Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church
Enough for everyone

Tips for serving as a reader in worship

1. Reading in worship is **NOT A PERFORMANCE**.
   You don't have to maintain eye contact with the congregation. But you will want to be prepared to do your best. The words you share are important for us all to hear.

2. **PREPARATION**: Understand what God is saying.
   As you read through the text, think about what's happening in the story. Who are the main characters? Who is speaking? Where do you see God in this story? What stands out for you?

3. **PRACTICE!** Read through it before worship, preferably out loud.
   Four tips to remember:

   1. **Speed** – Take your time and speak more slowly than you would in conversation. If varying the tempo is helpful to the action in your reading, do it!

   2. **Pauses** – Pause at punctuation and paragraph breaks, but you may also want to pause after a dramatic statement or story point. Give the congregation time to take it all in. Make notes on your reading printout to help you remember what you practiced.

   3. **Volume –** As a rule, read louder than you would speak in conversation.

      Don't be afraid to vary your volume to match the story's action. If the reading says that someone is shouting or angry, get louder! If there's a word that should be emphasized, do it!

   4. **Expression** – Use your voice to communicate the emotion of the story.

      If there's a question mark, read it as though you're asking a question. Make your voice go up at the end.

When young people read in in worship, we give them an assignment to practice their part **out loud at least seven times!** What if every reader volunteer did that? Practice builds confidence AND skill. Thank you for leaning into this worship role!