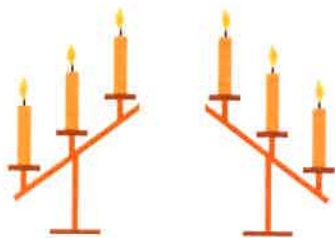


# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



## Why do we use candles in the Divine Service?

Imagine that you are attending a worship service 500 years ago. Since there are no lights, even during the daytime, the church is dark. How will you see what is going on? How will you see the pastor? How will you walk up to the altar to receive the Lord's Supper? As you probably guessed, one of the first uses for candles in church was to give light in the sanctuary. Actually, oil lamps were probably used until the fourth century when candles became more common.



## Is there more to using candles than just lighting the room?

With the invention of the light bulb, candles were no longer needed to light the church. That doesn't mean they lost their importance in the church. Candles have been used for hundreds of years to symbolize Christ's words when he said: "I am the Light of the world" (John 8:12). **Candles remind us that Jesus is the Light that has conquered the darkness of sin.** As you can see, candles play an important role in our worship.



**Parents:** When the candles are lit at the beginning of the service, remind your children that Christ is the Light of the world. Teach them that when the candles are lit, we are honoring our God and recognizing His presence in the sanctuary. He is really here just as He promised!

