

Family and Children's Ministry at St. Luke's

Core Beliefs

1. St. Luke's welcomes children in worship.

"When we baptize a child into the family of God, that child has a meaningful place in what that family does as a group." (Including Children in Worship)

2. St. Luke's takes pride in its intergenerational, multicultural worship.

"It is not only possible, but desirable, to develop worship which works for the entire community." (Children at Worship, Congregations in Bloom)

3. St. Luke's wants to model God's design for a community where individuals—no matter their differences—know they belong.

"When you welcome and involve children in worship, you'll follow Jesus' admonition to "let the little children come to me"—for they belong to the kingdom of God." (Involving Kids in Worship)

4. St. Luke's affirms and empowers Christian parents in raising their children in the faith.

"Parents are the best people to teach their children what it means to worship God." (Parenting in the Pew).

Learn Together

- ▶ During the school year, at 9:30 on Sunday mornings, kids go to one of **two classrooms**: 1) Preschoolers (ages 3–5) and 2) Elementary (K–5th graders).
- ▶ We use the Live B.I.G. curriculum published by Abingdon Press (www.ilivebig.com). We have volunteer teachers, some of which are Texas A&M students who are studying elementary education. While their children are in class, parents participate in a small group that runs concurrent to the children's time. Parents rotate leading **sermon activities** during the worship service.



Worship Together

- ▶ Our **worship bulletins** incorporate graphic symbols for non-readers to be able to follow along and comprehend the order of worship (e.g., praying hands beside prayer time and musical notes next to songs). This new design also benefits people with intellectual disabilities and the unchurched who are unfamiliar with worship elements.
- ▶ **Integrated activities** allow children to bring God praise in ways that are age-appropriate. Children are sometimes invited to choose items from a box of musical percussion instruments, scarves and ribbon streamers during certain parts of the service. During the sermon time, parents can opt for their younger children to participate in a sermon activity in the children's wing.
- ▶ When parents need another outlet, we rely on back-up **nursery care** for children ages 4 and under, should parents so choose. Nursery workers for babies and toddlers consider their jobs as "more than babysitting" and implement Christian songs, stories and other activities in a loving environment that fosters spiritual growth.
- ▶ We value the contributions children offer to the congregation and to God. We often have children help with **worship elements** by writing prayers, creating artwork for the altar, participating in drama and taking leadership roles in lighting candles, ushering, singing, etc.

More Details

▶ When does our family need to be there?

Families need to be at church by 9:25 am on Sundays to go through the KidCheck station and have the children arrive on time to their classes.

▶ Who can I contact with questions?

KELSEY JOHNSON (kaj.rdj@gmail.com) is the children's ministry coordinator and plans family ministry events. JERRICA GEORGE (georgefamily08@gmail.com) manages the master calendar and teacher scheduling.

▶ What are other resources about kids in worship?

Parenting in the Pew: Guiding Your Children into the Joy of Worship by Robbie Castleman. InterVarsity Press, 1993.

Including Children in Worship: A Planning Guide for Congregations by Elizabeth J. Sandell. Augsburg Fortress, 1991.

Involving Kids in Worship. Group's Children's Ministry Magazine. Online: <http://www.childrensministry.com/article.asp?ID=2206>

Children at Worship, Congregations in Bloom. Online: <http://www.childrenatworship.org>