



PHILOSOPHY OF CHILDREN'S MUSIC MINISTRY

*Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang:
To Jesus who had blessed them close folded to his breast,
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.*

This familiar hymn reminds us of the unique and compelling role children have had in leading the church in worship through the centuries. Children bring a distinctive blend of spontaneity, enthusiasm, and joy to the worship of God. The church worships better and more completely with children in its midst.

The following is a list of goals and benefits of the Children's Music Program:

- 1. The primary goal of the Children's Music Ministry is to teach each participant what it means to worship God.** In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul wrote, "You who are hoping in Christ were destined and appointed to live for the praise of his glory." We are all created with a basic need to worship God. Through participation in music at Second, children are enabled to worship through the ministry of music. These efforts are coordinated with those of the Children's Ministries Dept. to provide a consistent program of worship education.
- 2. Participation in Children's Choir fosters a deeper familiarity with the Bible.** Children memorize scripture through the songs they sing. Music is carefully chosen, with texts based on scripture or reflecting scriptural truth. These words will often stay with children their entire lives, subtly molding and shaping their theology in later years.
- 3. The Children's Music Ministry encourages spiritual growth.** Children have the opportunity to continually express their faith through the songs they sing and in conversations, devotions and prayers that occur regularly in the context of the music rehearsal. These early expressions of their faith lead to public witness through participation in worship.
- 4. The Children's Music Ministry serves as a vital evangelistic outreach** to children who might not otherwise be drawn to church.
- 5. The ministry of music allows our children to intuitively experience the glory and majesty of their Creator.** They experience music as a language that expresses profound concepts and ideas beyond the bounds of the written word.

6. The Children's Music Ministry equips our children with musical skills such as reading music, rhythmic and vocal training, and ensemble skills like part-singing, tuning and blending. These skills enable each child to enjoy a lifetime of music. Some will become musical leaders in their churches. Others will grow up to become active participants in choirs. All will be equipped for a lifetime of praising God through music.

7. The Children's Music Ministry encourages personal and social growth. Our young singers obtain a sense of accomplishment from taking on a task and seeing it through to its conclusion. They learn discipline, cooperation and the importance of honoring God with their best efforts. They grow in poise and self-confidence through successful performances.

8. Our young singers are encouraged to experience the JOY of making music. Participation is stressed rather than performance. There is no audition. There are no performance requirements. Our leaders are loving and encouraging. The atmosphere is productive, but fun, safe and inclusive. We believe that our children's choirs should be an enjoyable experience!

The ministry of children's music is a *joyful expression of praise* as well as a commitment to developing a deep love and understanding of worshipping God through music. Martin Luther referred to music as "a fair and glorious gift of God." We eagerly share this gift with our children.