

Acolyte Guide

Resurrection Lutheran Church

The Acolyte is an important member of the leadership team for worship. They traditionally held the role of helping the pastor through the service, specifically with lighting the candles needed for worship. The candles used during service represent Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. Therefore the role of the Acolyte has a great significance, as they bring the Light of the World into the worship space. Anyone from grade 4 and up may serve as an Acolyte.

The Role of the Acolyte:

Before worship:

Arrival ahead of time is important for adequate preparation.

- Arrive early (15 minutes) to talk through logistics with the pastor
 - Be sure to ask whether the Christ Candle (near the baptismal font) is to be lit
- Put on alb and cincture (robe and belt)
 - Albs are found hanging in the third set of sliding doors in the church office
- Check to see that the Taper (candle lighting stick) has a wick suitable for lighting
 - The Taper is located on a hook on the pillar that shares the center and right most doors (near the bulletin cart) in the Narthex
- Be hospitable and welcoming to guests with the pastor and assisting minister
- Light Taper when you hear the church bells start to ring
 - Ask the pastor or assisting minister for help if needed

Beginning worship:

- The Acolyte begins the entrance procession with the lit Taper, after the church bells silence
 - The lit end of the Taper should be pointed away from you
 - Walk at a steady pace so that the congregation can see the flame being brought forth
- When reaching the front of the sanctuary, bow before the altar. Then step up and light the candles on the altar
- After lighting the candles, step back down and bow before the altar
- Quietly blow out the flame and retract the wick back into the Taper
- Place the Taper on the hook that is next to the communion cabinet of the lectern side of the sanctuary
- Take your seat in the front row with the pastor and assisting minister

Ending worship:

- The pastor will say a final blessing and the congregation will sing a sending song. At this time, pick up the Taper from its hanging place on the wall.
- When the pastor gives you a cue (usually the second to last verse of the sending song), bow before the altar and extinguish the candles.
- The assisting minister and pastor will join you in bowing before the altar. The recession will then commence, with the Acolyte leading the way.
- Once you have exited the sanctuary, hang up the Taper on the hook in the Narthex.

After worship:

- Return alb and cincture
- Check to see that none of your belongings were left in your seat in the sanctuary (bulletins, jackets, etc.)

****Wednesday worship services may be held in different locations and with different service structures. Communicate with the Worship and Music Coordinator or Pastor for details concerning the role of the Ushers in these occasions.****

“Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16