

7th - 8th Grade Catechesis Schedule: 2014-2015

--Mentor Visit #1— Instructions & Questions

-Make sure that you speak respectfully. And also, some of your mentors may have a hearing aid or a hearing problem... so make sure you speak clearly and loudly enough for them to understand. If you're not sure, ask them if you're speaking loudly enough... or perhaps TOO loud.

-In line with that, ask your mentor what name they prefer to be called by. That's part of respect too. Then tell them what name YOU prefer to be called.

-As you begin your visit, ask some **general questions** to get to know your mentor better. Things like— How many kids do you have, how many grandchildren, where do they live, how many years have they been married or how many years were they married.

-Ask your mentor if they have any questions about you. Things like— how old you are, where you go to school, what grade you're in, your family details, your likes and dislikes.

-DO NOT RUSH YOUR VISIT!! Just enjoy.....

-Ask your mentor to pray for you and promise to pray for them.

-Be sure to thank them for their time when you leave

You need to write at least a paragraph on your discussion of these questions. Unless you have a legitimate excuse, I expect it to be typed, not hand written. You have until October 22nd (5 weeks!) to turn this in. Now here are your questions.

- 1 Where did you grow up?
- 2 How many brothers or sisters did you have?
- 3 What church (or churches) did you attend?
- 4 What is your favorite Bible verse? Why?
- 5 How would you describe prayer (what is it to you)?
- 6 What time of the day do you think is the best or easiest for you to pray?
- 7 Is there anything special you do when you pray that helps you focus on your prayers to God?
- 8 Why do you think the Lord's Prayer is so important to us?
- 9 When praying the Lord's Prayer, some Christians still use the old "Thee's" and "Thou's". Do you have a preference? Please explain.
- 10 Why do you think so many folks love the old version?

--Mentor Visit #2— Instructions & Questions

-Make sure that you speak respectfully.

-Ask your mentor if they have any questions about your last visit or anything new that has happened in their lives recently.

-DO NOT RUSH YOUR VISIT!! Just enjoy.....

-Ask your mentor to pray for you and promise to pray for them.

-Be sure to thank them for their time when you leave.

You need to write at least ½ page on your discussion of these questions. Unless you have a legitimate excuse, I expect it to be typed, not handwritten. You have until December 3rd (4 weeks) to turn this in. Now here are your questions.

- 11 If you know the date, when were you Baptized?? Where??
- 12 What happens when a person is Baptized?? (besides getting wet)
- 13 Why do you think it is good that our church Baptizes babies??
- 14 How important is your Baptism to you and why??
- 15 Do you think that people respect and appreciate Baptism as much today as they did 50-100 years ago?? Why or why not??
- 16 What do you plan to do (or what did you do) to celebrate Thanksgiving??
- 17 What blessing are you Thankful for on this Thanksgiving Day??
- 18 Advent is starting soon. What does Advent mean for you as a Christian?
- 19 What can we do during our Christmas preparations to make sure that we stay focused on the Christ Child and not parties and "stuff"?

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--Mentor Visit #3— Instructions & Questions

- Make sure that you speak respectfully.
- Ask your mentor if they have any questions about your last visit or anything new that has happened in their lives recently.
- DO NOT RUSH YOUR VISIT!! Just enjoy.....
- Ask your mentor to pray for you and promise to pray for them.
- Be sure to thank them for their time when you leave.

You need to write at least ½ page on your discussion of these questions. Unless you have a legitimate excuse, I expect it to be typed, not handwritten. You have until January 7th (3 weeks!) to turn this in. Now here are your questions.

- 1 In your opinion what is the greatest blessing for you when you receive Holy Communion?
- 2 In the Lutheran Church we believe and teach that in Communion we receive the true Body and Blood of Jesus. Not all Christians believe this. What do you say (or what would you say) if you get into a discussion with someone who doubts the Real Presence of Jesus in the Lord's Supper?
- 3 All too often today people don't really think much about receiving Holy Communion until they walk in the door on Sunday morning. How do you prepare yourself mentally and spiritually for Communion?
- 4 When you were first Confirmed, did your church make you "announce" before Communion or did you have to go and talk to the Pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper? Please describe what that procedure was like.
- 5 What do you think are some positive reasons why it would be good to have Communion offered every Sunday?
- 6 What do you think are some negative reasons why it would **not** be good to have Communion offered every Sunday?
- 7 What will you do or what did you do to celebrate Christmas this year? Did you spend it with family?
- 8 What is your best or happiest Christmas memory?

--Mentor Visit #4— Instructions & Questions

- Make sure that you speak respectfully.
- Ask your mentor if they have any questions about your last visit or anything new that has happened in their lives recently.
- DO NOT RUSH YOUR VISIT!! Just enjoy.....
- Ask your mentor to pray for you and promise to pray for them.
- Be sure to thank them for their time when you leave.

You need to write at least ½ page on your discussion of these questions. Unless you have a legitimate excuse, I expect it to be typed, not handwritten. You have until February 4th (3 weeks) to turn this in. Now here are your questions.

- 1 Can you describe for me some of the memorable winter storms from your past? What did you do to survive them?
- 2 We've had a pretty rough winter so far this year and sometimes it's difficult or unsafe to drive to church. What do you suggest a person should do if they have to stay home from worship?
- 3 After the terrible earthquake in Haiti recently, a very famous Christian Pastor said on his TV program that this disaster was God's way of punishing the people on that tiny island. How do you respond to that kind of thinking?
- 4 Since we talked about Holy Communion last time... do you think there is ever a time when a Lutheran should refrain from receiving the Lord's Supper? If so, when and why? If not, please explain why.
- 5 Martin Luther reminded us that fasting before Communion was **not** mandatory. But is there a good reason to do it if you choose to? Please explain.
- 6 What do you think would be a good way for the Pastor and our church to encourage people to have a healthy respect for the Lord's Supper?
- 7 We are about ready to start the season of Lent. Can you tell me what these 6 weeks in Lent mean to you?
- 8 How does Lent help you prepare for Christ's death on Good Friday and His Resurrection on Easter?

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--Mentor Visit #5— Instructions & Questions

- Make sure that you speak respectfully.
- Ask your mentor if they have any questions about your last visit or anything new that has happened in their lives recently.
- DO NOT RUSH YOUR VISIT!! Just enjoy.....
- Ask your mentor to pray for you and promise to pray for them.
- Be sure to thank them for their time when you leave.

You need to write at least ½ page on your discussion of these questions. Unless you have a legitimate excuse, I expect it to be typed, not handwritten. You have until March 11th (4 weeks!) to turn this in. Now here are your questions.

1. Describe what your Confirmation Instruction was like: How long were the classes, how long was the Confirmation year— from what date to what date, how many classmates, where did you meet, etc.
2. In your opinion, how hard were the memory work assignments?
3. Describe in detail what your classes and assignments were like.
4. What part or parts of the Catechism still stick out clearly in your memory? What do you remember most vividly?
5. If you could go over the Catechism now as an adult (in a relaxed setting) would you? Why or why not?
6. What part of the Six Chief Parts of the Catechism do you still have questions about or don't clearly understand?
7. What was your favorite part of Confirmation Class?
8. What would your Confirmation Teacher have done if you didn't turn an assignment in on time or didn't know your memory work?
9. Do you have any interesting or funny stories about your days in Confirmation Class?
10. What advice would you give a Confirmation student today on how to memorize their assignments?
11. What advice would you give a Confirmand as to how to stay active in their faith and Church attendance after their Confirmation Day?