

# Welcome to Bel Air Church Children's Choir Winter / Lent 2019

January 1, 2019

Dear Parents,

Thank you for enrolling your children in the Bel Air Church Children's Choir! The group continues to learn, grow and expand its ministry -- we had 45 singers this past Christmas! The Children's Choir is a cherished part of our church body, and it is my great joy and responsibility to teach the children to lead worship through song. This Winter and Lent season the children will sing in a **United Worship Sunday March 10**, as well as on **Palm Sunday April 14**.

## Rehearsal and Performance Schedule

**United Worship Service:** Sunday morning, March 10. **Call time 8:30 am** (10 am Service, ending by 11:30)

**Palm Sunday:** Sunday, April 14. **Call time 8:30 am** (10 am Service, ending by 11:30)

**12 Weekly Sunday Rehearsals:** January 13, 20, 27; February 3, 10, 17, 24; March 3, 17, 24, 31; April 7. **Children must miss no more than 3 rehearsals prior to the performance dates in order to participate in the performances.**

**Attendance at ALL rehearsals is highly encouraged.**

**Mandatory Saturday "Dress" Rehearsal: Saturday, April 13** from **9 am (SHARP!) - 10** in the Sanctuary. Note: This is not a true "dress" rehearsal -- children do not need to wear their performance clothes to the rehearsal.

### **IMPORTANT! Sunday check-in and pick-up procedure for Children's Choir:**

**Check-in:** On Sundays, arrive at church by **9:50 am**. Please be on time. Check in at the Children's Ministry Breezeway Kiosk (the breezeway is between the upper parking lot and the Classroom Building). Then walk to the Administration Building (go through the gate on the left), and go to Room A203, which is on the outside corner of the Administration Building (next door to Evans Chapel). There will be a sign outside A203 saying "Children's Choir." Check-in occurs here. (DO NOT go to the rehearsal room, unless you arrive AFTER 10:10 am.) **At 10:10 am the Children's Choir will be escorted from their check-in area to their rehearsal room, where they will rehearse until 10:55.** **New this semester: The rehearsal location may vary, depending on choir size.** Regardless of rehearsal location, check-in and pick-up will be from A203.

**NOTE: Please be on time!** Rehearsals are only 45 minutes, and we are using every moment productively. The Children's Choir has lots of wonderful music to prepare and perform this semester!

**Pick-up:** Between 11 - 11:15 am, children attending choir only, or attending both 9 am Sunday School and choir, may be picked up by parents from Room A203. At 11 am, children attending 11 am Sunday School will be escorted by Children's Choir volunteers to their classes.

## General Information

At the first rehearsal, each child receives a **Ziploc Bag** with the following: Welcome Letter, Practice CD, Lyrics Sheet, and Choir Homework #1. The children take all this home. Only completed homework is returned. You can also email me your child's completion of homework each week.

The **Practice CD** has the songs for the performances, plus fun warm ups. Sometimes there is more than one track of a song on the CD. For example, there may be one track of the main melody, and another of a harmony part. As we progress in rehearsals, I will email you which tracks your child should practice. I urge you to play the CD in your car when stuck in traffic -- this makes the time productive. If you would like additional CDs, please let me know. We also have a drop box of the tracks for you to download to your phone or other device. You will receive a link for the drop box.

The **Lyrics Sheet** has all the words to our songs. The children do NOT bring the Lyrics Sheet sheet to rehearsals, but may refer to it at home.

**Choir Homework** is handed out each week. Although completion is not required, it is highly encouraged! Choir Homework tells the children which specific CD tracks to practice during the week, and has interesting information about how to sing, as well as applications of the Sunday School lesson. If your child does Choir Homework, please sign acknowledgement at the bottom and return it at any rehearsal; or email me that your child has completed it. Your child can re-do homework, for additional practice (and more gold stars!). You can also wait and complete a group of homework assignments at a later or more convenient date in the semester.

Each child gets a **Star Chart**. It is on each child's chair at weekly rehearsals. The children are awarded for attendance, plus double or even triple stars for the dress rehearsal and performances. Choir Homework is also a way to earn stars.

**Prize Baskets** for the children, in recognition of their work during the semester as well as their service to our congregation, are given out Palm Sunday, April 14.

**Attire for Performances:** Think "church clothes" rather than "play clothes." Please avoid clothing that draws attention rather than blending with other children's clothing. Please, no sequins or sparkles (even as accents), since under the lights these really stand out and draw attention away from the whole ensemble. No blue jeans, please. Children should wear quiet and comfortable shoes, as they will be processing and standing on steps -- no high heels or slippery soles. For the Christmas Concert please wear Christmas colors: red, green, white, royal purple, or black / white with a Christmas scarf or tie.

**\$15 Towards Snacks and Prizes:** If you are able to do so, please donate \$15 (or more, if you like!) towards the Children's Choir snacks and prizes fund. You can bring cash or a check made out to Bel Air Church to any rehearsal during the semester (including the dress rehearsal and performance days). Just bring your donation up to me, or place it on the keyboard at the front of the rehearsal room. The children receive a light snack at the end of each rehearsal, as well as a Prize Basket in recognition of their hard work at the end of the semester. We may use a small portion of the funds collected for choir materials such as poster boards, laser pointers, blank CDs and other miscellaneous expenses.

I look forward to a wonderful year as the children and I grow, both musically and spiritually. The Bel Air Church Children's Choir strives to *follow Jesus every day, everywhere, with everyone, so that every person, every neighborhood and every city may be revived and renewed in Jesus.*

In Christ,

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