**CHRIST LUTHERAN GUIDE FOR ACOLYTES (updated in 2017)**

**What is an acolyte?**

One who assists in helping lead worship and helps the Pastor

Traditionally, the torch bearers first used to light candles in caves for worship

**General Comments:**

If you cannot be at your assigned service, it is your responsibility to schedule your replacement using the

list you were given.

Be at the church, robed, groomed, and ready for last minute instructions no later than 5 minutes before

worship begins.

Check to make sure your candle lighter has enough of a wick.

**Appearance and Behavior:**

Because you have a visible role in worship, dress respectfully and appropriately.

When you have robed, check in the mirror to be sure you are ready.

No gum chewing.

Always walk and stand straight and reverently.

Don’t slouch in the pew.

Participate fully in all parts of the worship service reading, singing, standing, sitting, etc.

Be attentive to the Pastor---be ready to follow instructions and assist when asked or where needed.

**Acolyte Garments:**

You will wear a robe, also called an alb.

Acolyte vestments are kept in the closet in the Chapel.

Know your size for quick dressing.

Always hang the vestments up carefully on the correct hanger after use.

**Lighting the Candles:**

Enter down the center aisle with the Pastor at the beginning of the opening hymn.

Walk reverently with candle lighters help up.

Light the altar candles.

The large candle, found either in front of the altar or near the baptismal font, is called the Paschal

Candle, and is lit when there is a baptism, a funeral, All-Saints Day, Easter Sunday, or whenever

the Pastor asks you to light it.

Stow your candle lighters carefully.

**Extinguishing the Candles:**

At the close of the service and prior to the last verse of the closing hymn, pick up your lighter and go to the altar to extinguish the altar candles. Also, extinguish the Paschal Candle if it has been lit and walk down the center aisle out of the church.

**Baptism:**

Light the Paschal Candle (the big candle) after the altar candles are lit.

One acolyte helps by standing behind the Pastor. The acolyte lights the small baptismal candle (laying it

on the steps behind the font) from the Paschal Candle (big candle) when the Pastor indicates

and hold it until the Pastor asks for it.

**Altar Candles:** reminds us that Jesus Christ is the light of the world

**Altar:** Table of the Lord

**Chalice:** Cup for wine

**Chancel:** Front area (from altar rail forward)

**Eternal Candle:** Symbol of the presence of God

**Host Box:** Container used to store Communion bread

**Lectern:** Where scripture lessons are read

**Narthex:** Entry to sanctuary

**Paschal Candle:** Easter Candle or Passover candle lit for Easter or special occasions

**Paten:** Plate that holds the bread to be distributed

**Pulpit:** Where the Gospel is read and the sermon is preached

**Sanctuary:** Worship space; Holy Space