

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



What is the “altar”?

When you walk into the sanctuary, what is the first thing you notice? Maybe you see the beautiful stained glass windows. Maybe you noticed the candles. Of all the wonderful sights in our sanctuary, one thing probably comes to your attention first: the altar. The altar is the large, table-like object located directly in the center at the front of the building. The word “altar” comes from the Latin word *altare* which means “a place for offering sacrifices.”

Why do we have an altar when we don’t sacrifice anything on it?

It’s kind of scary to think that we might use an altar for sacrifice. We look at the altar through the eyes of the Gospel. On the top of the altar are often carved five crosses — one for each of the five wounds of Christ. They mark this altar as a place where no more blood sacrifices will occur. The only sacrifice needed was made on the cross. The altar is a place where Christ gives out the forgiveness He earned for us through His death and resurrection. Wow, the altar sure is an important place!



Parents: During the service, direct your children’s attention to the altar. Point out that during the Divine Service this is where God has promised to come to be with us. After the service, take your children up to the altar to observe. Remind them to be reverent in God’s holy place.



Copyright © 2017 LCMS Worship. Created by Christopher Thoma. LCMS congregations and schools have permission to reproduce “KIDS in the Divine Service” for their use.
lcms.org | 888-THE LCMS