

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Installation of Leaders in the Congregation

INTRODUCTION

This order is intended for use primarily when installing congregation council members and other elected officers of the congregation.

When set within Holy Communion or the Service of the Word, this order is used before the prayers of intercession. Those who are being installed may come forward at the conclusion of the hymn of the day or after the creed.

The assembly is seated. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

The following people have been *elected* [by the congregation] to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these *sisters and brothers* will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

The offices and names of those who are to be installed are read by a representative of the congregation.

The presiding minister addresses those being installed.

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

The presiding minister continues.

You have been *elected* to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

The specific duties of those being installed as outlined in the constitution may be read, or the following or similar words may be said.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

The presiding minister addresses those being installed.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices

to which you have been *elected*?

Response:

I will, and I ask God to help me.

The assembly stands. Those being installed face the assembly. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your *elected* leaders,
and will you share in the mutual ministry
that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.

I now declare you installed as *officers / council members* of this congregation.

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace,
that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

Amen.

The service continues with the prayers of intercession. Prayers are included for the newly installed leaders. After the greeting of peace, the newly installed leaders return to their places.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

This order is appropriate for use primarily with those whose positions in the congregation represent volunteer service. Installation of Lay Professional Staff is an appropriate form for use with staff persons whose ministries entail major occupational commitments.

The primary use of this order is for installing those who are elected to positions of leadership by the congregation or the congregation council. It may be adapted for use when installing those who are appointed to certain positions of leadership.

The opening address may be modified as is appropriate to the positions of leadership into which people are being installed.

After the brief scripture passage, a representative of the congregation or the presiding minister may read from the constitution the specific duties of those who are being installed, or may provide an appropriate summary. Or, a representative of the congregation or the presiding minister may read the general description provided in the order. This or a similar general description is especially suitable when installing members of the congregation council, or when those being installed serve in a wide range of positions of leadership.