

Welcome to Sunday Morning for Children

8:00 a.m.—Child Care Center

9:30 a.m.—Sunday School for ages
8 months - 6th Grade

11:00 a.m.—Church School for 8 months - 3th Grade

At 11:00 a.m., children not in child care attend
the service, then leave for class following
Children's Time.

*Check the Bulletin or Sandwich Boards for class
locations.*



Things Children Might Do During Worship

While waiting for worship to begin:

1. Mark the hymns to be sung with a piece of paper. Read the words carefully.
2. Find the scripture reading in the Bible so you can read along at the correct time.
3. Think of the things you want to pray about during the silent Confessions and prayer time.
4. Mark a star for times everyone stands up.

During the Sermon:

1. Draw a circle around anything in the bulletin you don't understand. Ask about it after the service.
2. Put a check mark by the parts you want to talk about.
3. Draw a picture of a hymn or one of the readings or something you see.



Welcome

A Guide for Children, Families & Friends

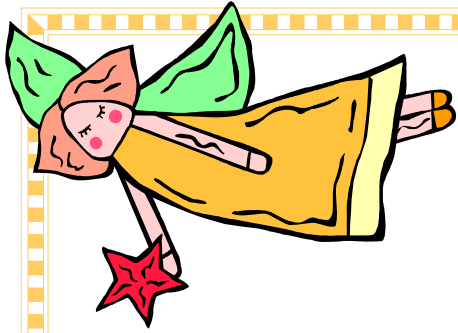
Children in Worship

Sunday all of God's people gather as one to worship together. We sing to God, pray, hear God's Word and give to God. In addition, sometimes we celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Children belong in worship because they are a part of God's people. They learn to worship by worshipping! This welcome flyer gives members of the congregation ways they can help children worship.

Children's bulletins for preschool and early readers are available from the ushers. A basket of books in the foyer may be borrowed during the service for our young worshippers.

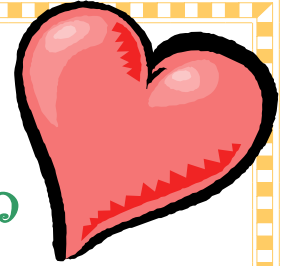
The 11:00 a.m. service includes a Children's Time and we encourage parents to allow children to experience worship with the church family. After the Children's Time, children may remain in worship or go to one of the classes provided.



Helpful Hints For Parents

1. **Getting ready** to worship begins on Saturday night. Remind children of your expectations. Remind yourself that no one expects children to be absolutely silent.
2. **Visit the bathroom** before church begins.
3. **Don't bring** distracting toys or games to the sanctuary.
4. **Do bring** a notepad so children can draw about what they hear. Talk about their drawings on the way home.
5. **Sit as a family.** When we stand, let small children stand on the pew seat so they can see.
6. **Worship WITH and not BESIDE** children. Those who can't read can hum or la-la along. Help young readers find the hymns and the scripture. Whisper instructions—it's not a sin to whisper in church. Guide children through the worship bulletin.
7. **Let children pass the offering plate.**
8. **Be flexible.** Sometimes children will want to stay the entire hour. Sometimes they can't. The nursery is always available. Classes for children to attend begin following Children's Time.

The Congregation Welcomes Children



Remember the vows we make at the baptism of children to nurture them in the Christian life. Children must be present in worship to learn to worship.

As you welcome adults, welcome children also. Speak to them and not just to their parents. Offer positive reinforcement about worship behavior to the child and to the parent.

Pass friendship pads and the offering plate to children, not over their heads.

Thank and encourage children who participate in worship leadership by being acolytes, ushers, choir members, readers, etc.

Be patient with the learning process. We are all children of God. Growing up isn't always easy, but it is worth the effort.

*"Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray."
Proverbs 22:6*

Let children know the church is a place they are loved and are safe.

Consider asking children to sit with you instead of their parents sometime.