

Acolyte Training

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Shalimar, Florida

Thank you for serving! Being an acolyte is an important role and not a cute errand or trivial task. As an acolyte you are one of the worship leaders. The Pastor is in charge of the Worship Service so he has the prerogative to tell you to deviate from these instructions.

Why have acolytes in the church?

The Acolyte serves as a helper to the Pastor by performing a number of important functions before, during, and after the worship service. You are an important participant in the worship service.

What is the symbolism?

The lighting of the altar candles in the worship service is symbolic of Christ coming into the presence of the worshipping community (John 8:12). It is symbolic because we know that Christ is with us wherever we go (Zephaniah 3:17, Matthew 28:20). True worship is honoring God with our lifestyles not just on Sunday mornings in a church building.

To acolyte at worship is to bring:

- CELEBRATION (we light candles at a birthday party),
- REVERENCE (we light candles at memorial sites), and
- ANTICIPATION (marking something special – like candlelight dinners).

What is the etiquette for Acolytes?

- Relax and smile
- Walk and move smoothly with purpose
- Too much fidgeting, paper rustling, swinging of your legs, chewing gum, talking, etc. only draws unwanted attention to you.
- Actively participate in the worship service by following the order of service and singing will place the congregations attention on the service and not on you.

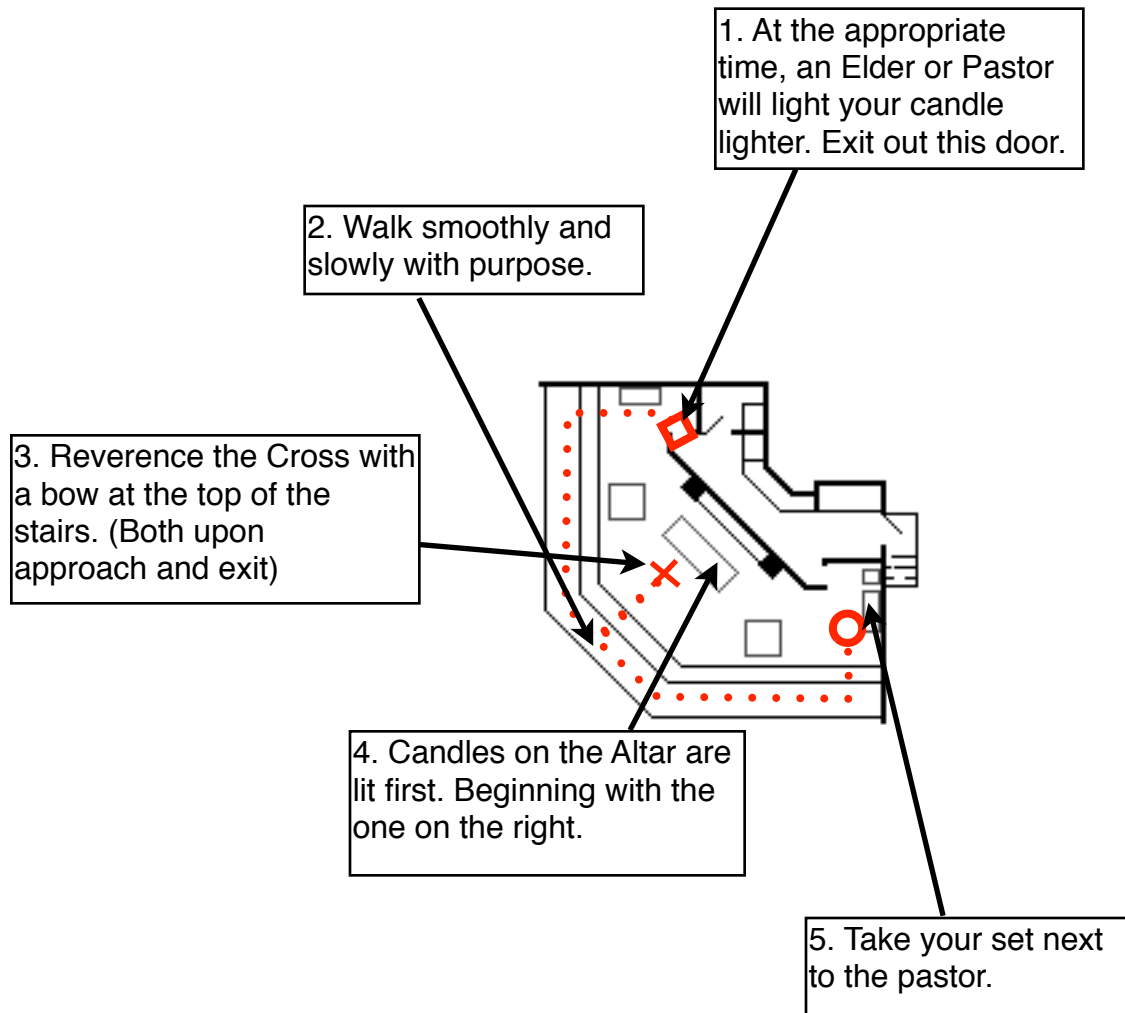
