9:00 Service – Host Family Duties

As soon as the 7:45 service is out (please arrive no later than 8:45) go to the sacristy and get the basket of confession stones from the cupboard marked “Family Worship.” Place them on a rear row of chairs/pew, from where you will greet people. Give each person a bulletin and a confession stone, and introduce yourself if you aren’t already familiar with them.

If the prayer wall hosts have not arrived, also grab the prayer wall and the basket of crayons/markers and set those in the center of the aisle, near the back.

If the musicians have not already done so, please place the wooden instrument trays on the floor, in front of the first pews, on either side of the center aisle.

If the banner carrier has not already done so, please retrieve the banner base from the sacristy and place it in front of the altar rail, on the pulpit side. Bring the banner to the back of the church for the procession-in.

Encourage each person to write their prayers on the prayer wall if they have not already done so.

Pick up the bulletins from the table in Narthex. There is a small sheet attached to the bulletins, which asks for a “count” of the number of people in attendance. Please wait until the offering is being collected to count, and please include everyone, including babies, musicians, and people serving at the altar. Write the number on the form, and send it in the collection plate to the front of the church when that comes later in the service.

From the basket of instruments, take out a rain stick and make sure it is handed to the person designated to turn it two times (at the mention of the rainstick, which happens twice in the service).

During the exchange of the Peace, check the bulletin to see who is assigned the ministry of “Presenter” that morning, and ask them to come to the back of the church to get ready. The communion vessels are on the table in the back of the church, against the wall, near the baptismal font. Hold them steady until all of the talkers are done talking ☺ ensuring that they have a good hold on the pottery, then send them forward the moment the celebrant invites the congregation to follow them up.

During the service it is helpful when the Host Family keeps their eyes on what’s happening. Make a note of everyone who is on the ministry team that morning, and find replacements if anyone is missing. Help the clergy ensure that the banner carrier and the reader are in-line ready to process right at 9:00. Be ready with the prayer wall so it can be carried forward the moment the sermon ends as the children are returning to their seats. Fish the presenters out of the milling-about peace-exchangers and have them ready to go when the peace ends. Offer to help with remnant children if a parent is called to the nursery. Watch for spills. Keep a general, friendly order. Be present to everyone who comes to worship with us. Let your children help with all of these tasks.

When the service ends, invite a child not rushing off to Sunday School to help hand out the Kalendars (announcements and prayers) to folks as they leave. Also, please help return all items to their original place back in the sacristy.

“How good it is when people gather together in God’s love.” Thank you for your ministry.