

Cross Bearer (Crucifer) Guidelines

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

Crucifer: The term "crucifer" comes from the Latin crux (cross) and ferre (to bear, carry). So, it literally means "cross-bearer". A crucifer is a person appointed to carry the church's processional cross, a cross or crucifix with a long staff, during processions at the beginning and end of the service.

Crucifers and Acolytes are not just the "kids who "carry the cross and light the candles", but are important 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 **cross, robe** (alb...pronounced - ahwlb), **robe 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. There are instructions for tying the correct knot inside the door of the robe closet.

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

- Check with one of the pastors to confirm when the worship will begin.
- Line up in front of the acolyte.
- Cross bearer starts the procession as the congregation begins to sing the first hymn.
 - Process reverently down the aisle at a natural pace. (Not too fast or too slow)
 - **Pause at the altar then proceed around the left side of the altar and place the cross in its stand beneath the stained glass windows.
- Walk to your chair in front of the organ and 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.

Recessing from the altar at the conclusion of the worship:

- During the second verse of the closing hymn, walk to the cross and remove it from its holder. Hold the cross high and reverently approach the front of the altar, then turn toward the aisle.
 - Wait there until the acolyte has extinguished the candles.
 - Process slowly down the aisle with the cross held high.
 - Take the cross back into the Cherub Room and place it in its stand in the closet.

After the Service:

1. Return the cross, your robe, cincture and cross necklace to the Cherub Room and hang up neatly.

During Offering: (ONLY IF THERE IS NO ACOLYTE)

- 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 (call the Offertory), the ushers will come forward. Rise from you 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.

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!