

**Serving as an Acolyte...** We are especially pleased to invite folks to serve as a Worship Leader as an Acolyte. Although at BLC Acolytes have historically been confirmands or other young members, there are no age restrictions and anyone of any age is encouraged to serve as Acolyte. The only “restriction” that is more size than age related is that an Acolyte must be comfortable and able to handle fire and safely reach up to light and extinguish the candles.

Because Acolytes vary in age and experience, there are understandably differences in what they are comfortable doing. As such, several options are available to help each Acolyte offer service through this ministry with activities and circumstances they are comfortable with.

These options and expectations include:

- **Schedule** – We are delighted that several young people (currently 7) have stepped forward and offered to serve in this ministry. Given this comparatively large number, a rotating schedule will be used to ensure that all of those who want to serve as an Acolyte are able to do so. The schedule will be developed by the Volunteer and Ministry Support Coordinator in an ongoing manner, based on the availability of each Acolyte.
- **Arrival** – Acolytes should plan on arriving ten minutes before the start of service. That is, by 8:45AM for a typical Sunday’s 8:55AM start. Arrival time should be adjusted for other services with different starting times accordingly.
- **Attire** – Acolytes are encouraged to robe when they are serving. In addition to a robe fitted to their size, robed Acolytes wear a cross as a symbol of their faith and Christ’s promise of our salvation. Doing so allows the Acolyte to express the special nature of their service in a visible and respectful manner. However, if the Acolyte prefers, they are most welcome to wear their regular Sunday church clothes.
- **Where they sit** – Acolytes are encouraged to sit in the Chancel with the other worship officiants. Doing so includes the Acolyte more fully and visibly among the faithful servants directly leading worship. However, if the Acolyte prefers, they may sit with their family in the congregation during worship.
- **Receive the offering** – If they are comfortable doing so, Acolytes are encouraged to assist by receiving the offering. Whether sitting in the Chancel area or in the congregation, they do so by stepping to the front of the chancel area at the appropriate time, taking the offering plate from the Usher and then presenting the offering to the Pastor for the subsequent blessing and prayers.