Childrens' Chapel

A way for families to Worship together while children get the message in a language they can relate to.

Provided by: Rev. Douglas Schoelles

Purposes:

- To provide the sermon message to children in a way that they can understand.
- To encourage faith discussions with their family at home.
- To provide children's programming on Sundays during the summer.
- To enable families to worship together and
- To retain and attract families with young children.

Perspectives:

- To intentionally seek to calm the children and teach them how to sit quietly.
- To provide children's programming on Sundays during the sermon.
- Aimed particularly for families that may be under-churched or non-churched.
- This is optional. We recognize this is not for every family.
- Has a specific target age group: 3 years old through 4th grade.

Processes:

- After the pastor gives the children's message, the teacher of the children's' church will take the kids to the designated space.
- Time is between 20 to 27 minutes.
- The children are reunited with their families and the rest of the congregation after the prayers of the people.
- The children begin and end the service worshipping with their family.
- We solicit volunteers from the congregation to lead the children's chapel on a rotating basis.
- We implement Children's Chapel during worship services which provide the volunteers that enable us to conduct it.
- We suggest either a Jr high or high school student volunteer as a class helper every week. - These serve on a rotating basis.
- The teacher is given a bible lesson from the pastor that reflects the message being given in the worship service.
- Scripture verses or liturgy passage to memorize will be given for every sermon series.
- "Church Change" is given for good behavior and can be redeemed at the end of the service for a small toy.
    - Coins to be given for good behavior of the entire group.

- Everyone will receive the same amount, because we have some younger children, they don't seem to understand when they don't receive the same amount that another child receives.
- 1-3 coins at teacher discretion.
- If the behavior is exceptional, 3 coins, if behavior is slightly disruptive then 1 coin.
- Extreme disruption will result in the child being escorted back to the parents.
- In addition to the coins, special rewards for those who participate in the memorization for the sermon series scripture or liturgy.
- An example for the memorization of the Lord's Prayer, they could received an Easter coloring book and a small box of crayons.

• The “church change” is exchanged for inexpensive toys.

Ideally, the children’s message would reflect the message that is being given in the main service so that families can still hear the same message and can discuss it at home. This will provide parents an opportunity to talk to their children with a fresh view. So that while they may not be in the same space, they are still able to learn as a family-the Lutheran way.

Program:

• Story is read.

• Questions are asked to encourage the children to talk about the passage.

• Children pray – each given an opportunity to pray for their concerns.

Recommended Resources

120 Bible Stories: https://www.cph.org/p-19214-120-bible-stories.aspx

• for children ages 8 to 12 learn God’s many Old Testament promises to send a Savior and see how these promises have been fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

120 Bible Stories Activity Book: https://www.cph.org/p-21792-120-bible-stories-activity-book.aspx

• activities and questions help students recall facts about the Bible story

Answer Key to 120 Bible Stories Activity Book: https://www.cph.org/p-21793-answer-key-to-120-bible-stories-activity-book.aspx

The Growing in Faith Bible Storybook: https://www.cph.org/p-33527-the-growing-in-faith-bible-storybook.aspx

• For ages 6-8

• 125 narratives with every story pointing us to Jesus

The Jesus Storybook Bible: https://www.christianbook.com/jesus-storybook-bible-every-story-whispers/sally-lloyd-jones/9780310708254/pd/708257?event=ESRCG

• For ages 4-8

The goal of Children’s Church is not to replace the family worship.

The goal is to enhance it.

A Resource for Holy Families - from the family devotional website: www.holyfamilytime.com Sola Publishing
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