

Parents & Family of **children and youth 3rd grade and older and Adults any age,**

The Acolyte Program is still being developed, and we hope that on October 4, 2026, we will have a lineup signed up and trained. August was a little too soon to make sure all our volunteers are onboard, trained, and ready to serve. This wonderful tradition symbolizing the light of Christ being brought into the Church and then back into the world will be a blessing to those that are involved and also a blessing to the entire organization! If you prefer signing up online, we will have a link to do so on the Children's Ministry page of our website in the next week or so. <https://saladoumc.org/ministries/children>

Also, we will have it soon available on our Facebook page at:
<https://www.facebook.com/share/182vp1N4Dz/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

There will be a sign-up sheet with me in the Atrium before church services and in the Sunday School Classroom room 122 during Sunday School. During the week, the sign-up sheet will be in my office. You can find the Sunday you want in the month or months you want to serve. Please be mindful when signing up that your child will be available 15 minutes before service begins on those Sundays. We will have Acolytes every Sunday for the 9:00 Service. But since we only have a couple of children/youth old enough in the 11:00 Service, we will plan to only have Communion Sunday (1st Sundays) for Acolytes during that service. If we have more who are interested and available, we can always expand to more Sundays for the late service.

The same is true for the Adult Acolyte Marshalls. Adults who want to serve as an Acolyte Marshall would entail being at the Worship Center 15-20 minutes before service to get the Acolytes and Cross-bearers ready to enter, then at the end of the service to receive them.

A rotation of 1 Marshall per week or month is preferable for the 9:00 service.

1 Marshall per month (1st Sundays) is needed for the 11:00 service.

The sign-up sheet for Acolyte Marshall will be in the atrium before services, in room 122 during Sunday School, and in my office during the week.

IF YOU AND/OR YOUR CHILDREN WOULD BE INTERESTED, we have scheduled the training days/times for both Acolytes and Marshalls to **Sunday, September 27th at 1pm OR Wednesday, September 30th at 4:30 pm (before Wednesday Fellowship Meal)**. Please choose one of the training dates that work best for you.

Thank you all for being such a vital part of our church's Children's ministry! Check your August newsletters and upcoming bulletins, eblast, and social media for updates.

Beth

P.S. Information Briefing on Acolytes:

An **acolyte** is an altar server who assists the clergy during worship services, by lighting candles to signify bringing the light of Christ into the church, then at the end of the service, they will take the light of Christ out into the world. A **Crucifer** is the specific acolyte assigned to carry the processional cross and place it at the altar then carry it behind the candle lighter acolyte. An **Acolyte Marshal** is the adult leader who makes sure that the robes, lit candle lighter, and cross are given to the acolytes, that they know when to enter, and then signaling the acolytes when to go extinguish the candles at the end of service.

