentor: Describe a Bible passage that is/has been meaningful to you and tell why you like that passage. Discuss with your student possible confirmation verses and help them select one and submit it to the church office.

My Bible Verse

Write a Bible verse (or short passage) here that has special meaning to you at this time. Please include the book, chapter and verse(s) numbers where this passage is located. Please talk with your mentor if you need some help choosing. You can submit your Confirmation verse by emailing it to churchoffice@stjohnsmarion.org, on or before Wednesday, September 27th.

9th Grade Mentor Program – St. John’s Lutheran Church
Session 2 – Worship the Lord Together

1. Mentor and Student: Take turns reading aloud the statements below. (Mentor read #1, Student read #2, etc.) Reflect on the significance of the statements.

Excerpts about WORSHIP from The Purpose-Driven Life by Rick Warren

1. Bringing pleasure to God is called “worship.” The Bible says, “The Lord is pleased only with those who worship him and trust his love.” Anthropologists have noted that worship is a universal urge, hand-wired by God into the very fiber of our being—an inbuilt need to connect with God. The reason God made us with this desire is that he desires worshipers!

2. Worship is not for my own benefit. When we worship, our goal should be to bring pleasure and glory to God. In Isaiah 29 God complains about worship that is half-hearted and hypocritical. The people were offering God stale prayers, insincere praise, empty words, and man-made rituals without even thinking about the meaning.

3. Worship is not a part of your life; it *is* your life. We are told to “worship him continually” and to “praise him from sunrise to sunset.” Every activity can be transformed into an act of worship when you do it for the praise, glory and pleasure of God. Martin Luther said, “A dairymaid can milk cows to the glory of God.”

4. Following Christ includes *belonging*, not just believing. We are *members* of his body—the church. If an organ is somehow severed from its body, it will shrivel and die. It cannot exist on its own, and neither can you. Disconnected and cut off from the lifeblood of a local church body, your spiritual life will wither and eventually cease to exist.

5. Why do you need a church family? A church identifies you as a genuine believer. A church family helps you develop spiritual muscle. The body of Christ needs you. You will share in Christ's mission in the world. A church family will help keep you from backsliding.

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5 – pages 133, 134, 135

2. Mentor: Close by saying a prayer, praising God for being with us, for hearing our prayers, and for giving us all we need from day to day.

Student: Remember that you need to choose a special Bible verse/passage and let the church office know what it is. You can email it to churchoffice@stjohnsmarion.org before Wednesday, September 27th. You also are to write a personal faith statement (between 50 to 200 words). The faith statement and Confirmation verse will be put into a Confirmation booklet for your Confirmation day.

9th Grade Mentor Program – St. John's Lutheran Church
Session 3 – Serving God by Helping Those In Need

1. Student: Read aloud the following Bible passage.
What good is it, my brothers, and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister lacks clothing and daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their needs, what is the good of that? So, faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.
- James 2:14-17
2. Mentor: Talk about some of your passions (what is it that you really enjoy in life)? Are there ways that you have been able to use your passions, skills, talents, and abilities through service to God, the church or others? If so, please describe. If not, discuss ways that you might use your passions to make a difference in the world.
3. Student: Now it is time to start talking about your faith statement with your Mentor. Draft your faith statement so you can work through a final draft together at the next meeting.

My Personal Faith Statement

Write between 50 and 200 words telling what you believe as a Christian and/or about your journey of faith. You can submit your Faith Statement to the church office by emailing it to churchoffice@stjohnsmarion.org on or before Wednesday, September 28th.

Your faith statement COULD answer some/any of these questions:

- What is it you believe about God? Jesus? Faith? Church? People?
- Why do you want to be Confirmed?
- How does your faith make a difference in your life?
- How do your beliefs affect the way you live or the decisions you make?

Student: Remember that you need to choose a special Bible verse/passage and let the church office know what it is. You can email it to churchoffice@stjohnsmarion.org before Wednesday, September 27th. You also are to write a personal faith statement (between 50 to 200 words). The faith statement and Confirmation verse will be put into a Confirmation booklet for your Confirmation day.

Mentor Program – St. John’s Lutheran Church
Session 4 – Telling Others the Good News

1. Mentor: Read aloud the following Bible passage.

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

-Matt 28:18-20

5. Student: Read aloud the following statement. Discuss the statement with your Mentor.

Telling someone about Christ is just like one beggar telling another beggar where he can find bread to eat.

7. Mentor: Have you ever talked with someone about your faith or beliefs? Or have you ever prayed God would show you how to help (or witness to) a specific person? If so, share your experience.

8. Student: Do we need to talk about our faith, or is it enough to try our best to live it? Do you find it easy or difficult to share your faith in God?

9. Mentor: Talk through the student’s chosen bible verse and faith statement, and what it means to them. Then, close with a prayer, and include the highs and lows you discussed.

Student: Remember that you need to choose a special Bible verse/passage and let the church office know what it is. You can email it to churchoffice@stjohnsmarion.org before Wednesday, September 27th. You also are to write a personal faith statement (between 50 to 200 words). The faith statement and Confirmation verse will be put into a Confirmation booklet for your Confirmation day.