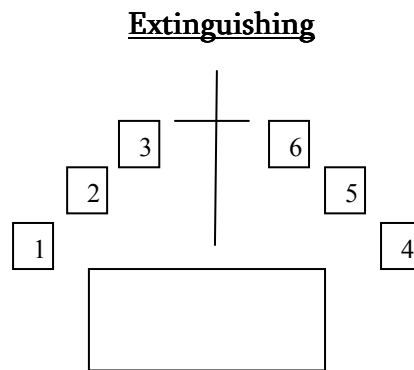
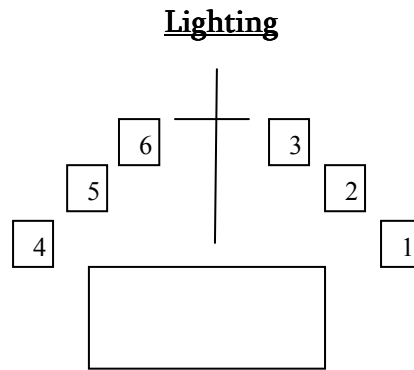


SERVING THE LORD AS AN ACOLYTE



Don't forget to re-light your snuffer before extinguishing the last candle!

Don't forget to reverence (bow) the altar before and after you light the candles and before and after you extinguish the candles!

Your Service as an Acolyte!

Your service to God and St. John's Lutheran Church is needed and most appreciated. Acolytes assist in the services of God's house and as a result, worship services function smoothly and in good order. Your main purpose as an Acolyte is to give glory to God and God alone. Since acolyting is a service to God and His church, you must approach it with respect, professionalism, reverence, and care. Therefore, it is very important that you say a prayer before your service and duty, thanking God for allowing the privilege to serve him. Also, be sure that you are dressed appropriately, that you arrive early, and that you participate in ALL aspects of Worship. **Finally, when you are scheduled to acolyte make sure that you are present!!**



St. John's Lutheran Church

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WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?



What does the word 'acolyte' mean?

- "Acolyte" comes from a Greek word which means, "to follow or attend," "to accompany," or "to be a disciple".

Lighting Candles then and Now

There was a time when electrical lighting didn't exist. Candles and torches served as the source of light when it was dark. Today we rely very heavily on electricity to provide light for us. Interestingly, in modern culture there are still some people that choose to use candles for light rather than electricity and the light bulb. Candles and the oil lamp were crucial to the worship space in the early church. Since candles were the only source of light, it was very important that the lamps be lit and maintained so that worship services were not disturbed. This was the practical reason for acolytes. Clearly, lighting and maintaining the candles of the church was and is a great service to God.

What about Acolytes today?

We have electricity so do we really need candles and acolytes? Well, first of all, acolytes served God in more ways than just lighting the candles. We know for certain that they served the clergy and assisted in other ways throughout the worship services. You will find that to be the case here at St. John's. Your service will prove to be more than simply lighting and putting out the candles at the beginning and end of worship services.

Furthermore, even though we have electricity that illuminates our church week after week the candles in our church serve another purpose. The candles of our church, which produce light, serve as a symbol and reminder to us. In Genesis 1:3, we read, "And God said let there be light, and there was light." In addition to Genesis 1, the most basic and simple explanation for the use of "symbolic light" in the church is based on Jesus' statement in John 8:12, "I am

the light of the world." Candles serve as a reminder to the Christian that their Lord Jesus is truly the light of the world and it is he and only he that is worshiped as Savior and Lord!

Your service as an Acolyte in Christ's church is very significant and important to the worship services conducted in God's house. Jesus Christ is at the center of all we do here at St. John's Lutheran. The light produced by the candles you will light Sunday after Sunday will enhance and serve as an important reminder to all worshipers; Jesus Christ is the light of the world!"

A Brief Explanation of the Candles at St. John's Lutheran Church

The six candles on the Wall – Symbolic of the six days in which God created the earth.

The Candle next to the Pulpit – This candle is called the Paschal Candle ("Pascha" means Easter). Traditionally this candle burns from the Vigil of Easter until either Ascension or Pentecost. The Paschal Candle is also lit when Baptisms and Funerals are conducted. This candle symbolizes the resurrection victory over sin, death and the devil.

The candle hanging from the ceiling – This is known as the "eternal light" or "sanctuary lamp." This candle is always lit. The candle is symbolic of the continual presence of God.

The Three Candles near the stained Glass window – These Candles represent the presence of the Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) in the life of a newly baptized baby. These candles are only lit on the occasion of a Baptism.

Lighting and putting the candles out at St. John's

When lighting the candles always start on the right side of the Altar and light the candle closest to the cross, then work your way down lighting the other two. Once you light all the candles on the right, repeat the step on the left side.

When extinguishing the candles always start on the left side of the altar and extinguish the candle furthest from the cross first. Then continue extinguishing toward the cross. Once all the candles are extinguished on the left, move to the right side of the altar and repeat the steps. Before you put the last candle out (on the right side), light the wick at the end of your "snuffer" as a symbol of Christ continued presence in our lives.

If the Christ candle is used, it is the first to be lit and the last to be extinguished.

