

# On Being an Acolyte: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

## Who and What Are Acolytes?

You are an acolyte. Acolytes are youth who serve the congregation during worship. Youth in grades 7 and 8 help this congregation worship well. We need your continued help the summer following confirmation. Your acolyte duties will end when fall confirmation class begins the September after you have been confirmed.

You have specific duties that only you do.

Acolytes light candles, receive the offering, extinguish candles and more.

## How Does An Acolyte Dress?

Everybody who participates in the service dresses according to their role. The pastor wears a robe and a stole. Acolytes wear acolyte robes. Wearing robes reminds us of a couple of things. The first is that we wear what scripture calls the “robes of righteousness.” In other words, because we are baptized, we are clean people, who are “right” with God. Secondly, the robes help the congregation recognize you as a worship leader, and that is what you are.

## Where are the Robes Located?

Robes and lighters are located in room to the North of the chancel. You should get ready for your ministry in this room. When your service is completed, it is your responsibility to hang your robe neatly in that room.

## What to Wear

Dress pants or dress, nice shoes, white robe, cincture (rope). **Do not wear shorts or ratty shoes.**

## Duties of an Acolyte

1. Arrive at church **no later than 15 minutes prior** to the service beginning.
2. Get robe and cincture on
3. Check by robes to see if there are any notes for acolytes  
Suck as: Check to see if the Paschal Candle is to be lit.
4. Be ready to pray with pastors and assistants around 8:20
5. Light the altar candles
  - a) Candles are lit 5-10 minutes prior to the beginning of the service.
  - b) How to light candles
    - i) Move to the first altar and pause for five seconds.
    - ii) Then move to the candles to be lit and begin lighting them.
    - iii) Return to the front of the altar and face it.
    - iv) Pause for five seconds.
    - v) Take your seat.
5. Receive the Offering
  - a) As the ushers are gathering the offering, stand facing the congregation, just behind the rail.
  - b) The ushers will come forward and hand you the offering plates.
  - c) Take them to the altar and lift the plates into the air, well above your head.
  - d) Go to the rear altar place your plates on the altar
  - e) Return to your seats.
6. If there is communion, you will have a basket to collect cups, follow the assistants who are distributing the wine.

## 7. Extinguish candles

- a) This is done during the last hymn.
  - i) If there is not a "Closing Hymn," wait until the postlude.
- b) Extinguish them in the same order as you lit them.
- c) Please remember that you never extinguish the red candle.

## **Points to Remember**

1. If you will be absent, it is your responsibility to find a replacement and notify the church office (so that it can be listed correctly in the bulletin) of the change, no later than Wednesday of the week prior to the change.
2. When finding a replacement, it is best to switch days with another youth, so that everybody serves equally.

## **3. Be sure to arrive at the church early! 15 minutes before the service!**

**Please remember that you are responsible for acolyting on your days. If you are not able to acolyte, you must find your replacement and call the church office, so that it can be put in the bulletin correctly. When you don't show up and don't find a replacement, everybody knows it, because your name will be in the bulletin.**