



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Hamilton.

Preparing Children for Worship

At Good Shepherd children are welcomed and encouraged to join in the worship service.

Here are some ideas to help prepare your child for Family Worship:-

- 1. We're happy to be at Church together.** Let your child know how pleased you are that you go to a church where families can sit with each other during most of the service.
2. On the way to services, you **may wonder out loud about what** music you will hear, what colours will be used or if something special like a baptism or school service, will be taking place.
- 3. Activity bags** are available in the church foyer for the 3-5 years olds. They contain crayons, activity sheets, books and a small toy.
4. Sit where your child can **see what is happening in the service.** Families are encouraged to sit near the front of the church.
5. The **Order of Service** is the map to the morning service. The order of service is shown as an easy-to-follow PowerPoint presentation. Point out pictures and songs to them.
6. Children who do not take Holy Communion are encouraged to come to the altar with their family to **receive a blessing** from the Pastor.
7. We are **sharing Sunday morning** worship with many people. Sunday morning is a special time. Many people expect this time to be quiet and still, so they can think about what has happened in their world and what they are hoping might happen (meditate and pray). Our movements and behaviours could interrupt this thinking unless we are very careful.
8. People want to hear the music and everything that is said in the worship service. That means we must be quiet.
9. We enjoy **singing together.** Encourage your child to participate in the singing - often the hymn or song will have repetitive lines . You can even whisper the words into your child's ear if he or she appears interested.
10. Bring a **note book and pen** to church. Encourage younger children to listen to the sermon and draw a picture/s to match the theme/key words. With older children ask them to listen and write down the key words or sentences which they hear in the sermon. We want to direct attention toward what is happening in the service rather than distracting children with other activities.
11. Play a CD of Christian songs on the way to Church. Make it a family sing-along. Then you have already worshipped when you arrive – family worship to boot!
12. On the way home, talk about the worship service, the story, children's address, sermon, Sunday school or seeing someone special to you.

***“Make sure you tell your children, and your children tell their children,
And their children tell their children. Don't let this message die out.” Joel 1:3 (Message)***