

Acolyting at Our Saviors

A Ministry of Hospitality -

The word *acolyte* is from an ancient Greek work that means attendant, or “follower”. An important part of acolyting is to light and extinguish the candles on the altar. We gather as a family of Christ at the altar for our holy meal – communion. The cross above the altar is a symbol of Christ’s presence, when you approach the Lord’s Table reverently you are expressing honor and respect.

Light and fire remind us that God is here with us. When you bring the light (fire) into the sanctuary where people are gathering to worship, and when you light the candles, you are reminding the people that God is with us at home, at school, and at work as well as in the worship service.

When you light the candle lighter again, before extinguishing the candles, and then walk out with your lighted candle lighter, you remind the people that when we scatter out into the world, God will be there with us. Lighted candles also remind us that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

Who gets to be an acolyte?

Here at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, all 7th & 8th grade confirmation students are scheduled on a rotating basis to serve as acolytes.

- Choose which worship service (8:15 or 10:45) that you wish to acolyte at and contact the Service Coordinator, Deb Nollen (dnollen@oursaviorshartland.org or 262-367-6000 x19).
- You will be scheduled at the service time you select on a rotating schedule.
- The monthly schedule will be printed in the scroll, on the church web page, and you will receive notification by mail and reminder by phone.
- If you can not attend the service you are assigned, contact another student to switch dates.
- Only one student will be assigned per service, but you are encouraged to ask another student to pair up with you, and you with them.

Guidelines for Acolyting

Arrive 15 minutes before the Service -

- Put alb (robe) on over clothing, and tie cincture (rope) around your waist
- Locate the candle lighter and be sure the taper (wick) is up enough to light
- Ask the Communion Preparation team where to refill the flagon with wine during communion
- Check the bulletin and ask the pastor if there are any special instructions for the service –baptisms, communion by intinction etc.
- Take your bulletin to the first chair on the right side of the aisle

During Service

- When the first hymn is announced, light the candle lighter
- Hand the lighter to an usher
- Hold the candle lighter in front of you with the bell pointing downward and the flame pointing up.
- Have one hand near the adjustment knob to regulate the length of the taper so that it does not go out
- Walk down the aisle in an unhurried manner (side by side, if there are two of you) toward the altar
- Stop at the edge of the carpet
- Look at the cross and bow your head for a brief moment
- Walk toward the altar and then turn until you are in front of the candle on the right, light it, then light the candle on the left. (If there are two of you, light both candles at the same time).
- Extinguish the flame by lowering the taper and then immediately put it back up once extinguished. **(Never blow out the flame!)**
- Walk to the hook on the wall behind the altar to hang up the candle lighter.
- Sit down in the first chair on the right side of the aisle (next to where the pastor sits)

- At the end of the offering (when the music plays), stand at the edge of the carpet in the center aisle facing the congregation. An usher will hand you the collection plates.
- Hand the collection plates to the pastor and sit down
- Go up for communion when the servers and pastors do
- After you have received communion, stand behind the altar and monitor the supply of bread & wine remaining. If the wine needs to be replenished take the flagon to the kitchen and pour in more.
- After the last person in the congregation line takes communion, you can sit down again

Near the end of the Service –

- During the final hymn, after the Pastor has left the altar, stand and retrieve the candle lighter (if there are two acolytes, stand & go at the same time)
- Bow your head briefly to the cross
- With the taper (wick) facing forward, walk to the candle on the **right** as you face the altar (if there are two acolytes, walk to the one you lit)
- Light the taper from the **left** candle
- Turn the candle lighter and extinguish the candle with the bell (two acolytes will light the taper and extinguish at the same time)
- An easy way to remember which candle to extinguish first is: “**Right** candle first, it’s the right thing to do. **Left** candle last, the light leaves with you!”
- With the bell facing down (in front) and the flame facing up, walk slowly down the center aisle toward the narthex
- When you are out of the sanctuary, extinguish the flame
- Return the candle lighter to where it is stored, and make sure the lighter has been returned too. If it isn’t there, locate the usher you gave it to at the beginning of the service.
- Take off the alb (robe) and hang it back up.



Acolyting

101

For:

7th & 8th Grade
Confirmation Students

at Our Savior’s
Lutheran Church,
Hartland, WI

www.oursaviorshartland.org