YOUR STOLE

It has been the tradition at ASLC that each confirmation student designs and makes a stole that is presented to the student on Confirmation Day.

In Protestant churches, the stole is most often seen as the symbol of ordination for the office of the ministry of Word and Sacrament (Pastor) and the office of Word and Service (Deacon). Stoles are often given by the congregation {sometimes handmade or decorated} as a love gift at ordination or at other life milestones. Generally, Protestant Pastors wear the stole in the same manner as Anglican or Roman priests – around the back of the neck with the ends hanging down the front {and not crossed}. Protestant Deacons wear the stole in a diagonal fashion from the left-shoulder to the right hip. Stoles are commonly worn by ordained ministers in Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, Christian Church {Disciples of Christ}, and other denominations.

One suggestion about the origin of the stole as a liturgical vestment has to do with its similarity to the yoke, which is commonly used in an ox hitch. A stole around one's neck is thought to symbolize work, service and labor on behalf of another – as a yoke of oxen serves their master's needs.

Thus the stole is not mere decoration or ornamentation. It is a symbol of service, and should be worn in a spirit of humility. Parents are expected to help with the Stoles.

Notes on creating Confirmation Stoles:

1. Put together sets of felt pieces in envelopes.

2. Place reworked version of instruction sheets in envelopes.

3. Maybe start with "friends and family" symbols.

4. Have a time on a Wednesday night to review meanings of "faith" symbols.

5. Listen to instructions on how to "check out" 3-4 symbols each week to take home.

6. Include a piece of paper cut to appropriate width of stole for a guide.

7. Figure out a special time when gluing, adding sparkle or puffy paint, finishing stoles can take place – with parents helping out!

8. "Extra time" on Wednesdays can be used to work on stoles.