**St. Luke’s Worship Too FAQ’s**

**What is the Worship Too Area?**

An area in the front of the sanctuary set aside for children and families during church. It will consist of small tables and chairs, coloring sheets, blocks, books, soft toys, etc.

**Why the name?**

We believe that kids are worshipping in this area just as much as someone sitting in the pews. Worship looks different for all people and so why must we put a limit on what we think worship should look like.

**Why are we doing this?**

We believe that it is important for families and children to see that they are welcomed in church. Studies have shown that kids are able to learn more when their needs are being met. For many of these kids, being able to sit comfortably, able to move around, and keeping their hands busy can help them take in the service.

We have had feedback from parents of their child(ren) talking about what they learned in church on their way home, parents being able to stay in church for the full service, and their children partaking more than they had before. We are all worshipping; it just may look different for each person.

**Where is it going?**

We will be taking chairs outs on the side of the praise band/sound booth. We will be keeping one or two rows of chairs up and were also able to add one chair to each row in the center. So, we will not be eliminating many chairs!

**Why on earth did you put it in the front?**

Because kids pay more attention when they can see what’s going on and they’re short! When they can see what’s going on, they absorb things in a different way.

**Isn't it noisy?**

It has been shown in other churches, that it has not been any noisier and some have even said the noise has been reduced. We will take care in selecting play items that would keep the noise to the minimum. Examples, blocks made of foam, plush toys, no squeaker toys, etc.

The only items that could really be used to make noise would be if a child were to bang a crayon over and over on the table or dumping the entire basket of an it item out. It may happen occasionally, but parents will step in.

The first few weeks may also be a little louder as kids get settled into the Worship Too space**.**

**Who is the Worship Too area intended for? And what other options do parents have for their kids during worship, especially if they don't want to sit in the front?**

We will not be putting an age limit to the Worship Too, as all children are unique and learn differently. We will have guidelines in place and ask parents/guardians to enforce them. We wouldn’t be surprised though to see youth sitting on the floor listening to the sermon while quietly playing with a child.

We also will still have the family room and a staffed Childcare available during the services.

**Aren't the kids distracting to the preacher?**

Not any more than they are when they’re in the pews! The Worship Too area will also be on the side.

**How do you keep it all clean?**

Toys will be washed or sprayed and wiped down each week and we will also have a bag for toys that have been put in a child’s mouth.

**Do you keep the Worship Too up for all your services? Or do you offer a service without it?**

Worship Too will be available at all services. We may take it down for special services or when the church is being used for a funeral or wedding.

**What are the expectations to use this space?**

1. Be respectful to all.
2. Play quietly and share the toys.
3. Please no food/snacks in the area.
4. Pick up after the service.

Any additional questions or concerns, please reach out to

Steph Kiel, Director of Children’s Ministry: skiel@stlukes-elca.org

