



CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Before/After Worship

- Talk about your expectations on the way to church.
- Get a drink, grab an activity bag, and use the restroom before entering the sanctuary.
- Develop a routine: worship regularly at the same time each week. Sit in the same area, preferably near the front where they can easily see the service. Teach children to settle down and be quiet when the bell rings.
- Point out and explain symbols and depictions in the church building, windows, and banners.
- Say a prayer together before service.
- Encourage your child to draw/color a picture for the pastor.
- Let your child give an offering. Children's envelopes are available from the office. Portions of allowance should be set aside as an offering. Ask your child what they are thankful for as they prepare their offering.
- Greet the pastor at the door, encourage your child to shake hands like everybody else.
- Make time for Sunday School and Bible Class! What worship begins, Bible study continues. One of the best things you can do for your child is to be well educated about your own faith, so YOU can continue to teach them.



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Dear Parents:

We rejoice that you have decided to worship as a family and bring your children. Worship is the most important kind of "Family Time." Kids of all ages are welcome in the House of the Lord, and our services are set up to encourage children to worship with their parents.

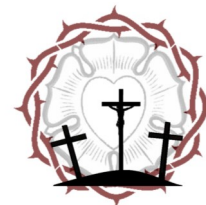
We teach our children by example and repetition. How you model your Christian faith teaches your children about Jesus Christ. Your attitude about worship, and how you conduct yourself throughout the service speaks volumes about the importance of what we believe.

Helping your child participate in service, as they are able, will enrich the Spiritual growth of your child, and bring great benefit to your family. Teaching children in this way is both our duty and our delight.

You may be nervous about your child's behavior during service—don't be. We would rather have a noisy child in our church, than a quiet child outside of it. It may take many visits before your child becomes comfortable in worship. If you do need to leave service, one of our elders can direct you to a location that is both private, and where you can still see/hear the service.

There are no perfectly behaved and attentive children. There are also no perfectly behaved or attentive adults! All are welcome to be a part of our worship here at Redeemer. Again, thank you for worshipping here as a family.

Attached are some suggestions to enrich your worship.



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During Worship:

- Be consistent in your expectations and routines
- Participate joyfully! Children model adult actions. Don't worry if your child seems inattentive at times, they are still observing, and eventually will follow along.
- Involve your child in the worship service as you are able. Sing and speak together repetitive parts of the Liturgy like "Amen" and "Lord have mercy." Fold hands for prayers. Sit, stand, kneel, at appropriate times. Teach them to make the sign of the cross and lead them in making it at the appropriate times.
- Take your child with you to communion to receive a blessing. If you let them put back your empty cup, please make sure it is indeed empty.
- Explain what is happening in the service. Point out people like the acolyte, pastor, vicar, or elders, and explain what they do.
- Allow your child to do Bible centered activities during service. Avoid games, especially electronic ones. Teaching them to color on designated materials instead of communion cards, envelopes, etc. will help teach them reverence for things in the Lord's House.
- If you need to take your child out of service, do so only as a last resort. Refrain from taking the child to the "toy room" in response to unwanted behavior. Discipline and demonstrate forgiveness. Return to service as soon as possible.