

September 28, 2016

To: All Faith Confirmands and Parents

From: Pastor Moberg and Sue Mathwich

Re: Acolyte Guidelines and Schedule – **October 3-December 25, 2016**

Acolyting is a required part of our confirmation program here at Faith. Serving as an acolyte, confirmation students can render a meaningful and important service to their congregation, develop good habits of taking responsibility for their congregation's worship life, and learn about being a part of the people of God living together in service to him.

These assignments are made by simply going down the class lists and assigning two acolytes to each service as the rotation falls. The only thing I have done is to try to alternate the 8:00 and 10:30 so that everybody has to do all! I know this will cause some scheduling difficulties! If you find that a date or time for which you are scheduled is:

- < **INCONVENIENT** - Think of it in terms of a sacrifice of service for the sake of the church.
- < **IMPOSSIBLE** - Find someone you can switch with and call the church office by 1:00pm on Thursday of the week you are scheduled for so that we can get the right name in the bulletin. Office number is 623-3610, or Sue Mathwich, Acolyte Coordinator at 623-5151.

How many times you acolyte depends only on how many confirmation students we have. I suggest that you underline your name wherever it appears and circle the dates so that you will remember when you're scheduled to serve as an acolyte.

GUIDELINES FOR ACOLYTES

When you serve as an acolyte you are really an assisting minister at the worship service. Your presence is important to the congregation. As an acolyte you have an important role to play in helping our worship service be a well run and meaningful experience for all of us. We are looking forward to working with all of you. Here are some points to remember to make you a better acolyte.

DRESS: There is no doubt in my mind that God does not care nearly as much about what we wear to church as he does about whether or not we're there. I'm glad that the days are gone when the only acceptable dress for church was the most stiff, formal, and uncomfortable clothes you owned. God loves you for what you look like inside! **But**, being a minister in worship (as acolytes are)

means being concerned that *the things we say and do during worship indicate our reverence for God and the church*. So, for acolytes, being dressed neatly is important. The vestments that acolytes wear cover most of your clothes so there is less to worry about. The ends of your pants legs and your shoes do show though, so no wild patterns or loud colored pants and **no jeans**. Girls may wear either pants, a dress, or skirt. Shoes should be clean and neat, **no tennis or jogging shoes, if possible**. Remember that the albs can be rather hot so you don't want to dress too warmly underneath them, especially in warm weather.

DUTIES: These are the duties for acolytes on Sunday morning:

1. You should be at the church at least 20 minutes before the service so you can make preparations without disturbing worshipers.
2. Check that there is a service bulletin and hymnal for you on the acolyte bench in the chancel.
3. Check the candles. If the wick is too long, trim it so the candles won't smoke. If the wick has been pushed over or down into the wax carefully lift it up so you can get it lit. Be sure the candles are straight and standing in the right place.
4. Check the candlelighters. Be sure they have tapers (wicks) long enough so they won't burn out. Replace them if necessary. Be sure that lighters are hanging on the wall behind the sacristy door and that you have matches (matches can be found in the drawer next to the tall cupboard.)
5. Check to see that the processional cross has been placed next to the dividing partitions in the overflow area.
6. You will find the acolyte abls (gown) in the tall closet across from the sacristy and ladies restroom.
7. Check with the pastor to see if there are any extra candles to light or extra duties for the service at which you are acolyting.
8. Be vested 10 minutes before the service and in the pastor's office so that he can check last minute details with you.
9. Be reverent. Remember, you are a minister at a worship service. **This means that your attitude and actions should not distract anyone else from worship and it also means that you are worshiping, too.**

Pastor Bob