Arrival

- Arrive at least 15 minutes before the service and let the pastor know you have arrived. He will let you know if there are any special instructions for the service.
- Ensure that you have a bulletin for your use to follow the worship service at your seat.
- Robe up. Acolytes robes are hanging across from the drinking fountains. Crosses are hanging on the wall in the Sacristy (Brides Room).
- The Elder in charge usually prays with Pastor prior to the Worship Service in the Sacristy (Brides Room). You should be present for that prayer session.

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Lighting the Candles

In our church we have a number of different types of candles used throughout the year. The Altar Candles, Pascal Candle ("Christ' Candle), and Advent Wreath are typical of the candles we use. The Candles on the Altar are lit first, beginning with the one on your right as you face the altar (the Gospel side). We don't have candelabras for our altar but if we did the first candle lit is the one closest to the cross.



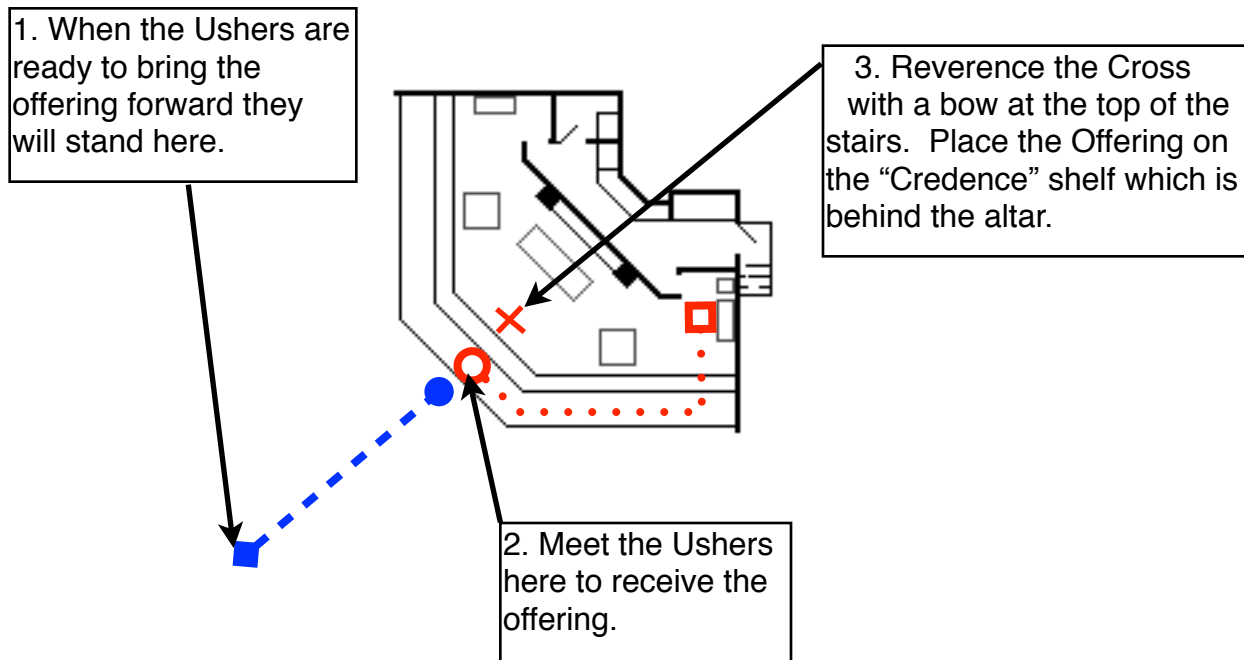
Light this candle first
(Gospel Side - the side where the Gospel is read)

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Receiving the Offering

We don't take the offering, we receive it. It is not a down payment for future favors. It is not a church tax. It is not an admission fee. It is a response of God's Love.

Pastor may change things up on when you should collect the offering but he will tell you. The Ushers are looking to follow your lead in when to bring the offering forward.



