

Acolyte Guidelines

An important piece of the confirmation program at
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

Acolyte: From a Greek word meaning follower, attendant, helper. Acolytes are not just the “kids who light the candles” but one of the primary worship assistants working with the pastors and other worship leaders to lead the worship service.

Basic Guidelines:

Prepare for serving:

- **Arrive at least 15 minutes before the service starts.**
- **Dress for worship:** Wear appropriate clothing and shoes.
- Have your hair combed and hands and nails clean.
Please do not chew gum. ☺
- **Locate your serving tools:**

[?] The candle lighter (torch), **robe** (alb...pronounced - ahwlb), **rope belt** (cincture – pronounced sink-chur) and **wooden cross** (to wear around your neck) are located in the

“Cherub Room” to the right of the entry to the sanctuary. Find a robe of the correct length (the hem should be at the top of your shoes) and tie the cincture properly around your waist. (Instructions for tying the correct knot at on the inside of the closet door.)

Processing (walking with respect and reverence) to the altar:

- Check with one of the pastors to confirm when the worship will begin.
- Light the candle wick and line up behind the cross bearer.
- Cross bearer starts the procession as the congregation begins to sing the first hymn.
 - Allow the cross bearer a distance of approximately 4 pews before processing reverently down the aisle at a natural pace. (Not too fast or too slow)
 - **Pause at the altar then *light the **right** candle first. Pause in the middle, and then light the candle on the **left**.

**The lighting of the candles symbolizes the light of Jesus Christ coming into the presence of the worshipping community.*

- Extinguish the flame by lowering it and blowing it out before you place it in the holder on the floor by your chair in front of the organ. Then remain standing until the congregation is asked to be seated.

During service:

1. Fully participate in the worship service. Follow along with the service in the worship bulletin and sing all songs when they are sung. Sit quietly and pay attention to the sermon. Sit and stand when the congregation is asked to do so.

During Offering:

- When the worship leader announces that the service will continue as we receive our offerings (after sharing of the peace) take the offering plates from the altar bring them to the front and center of the aisle. You can pause at the front edge of the chancel. Hand the plates to the ushers. Return to your seat.
 - Watch the ushers during the offering and be aware when the ushers line up at the top of the aisle waiting to return the plates.
 - As the congregation begins to sing the Offering Song (called the Offertory), the ushers will come forward. Rise from your chair, go to the front of the chancel and receive the offering plates from the ushers. Turn and place them on the altar (same place as where you picked them up). After you have placed the offering plates on the altar, you may return to your chair. Remain standing with the congregation. Be seated when they're seated.

During Communion:

- **Gather at the altar when the other communion assistants approach to receive communion from the pastors.**
 - On some Sundays, you may be asked to hold the tray containing the gluten free wafers and wine. When people take the wafer say, "The Body of Christ Given for You". When/If they take the wine, say, "The Blood of Christ Shed for You".

- When communion is finished return the tray to the small table behind the altar and return to your seat.

Recessing from the altar at the conclusion of the worship:

- During the second verse of the closing hymn, get the candle lighter and reverently approach the front of the altar to extinguish the candles.
- Pause in the middle and *re-light the candle lighter from the right-hand candle before extinguishing it.
- Pause in the middle and extinguish the left-hand candle. Turn and process slowly down the aisle with the flame.

** The re-lighting of the candle symbolizes that Jesus Christ is for all people everywhere and also symbolizes the light of Jesus Christ going out into the world where believers are called to serve.*

Extinguish the flame as you reach the narthex.

**On Festival Sundays such as Easter and the Sundays following, you will light the tall “Christ Candle” before you continue down the aisle to the altar. You will extinguish the Christ Candle just before you leave the sanctuary.

After the Service:

1. Return the candle lighter (torch), your robe, cincture and cross necklace to the Cherub Room and hang up neatly.

SPECIAL SERVICES

BAPTISMS

- At the beginning of the service, before walking up the center aisle, light the Paschal (Christ) candle found at the front of the aisle near the Baptismal font. We do this because our Baptism marks our new life with the Resurrected Christ.
- Return to your acolyte chair when the Pastors return to the altar.
- The Paschal candle is extinguished at the end of the service when you walk to the back of the Sanctuary.

ADVENT

During the four weeks before Christmas, we place an Advent wreath in our Sanctuary reminding us of the time needed to prepare for the birth of Christ. The wreath holds five candles that the acolyte lights.

Check with the Pastors prior to the service to find out how and when they want those candles lit. The following is one possible method but they may chose a different one.

- After the reading of the first lesson, take the candle lighter to the altar. Remember to bow your head slightly at the altar.
- Go to the left side of the altar and light your taper.
- Bow your head again at the center of the altar before you proceed to the Advent wreath.
- On the first Sunday, light one candle.
- Extinguish your taper and return to your chair.

- During the postlude, pause and bow in front of the altar and go first to the Advent wreath. Extinguish the Advent candles in the reverse order that you lit them - start with the one you lit last. Now, return to the altar and extinguish the altar candles.

CHRISTMAS

The candle in the middle of the Advent wreath is called the Christ candle. **On Christmas Eve, light it first** and then the other candles on the wreath.

IMPORTANT NOTE.... You are a child of God coming to worship your Lord. You are present to help others have a meaningful experience in worship as well. **We thank you very much for your service to all of God's people!**