

Christmas Pageant

The No-rehearsal, Every-child-gets-a-part Christmas Pageant

Ahead of Time Jobs

Make or buy simple costumes and props

- Sheep ears (have lots of extras)



- Angel wings (have lots of extras)



- Shepherd staffs



- Robes or simple shifts along with squares of material with head bands for shepherds, Joseph and Mary

- Three paper crowns, robes for magi along with 3 fancy boxes for gifts

- Baby doll wrapped in blanket



Clear a space on the chancel for the nativity scene.

Put the empty manger and a bench for Mary and Joseph in the cleared space.

Volunteers:



- Costume and prop makers
- At least two adults to help children with the simple costumes/props and to supervise children before they enter the sanctuary.
- One adult to be at the back of the sanctuary to release children at the appropriate time.
- One adult to be in the chancel area to help place children in the scene.

As the congregation sings "Silent Night" send the children into the sanctuary.

Verse 1 – Mary, Joseph and babe

Verse 2 – Shepherds, sheep and angels

Verse 3 – Magi

Verse 4 – Scene is complete, enjoy

Suggestions:

1. You might want to pick the children playing Joseph and Mary ahead of time.
2. Give out the shepherd staffs at the last possible moment.
3. Suggesting to the children that they pretend to be statues can help them stand still longer.
4. The extra sheep ears and angel wings mean that even visitors can participate.
5. Place baskets or boxes by exits for children to place their costumes/props as they leave.

If you are doing the pageant as part of a candlelight Christmas even service . . .

1. Have pageant at the end of the service.
2. Put instructions in the worship bulletin and have greeters explain instructions to parents and children as they arrive.
3. Include the singing of several carols before "Silent Night." As carol singing begins have children leave the service and come to the designated area. Be sure the carol singing is long enough to allow for any needed visits to the bathroom.
4. As the candle light is passed, sing the last verse of "Silent Night."
5. Have lighting to illuminate the nativity scene.
6. Have children remain in their places until the close of the service and parents come to pick them up. This makes for a great picture taking opportunity.



According to Marie Fleming, Minister of Children's Learning at North Christian Church Columbus, IN:

"This pageant is really easy and quite moving. The kids are wonderful and the visitors are especially glad to be included. Our own staff and families love the simplicity and ease of it. Try this at your church, and don't be surprised if it becomes your newest tradition!"

Thank you
North Christian Church, Columbus, Indiana
for this great Christmas Pageant idea!

If you have ideas, programs, or suggestions to share
with other congregations,
E-mail them to Ronald J. Degges, rdegges@dhm.disciples.org,
and we will share them online.