

(Jesus said)

"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me." (Mark 9:37)

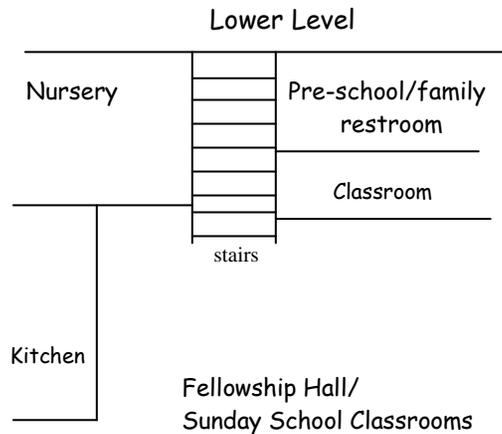
We are delighted to have children worship with us as they grow in Christ. We have many young families with children in our midst, and you may occasionally hear the "sounds of a growing church" from our pews. We welcome you and your children to join us!

There are many benefits for a family that worships together. We also know from experience that it can be a challenging time for parents as they seek to "train up a child in the way he should go." Enclosed are some tips that we hope will be helpful to you as you lovingly guide your child to the Lord in worship.

*The family of Christ at
Faith Lutheran Church*

Classes & Facilities

- **Worship services** are Sundays at 8:00 a.m. (traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (contemporary).
- Age-appropriate **Sunday School classes** are available for ages 2 through adults at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday. There is no need to pre-register. Sunday School classes for age 2 through 6th grade are held in the lower level, while other classes are held throughout the buildings. Please see the map on the Welcoming Table for specific class locations.
- **Diaper changing tables** are available in the women's restroom on the main level and in the pre-school/family restroom on the lower level.



Faith Lutheran Church
1700 St Andrews Way
Eldersburg, MD 21784
(410) 795-8082

www.faithlutheraneldersburg.com

Worshipping with Children



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14

First Things First

God made children, and he loves them! Rest assured that he not only understands but *planned* for them to have wiggles and giggles. Trust that if you persevere in your efforts to bring your children to God's house he will bless you and them.

Ideas -- Before Worship

- Prepare a "church-only" bag containing unfamiliar items to be used only on Sundays. Consider quiet items such as picture books, a "quiet book" (practice with buttons, laces, snaps), colored pencils, etc., for this bag.
- Talk in advance about what your child can expect (e.g., songs, prayers, Bible readings, the sermon, standing and sitting at different times, etc.). Also talk about what you expect of your child (e.g., listening to the pastor, going up front for the children's sermon, etc.) For younger children, practicing talking in a "church voice" (whisper) can be helpful.
- To help Sunday mornings go smoothly, assist your child in selecting clothes for church on Saturday.
- For babies and toddlers, prepare a drink in a leak-proof bottle/sippy cup. Bite-sized, non-sticky snacks may also help with restlessness.

- Pray with your child, asking God to help her be able to listen and worship in church. Pray for the pastor and all the people who help.
- Encourage your child to select a "Children's Worship Bag" from the baskets in the narthex. These bags contain books and quiet activities for use during the worship service. Bright yellow bags are intended for ages 2 and under.
- Obtain a Children's Bulletin (pencil activities & puzzles for older children) from an usher.
- Sit where your child is able to see what is happening.

The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call.

Acts 2:39

Ideas -- During Worship

- Help your child participate in the worship service. Encourage him to hum or sing as he is able, to fold hands for prayers, go up front for the children's sermon, etc.
- At the 10:30 service, children ages 1 through 4 may go to the nursery,

located on the lower level, during the sermon for play and learning time. If you would like your child to participate please escort your child to the narthex before the sermon hymn. An adult will be waiting to take him downstairs. Your child will return to the sanctuary before communion.

- Please bring your children with you when you commune. They will receive a blessing as communion is distributed.
- If your child becomes so restless as to disturb other worshippers you may take your child to the church narthex (foyer) as a "cry room." The narthex is equipped with speakers and windows so that you may follow along with the service until your child is ready to return to the sanctuary.
- Loving, consistent teaching and discipline will show your child that church is a warm and caring place.

Ideas - After Worship

- Greet your neighbors and newcomers to the church. Greet the pastor at the door. Encourage your child to shake hands with the pastor or "give him five."
- Ask your child what one thing she remembers about the service and discuss it. You may be surprised!