



## Welcome to the Roster of the Ministry of Word and Service

*Because all of its baptized members share in Christ's ministry of love and service, the church equips and supports them for their ministries in the world. Within this context of ministry, the church calls some of its baptized members for specific ministries.*

*The ministry of word and service has New Testament roots in the ministry of diakonia: Stephen, Philip, and five others oversee the distribution of food within the church in Jerusalem; Phoebe and Priscilla are identified with diakonia in Paul's letters. Although this ministry has taken different forms throughout the church's history, its emphasis has been this: Those called to the ministry of word and service speak God's word to God's world, and in turn they speak also for the needs of God's world to the church; they give leadership in the church's mission to witness to God's love through both words and actions.*

*Welcome to the Roster of the Ministry of Word and Service is intended for optional use with those who have previously been commissioned or consecrated as associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its predecessor church bodies, and who, by action of the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, are now included in a single, unified roster as ministers of word and service, also known as deacons.*

*Welcome to the Roster of the Ministry of Word and Service may be set within the service of Holy Communion, following the sermon and the hymn of the day. The Nicene Creed or Apostles' Creed may precede this rite. The rite may be used to acknowledge one or more deacons within a synodical gathering, as part of a regularly scheduled service of a congregation, or within a specific service for this purpose.*

## Presentation

*The presiding minister invites the person/s being welcomed to the roster of the ministry of word and service to come before the assembly. The assembly is seated.*

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

Today we welcome name/s to the roster of the ministry of word and service in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Having served on the former *roster/s* of *associates in ministry / deaconesses / diaconal ministers*, *they are* now part of the roster of ministers of word and service, who are also known as deacons.

## Address and Questions

*The presiding minister addresses the minister/s of word and service.*

All baptized Christians are called to share in Christ's ministry of love and service in the world, to the glory of God and for the sake of the human family and the whole creation. You have been called as *ministers* of word and service to give leadership in the church's mission to proclaim the gospel through word and deed. You have been entrusted with this ministry.

*One or more of the following scripture passages are addressed to the minister/s of word and service.*

*A reading from Luke:* Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."  
(*Luke 4:18-19*)

*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*)

*A reading from Second Corinthians:* The love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!  
(*2 Corinthians 5:14-17*)

*The presiding minister addresses the minister/s of word and service.*

Before almighty God, to whom you must give account,  
and in the presence of this assembly, I ask:

Will you continue to accept this ministry, believing that you are called by God  
to serve faithfully as *ministers* of word and service?

*Response:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America confesses  
that the holy scriptures are the word of God and are the norm of its faith and life.  
We accept, teach, and confess the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds.  
We also acknowledge the Lutheran confessions  
as true witnesses and faithful expositions of the holy scriptures.  
Will you therefore continue to serve in accordance with the holy scriptures  
and these creeds and confessions?

*Response:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you continue to be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures  
and faithful in your use of the means of grace?

*Response:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you continue to witness to Jesus Christ in word and deed,  
pray for God's people,  
and by your own example encourage them in faithful service and holy living?

*Response:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things,  
graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

*The assembly responds: Amen.*

*The assembly stands.*

## **Acclamation by the Assembly**

*The ministers face the assembly. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

Will you, assembled as the people of God,  
continue to receive name/s as *ministers* of word and service,  
sent by God to serve all people in Christ's name?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

Will you pray for *them*,  
help and honor *them* for *their* work's sake,  
and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?  
**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

Let it be acclaimed that *name/s*  
*are ministers* of word and service in the church of Christ,  
*deacons* who *are* called to serve among God's people  
as together we bear God's creative and redeeming love to all the world.  
**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

*The service continues with the prayers of intercession. Prayers are included for those who have been welcomed to the roster of the ministry of word and service, all ministries in the church, and all Christians in their vocations.*