

ALL GOD'S
CHILDREN
ARE WELCOME



**St. Andrew's
Lutheran Church**

914 West Boulevard South
Columbia, MO 65203

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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church wants everyone to experience welcome in worship. Whether an infant or elderly, we hope that everyone finds something that meets them where they are. While the hope is that everyone finds something, we also know that to meet this goal, not everything that happens during worship will be for each one.

At Saint Andrew's we also understand that if this is your family's first time here, or in church at all, just stepping through the door can be kind of scary. You may not know what to expect. This concern can grow when families have younger children.

There are at least three ways to engage worship. Remember that on any day, at any time, your child's needs may change. We understand that. With those changes, you may need to make new decisions about how to engage.



Classic:

The way many remember we will call classic for now. Your family can sit anywhere you want to sit together. Any row. Any chairs. Churches used to encourage families to sit at the back perhaps for easy exits when needed. But in our space, you are never really that far from an exit should you need it. You can bring soft, quiet toys and books to engage your children during worship. We do want to invite you to consider sitting closer to the front where your children may be better able to see what is happening in worship. Remember that even when they don't look like they are paying attention, children are often drinking in the rituals, the music and the spoken words.

Prayer Ground:

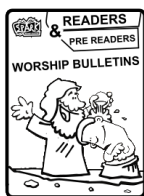
Saint Andrew's has been developing a Prayer Ground that is close to the front on the left side of the chancel (the altar area). There is a rug, a small table and little people chairs. There is also an exit right behind there. This is a perfect place for little people to see what is happening during worship. And the pastor often sits right next to this area. Our pastor loves to interact with young ones. Along the front wall you will find resources for your child.

- **Something to Read:** Board books, children's books.
- **Something Connected to Worship:** Spark Children's Bulletins for both young ones who read and who don't yet read.
- **Something for Writing or Drawing:** Washable markers, Colored pencils (especially for the Spark Children's Bulletins).
- **Something to Touch:** pop-it fidget toys, knitted Prayer Squares, stuffies, and silicon blocks to play with quietly. We do ask that you help clean up by returning these items to their bins.

READ



WORSHIP

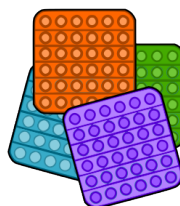


DRAWING



3

TOUCH



PLAY



Children's corner:

Whelp! Sometimes children just are not quite ready to be in worship for a full hour. They can learn. And if you start in the worship space (we call it the Centrum) and find you need to move outside, we have set up a Children's Corner at the south end of the Gathering Space (also called the narthex by some of us old fogies). Your child can roam about a bit even as you can see through the windows and listen to the sound in the gathering space. We have equipped this area with the same kinds of things you find in the Prayer Ground in the worship space. Books, prayer squares, pop-its, silicon blocks and stuffies.

What we want for your family most is success. If your child has no experience with worship, you may spend more time in the gathering space until they get used to it.

A note on Sensory Overload

We know that for some people of all ages the sounds and sights of worship can become overwhelming.

The organ, the people speaking, so much to see, too little action, too much action, all can make it challenging. If auditory overload is part of your family's experience, please know that we welcome headphones to help dampen the sound.

