

ACOLYTE INSTRUCTIONS during COVID-19

(Updated October 2020)
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Crookston, MN 56716

During COVID-19, the acolyte's responsibilities will be to light and extinguish the candles. Since we want to limit close contact between people, the acolyte will not be assisting with communion - collecting empty communion cups. The people will dispose of their own empty cups at the end of the service as they exit the sanctuary. Below are detailed instructions concerning the lighting of the candles. Please ask for help if you have any questions. Thank you for serving St. Paul's in this way!

1. Arrive at church 15 minutes before services begin.
2. Pick up a bulletin and scripture sheet insert so you will be able to follow along with the worship service.
3. Find matches or the lighter in the sacristy (room where the candle-lighter is stored) and light the candle-lighter. (**Always take care not to drop or damage the candle-lighter.**) You may have to cup one hand over the flame to keep the ceiling fans from blowing it out.
4. Light the candles 5 to 10 minutes before services begin.
5. Approach the altar through the center opening in the railing, carrying the lighted candle-lighter. It is important to have enough wick extended to keep it burning.
6. Pause a few seconds at center of altar giving honor and reverence to God.
7. Light the **right** candle **first**, then the left and extinguish the lighter by sliding the wick into the lighter.
8. Leave the altar through the center opening in railing, taking a seat in the front row. Make sure the candle-lighter is safely stored on the pew until needed.
9. During the last hymn, **as soon as Pastor has walked past you on his way to the back of the church**, walk up to the altar through the center opening in the railing carrying the lighter, stopping again for a few seconds of reverence to God in front of the altar.
10. Extinguish the **right** candle and then the left one using the snuffer inside of the candle-lighter.
11. Depart through the center opening of the railing, returning to the sacristy (room where the lighter is stored).
12. Put the candle-lighter away, hanging it in the closet.
13. Exceptions to the above would be services where there is no opening in the railing at which time you would enter and leave the altar by way of the back of the railing on the choir side.
14. If you are unable to be at a church service at which you have been assigned to acolyte, please inform the church office or find your own replacement.

REMEMBER THAT IT IS AN HONOR TO SERVE OUR LORD IN THIS WAY!