

Acolyte Instructions

“Then will I go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight” (Psalm 43:4)

Welcome to the acolyte ministry at Reformation Lutheran Church. You are participating in an ancient ministry within the church. The term acolyte comes from the Greek work *akolouthos*, meaning “follower” or “attendant.” The earliest known mention of acolytes was in the year 251, when Cornelius wrote in a letter that there were 42 acolytes in Rome. In the early years, only boys and young men were acolytes. Now acolytes are young boys and girls who assist the clergy and congregation in the service. From the earliest days, the duties of the acolytes included lighting and extinguishing candles, passing out the offering plates, and assisting with both Holy Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

Before the Service

- Arrive 15 minutes before the service in order to vest (put on the white robe, cross, and rope).
- Once vested, wait for the pastor to pray with you and give any last minutes instructions.

Lighting the candles

- Have the usher light the lighter.
- Before entering or leaving the chancel (area behind the communion rail) stop and bow.
- Light the candles from left to right.
- Sit down in the first pew

Offering

- During the offering, grab the offering plates and give them to the ushers.

Lord’s Supper

- After the words of Institution, come forward with the communion assistant.
- Follow the communion assistant with the basket collecting the used cups.

Baptism

- At the beginning of the baptism, grab the pitcher of water from the altar and pour it into the baptismal font. Place empty pitcher back on the altar.

Extinguishing the candles

- During the last hymn enter the chancel (bow of course) and extinguish the candles from left to right.
- Follow the pastor out of the sanctuary.

After the Service

- Hang up the vestment in the closet.

*Glory to you, Lord Jesus, Glory to you!
Grant that as I have served in your presence today,
help me to serve you and my neighbor. Amen.*