In 2016, this church in assembly voted to unify the former three lay rosters into one Roster of Ministers of Word and Service (deacons). At that time, consecration, which was already used as the rite for two of the three lay rosters, was chosen as the transitional entrance rite for ministers of word and service. An Entrance Rite Discernment Group has been tasked with recommending either consecration or ordination as the appropriate rite going forward. The Churchwide Assembly will vote on the entrance rite at the 2019 assembly. For now, you can access the interim rite on the Worship site.

1. What are some of your responses and reflections to the issues raised in these papers?
2. Based on your understanding, what entrance rite do you think would be appropriate for ministers of word and service, and why? What effect do you think this will have on the ELCA?
3. Although, these papers do not address this directly, what symbol(s) would be most appropriate to represent the work of ministers of word and service?

If you would like the members of the Entrance Rite Discernment Group to see your answers, please send your responses to Deacon Krista Anderson at Krista.M.Anderson@elca.org.