

## ***Welcome to the Lord's Supper***

*All worshippers are invited to our communion table. Children who commune in their home church will be served if they hold out their hand. Non-communing children will receive a blessing.*

*If you prefer to be served wine, take an empty glass when the tray is offered to you. If you prefer grape juice, take a filled glass from the tray.*

*Thank you for worshipping at Gloria Dei today. We hope you'll return often.*

## ***THE CHILD IN THE PEW AT GLORIA DEI***

Welcome to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church!

As you look around you will see that children are an important part of our worshipping community.

Their presence grows out of our commitment to incorporate children in the life and mission of Gloria Dei and to nurture them in a growing relationship with God.

Why? Because we take seriously our responsibility to help raise the next generation of God's people. In so doing, we recall the words of Deuteronomy 6:5-7...

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and might. Keep these words that I command you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.*

Bringing children to church may not always be easy, but it is an extremely vital part of their spiritual growth. Children learn by the example of adults how to worship God. We trust that, together, we can provide a positive experience for our youngest worshippers.

### **Some helpful hints for preparing children to worship in the sanctuary:**

Call practice sessions at home. Pretend games prepare your children for new experiences.

Play church!

Bring something soft and quiet for little ones to hold on to or look at.

Establish signals which can be used without talking and which communicate both positive and negative feedback.

Stop at the washroom before the service.

Carry a quiet snack like raisins.

Sit near the front so children can see what is going on.

Share your Bible and hymnbook with your child.

Encourage your child to stand up when the congregation does. It stretches those muscles and invites participation.

A coin for the offering teaches sharing.

After worship answer any questions your child might have.

**2. Some notes to parents from their children:**

When the offering plate is passed, please let me put my money in it and allow me to help pass it.

When I wiggle, don't be upset. Adults wiggle too.

When I have a question, answer it briefly. Don't hush or ignore me.

From the day I'm born, bring me forward at communion to receive a blessing.

Remind me that the Children's Sermon is my special time during church. Please understand if I run forward in excitement.

**3. Some suggestions for congregation members:**

Express joy at having children worship with us! Send a smile their way. Greet them when we pass the peace.

Help parents of small children by showing your support of their child. Send the message that you want every child to be part of our church family.