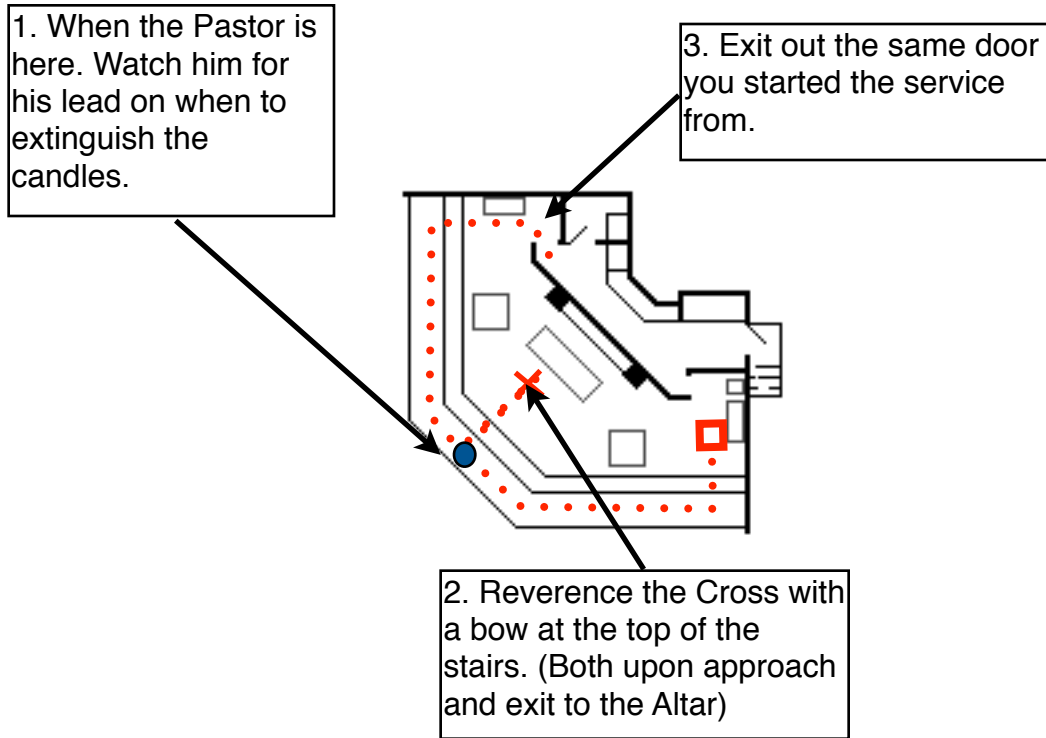
Communion

When the communion assists come forward to the communion rail, you are either to join them or join your family to receive Holy Communion. After you have received Communion, please return to your acolyte seat.

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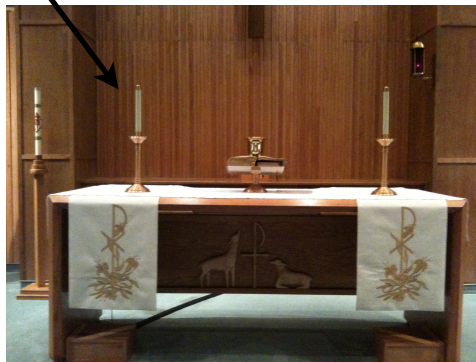
Extinguishing the Candles

The candles are extinguished during the last hymn. Keep your eye on the pastor on when to get started.



Altar First:
Extinguish this candle first
(Epistle Side - the side where the Epistles are read)

Last Candle:
Re-light the candlelighter before you extinguish the last candle (that could be the "Christ" Candle, or one of the Candles from the Advent Wreath).



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Tools of the Acolyte

Care of the Candlelighter

The Candle lighters are stored, and can be found on a hook behind the door in the area behind the altar. Check to see if there is enough taper (wick) in the candle lighter before the service begins. You only need to change the taper' if there is less than 3-4" left. Extra tapers (wicks) are on the counter next to the sink in the room behind the altar.

When using the candlelighter, pull the knob down to put out the flame and then pull the knob up again so some taper shows, otherwise when the wax cools, it will harden and get jammed in the candle lighter chamber!

Place the candle lighter in its stand when it is not in use during the service.

If you have problems with the Candlelighter or notice any issues that affects its use see Family Life Minister Curtis.

Processional Cross

We have a Processional Cross that is normally stored in the Sacristy ("the Brides Room"). It is not normal for us to use this item in our Worship Service so when the time comes when the pastor incorporates into the worship service we will give you special instructions at that time on its use.



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Baptisms

When there is a baptism in the service, the Christ Candle will be next to the baptismal font.

Advent

Advent is the beginning of the Church Year. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day. During Advent we have the candles on the Advent wreath to light.

The lighting of the candles in the Advent Wreath symbolizes the age before the coming of Christ, when the light of prophecy concerning the Messiah became brighter and brighter until He Himself came and said: "I am the light of the world."

