

CRUCIFER GUIDELINES
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
August 2024

Schedule:

- Scheduling is done by a computer program administered in the church office. The schedule for the month is posted online at <http://gslutheran.org> .
- Check the schedule to see when you are assigned to serve.
- If you know a month in advance that you are unable to serve for a specific date or dates, please do contact the church Office Coordinator (office@gslutheran.org), you will not be scheduled.
- If you cannot serve your assigned time, please first try to switch with another crucifer, either scheduled that month or any other crucifer. Call the church Office Coordinator with your replacement so that the verger can be informed.
- The church office can help if you can't find a replacement, but please make every effort to find your own replacement.
- You will receive an email reminder.

Before the service:

1. Check in with the Verger and let them know that you are here.
2. (8:30) Choose your robe, rope belt (optional) and cross from the sacristy closet.
3. (10:45) Do not put on a robe but do give some consideration to what you are wearing before you come to church since you will be serving in front of everyone.
4. For the 10:45am service, make sure there is a bulletin at your place in the front left pew. For the 8:30 service, you will be sitting behind the altar in the farthest chair to the left. Make sure there is a bulletin there. It is typically in a binder sitting on your seat.
5. Remove the cross from the holder. Carry the cross to the entryway.
6. Stand near the ushers, ready to lead the procession into the sanctuary.

As the service begins:

1. During the prelude, **you will lead** the procession into the sanctuary. **The order to process is cross, candle, pastor/assisting minister.** The pastor will tell you exactly when to start.
2. Hold the cross with one hand at your waist and the other hand at chest height. Keep the cross vertically straight.
3. Do not walk too fast during the procession and the recession.
4. Bow or nod as you approach the altar to acknowledge God's presence in the space, then walk the cross to the holder and carefully put it into the holder, making sure it is facing the congregation.
5. (8:30) Walk around the right side of the altar to your seat on the right side or (10:45) sit in the left pew.

During the service:

1. It's distracting to those worshipping when you get up and leave, so plan to remain in place for the entire worship service.
2. Remember that your service might be live streamed. If you're sitting behind the altar, you will be visible to those watching, so keep the wiggling and questionable gestures to a minimum.

Communion:

1. After we say the Lord's Prayer, there is the Invitation to Communion and we sing the "Lamb of God". As that song begins, the crucifer and acolyte will go behind the altar to receive communion.
2. Once you have received communion, you can return to your seat, unless the pastor asks you to help in some way.

At the end of the service:

1. When the singing begins, retrieve the cross from the stand and with the cross facing the congregation. You will wait for acolyte to extinguish the candles then walk to the back. The acolyte, assisting minister and Pastor will recess together.
2. Remain standing in the doorway, with the cross and facing the congregation, until the dismissal is finished.

After the service:

1. Return the cross to its holder by in the narthex
2. (8:30) Return to the sacristy and hang up the robe, rope belt and cross to the sacristy closet.