

# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



## What are “ceremonies”?

The word “ceremony” comes from the Latin word that means “ritual.” Ceremonies are the actions associated with the words we use in worship. For example, when the Pastor says “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” you may see people making the sign of the cross. Making the sign of the cross is a ceremony. Can you think of other ceremonies that occur during the Divine Service?

## Why do we have ceremonies?

Ceremonies help to keep things reverent and in good order during worship, but **their main purpose is to teach the faith through sight, sound and action.** For example, when we make the sign of the cross, we are reminded of our Baptism. At your Baptism, you received the sign of the cross on your forehead and on your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified! Ceremonies also show what a congregation believes. You can learn a lot about a church by the ceremonies in their worship.



**Parents:** The Lutheran Confessions say: “The purpose of observing ceremonies is that men may learn the Scriptures,” and “the chief purpose of all ceremonies is to teach the people what they need to know about Christ.” If you have questions about the ceremonies of your church, ask your pastor. He will be happy to explain them!

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