Pastor will let you know what candles to light.

Each Sunday another candle on the Advent Wreath is lit until on Christmas Eve when all candles are lit. If you don't remember the order, ask the Pastor.

1st Sunday	purple candle
2nd Sunday	purple candle
3rd Sunday	pink candle
4th Sunday	purple candle
Christmas Eve	white candle

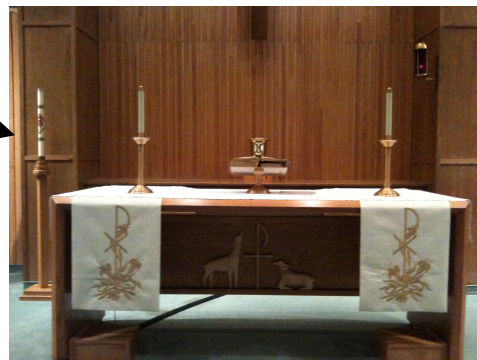
Good Friday Tenebrae

There will be special instructions for the acolyte for the Tenebrae Service. We will need to rehearse this with the Pastor well before the worship service.

Easter Season

The Pascal Candle (Christ Candle) is lit through out the Easter Season.

Pascal Candle/Christ Candle



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Tests and Quizzes after the Orientation Instructions:

1. Practical Test:

- Using the Candlelighter
- Robing up
- Lighting the Candles
- Extinguishing the Candles

2. Written Test:

- Matching
- Multiple choice

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Matching Terms

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. ___ Altar Guild | A. The area where the altar is located. |
| 2. ___ Chancel | B. A stand at which the sermon is preached |
| 3. ___ Doxology | C. A stand at which the lessons are read. |
| 4. ___ Eucharistic light | D. The church's worship of God |
| 5. ___ Gospel candle | E. A special candle lit on Easter Eve and extinguished on the feast of Ascension. |
| 6. ___ Lector | F. A song of praise to the Triune God |
| 7. ___ Lit candles | G. The room where we have announcements and drinks. |
| 8. ___ Liturgy | H. Celebration, Reverence, and Anticipation. |
| 9. ___ Narthex | I. The room behind the altar |
| 10. ___ Pascal Candle/Christ Candle. | J. The room where the pastor robes up |
| 11. ___ Pulpit | K. The side of the altar where the Gospel lessons are read. |
| 12. ___ Sacristy | L. The candles used during Communion services. |
| 13. ___ Sanctuary Lamp | M. The "red" candle |
| 14. ___ Working Sacristy | N. The people who take care of the altar |
| 15. ___ Nave | O. Where the congregation sits |

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Orientation Test

1. When should I arrive to acolyte?
 - A. After the service has begun
 - B. Just before the service begins
 - C. 15 minutes before the service
 - D. 5 minutes before the service
2. Where do I begin lighting the candles? Which one is first?
 - A. The altar candles beginning with the right (Gospel).
 - B. The altar candles beginning with the left (Epistle).
 - C. The Advent Wreath (if there is one)
 - D. The Christ Candle
3. Where do I begin extinguishing the candles? Which one is first?
 - A. The altar candles beginning with the right (Gospel).
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 - C. The Advent Wreath (if there is one)
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4. Which door do I go through at the start of the Worship Service?
 - A. The door closest to the Pulpit (Gospel Side).
 - B. The door closest to the Lectern (Epistle Side).
 - C. The same one as at the close.
 - D. Both A and C are correct.
5. When can I get up and extinguish the candles?
 - A. During the last song.
 - B. When Pastor Ray tells me to.
 - C. After the worship service
 - D. Both A and B are correct
6. When do I go and receive Communion?
 - A. With my parents as they come forward from my Acolyte's seat.
 - B. When the Communion Assistances are standing at the Communion Rail.
 - C. I go sit with my parents when the Communion Assistances come to the Communion Rail.
 - D. I stay put.
7. What should I do if I cannot make it?
 - A. Nothing, Pastor will figure it out – eventually.
 - B. Call Curtis (785-220-1512) to let him know what's up.
 - C. Find someone else to take my place and tell the church office.
 - D. B and C are correct.
8. Where is the nearest fire extinguisher located?
 - A. Trick question, we don't have a fire extinguisher.
 - B. In the Narthex.
 - C. In the Working Sacristy by the bathroom.
 - D. In the Alpha Classroom.
9. Where do you sit at during the worship service?
 - A. With my parents after the candles are lit.
 - B. In the parson's pew unless there are two pastors then in that chair next to the parson's pew.
 - C. In the parson's pew
 - D. In that chair next to the parson's pew

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