

MOUNTAIN VIEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

Acolyte Program For 6th, 7th, 8th Grades

Attendance at one acolyte class is strongly encouraged for all 6th graders (and 7th/8th graders who have not attended a previous class or need a review). Parents are welcome to observe and attend the class.

Requirements

Acolytes are required to serve at one 8:00am service and one-two other times, for a total of two-three times per year. If you have a scheduling conflict on Sundays during the entire year, there are some Saturday services and Christmas and Holy Week services. Please sign up with the worship coordinator.

Reminders

Acolytes will receive an initial e-mail to confirm the dates signed up for. Acolytes will also receive an e-mail on the Tuesday prior to his/her Sunday to serve. **If the acolyte cannot be there, he/she should trade with another person and inform the worship coordinator of the change.**

Dress code

Please **dress appropriately** for church: nice shoes, no flip flops, no bulky open toe sandals (unless girls' dress shoes), laces tied, dress or nice slacks for girls and long pants for boys. Refrain from chewing gum.

Time

Please arrive 15 minutes before the start of the service to dress in your robe. Check in with the worship coordinator or volunteer at the information desk in the narthex for any special instructions. You will be informed of the proper color cross to wear.

Robes

The robes are located in the room off the front of the sanctuary. Please choose a size which is as long as possible without tripping if you bend over.

Lighting the candles

The worship coordinator will light your taper and send you down the aisle at the appropriate time. **Walk slowly to the altar**, pausing briefly at the bottom of the steps and again in front of the altar. Light the back candle first and then the front candle.

(During the season of Christmas there will be an advent wreath. Light the appropriate candles. The ushers or coordinator will instruct you on this)

After the candles have been lit, extinguish **the wick by blowing it out**. Be seated (walking in **front** of the altar) and place the taper on the hook.

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During the service

Use the bulletin provided for you (on the chair) to follow **the service and sit or stand as though you were in the congregation participating**. Remember, you are in the chancel area and the congregation will notice anything you are doing. Please be alert to what is happening around you. For the sermon: **move down to the front, short pew closest to the altar**. When the other pastor moves off the altar, this is a good time for you to do the same.

Offering

Only one acolyte needs to go forward to collect offering plates. Please decide among yourselves before service who will do this. Once the offering is collected proceed to the **bottom step, center of the altar to collect the offering plates. Turn around walk up to the altar, bow and place offering plates on the altar.**

End of service

During the last verse of the last hymn prepare to extinguish the candles which you lit (front, then back, walking in front of the altar). Put the bell shape end of the taper over the flame and hold it there for a few seconds until the flame is extinguished. (Do not place the taper too tightly on the candle or it will stick)

Move down the aisle and out of the sanctuary before the congregation receives the blessing from the pastor. Return your taper to the worship coordinator and return your robe to the closet hanging neatly on the hanger.

Communion Sundays

After you have received your communion, each acolyte will pick up an empty tray which will be on the table by where the pastors sit. These are used to collect the used communion cups. (The middle of the tray will have cups filled with grape juice for those who do not drink wine. Be alert to someone wishing to take one and wait for soiled cup) you will each follow along behind a pastor and the congregation will fill the tray with the used communion cups

Please review this information and show it to your parents. Any questions? Please ask or e-mail the worship coordinator at worshipcoordinator@mvlutheran.org

Thank you for serving!