

# HOW TO ACOLYTE

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## Why Acolytes Shine

Six things to know about acolyting in worship.

1. Candles in our worship services are symbols of Christ’s presence among us.
2. The primary duty of an acolyte is to bear the light of Christ.
3. The liturgical practices of a congregation will determine how an acolyte participates in the worship service.
4. The word acolyte means “one who follows.”
5. When one serves as an acolyte, one lives out or follows one’s baptismal vocation.
6. Serving as an acolyte requires knowledge of some vocabulary about worship.

**Big Idea:** Acolyting is a way to serve God.

What three questions do you have about how to acolyte?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Bible Connection

Read Acts 2:1–3. This is the story of Pentecost, which Lutherans celebrate on the 50th day after Easter. The season of Pentecost lasts for as many as 28 weeks. The flame symbolizes the Holy Spirit that came upon the early Christians after Jesus ascended into heaven. Why do you think we celebrate Pentecost for so long? How does the image of flame help you connect with God?

## Handbook Connection

Read “How to Acolyte” section on pages 68–71 of *The Lutheran Handbook II* carefully. Underline or highlight things that seem important to you. Circle the parts you find strange or odd. Each congregation expects different things from its acolytes. If you have not been an acolyte before, ask your pastor to spend time helping you learn the details of acolyting.

## My Life

When you were baptized, the pastor gave you a candle and said: “Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” How can you glorify God by letting your light shine this week? What is a “good work” you could do in your school, home, or community in the near future? Think of a creative and fun way to let others know what you believe in!

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## TRIVIA (JEOPARDY-STYLE)

### Bible Basics

1. John refers to Jesus as the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world.
2. In Luke's gospel, Jesus said, "No one after lighting a \_\_\_\_\_ hides it under a jar..."
3. God led the people of Israel by a pillar of \_\_\_\_\_ at night.
4. The Holy \_\_\_\_\_ brought tongues, as of fire, upon the early Christians.

### Acolyting 101

1. Most acolytes should wear a white one of these.
2. The primary task of an acolyte is to light these.
3. A taper is the object that helps an acolyte carry this into the sanctuary.
4. This word means "one who follows."

### Burn Baby Burn

1. A candelabrum typical consists of how many candles?
2. This tall candle is lit on special occasions.
3. During this season, we light a different candle during each of four weeks before Christmas.
4. What should you do to the fire before the service ends?

### Let Your Light Shine

1. When you were baptized, you were told to let your light do this.
2. We let our light shine by doing good \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Our good deeds glorify whom?
4. If the world is the darkness, what are we called to be?

**Prayer:** God, help me see your light when the world around me is dark. Amen.

**Bible Verse:** I am the light of the world.  
John 8:12