

**Affirmation of ministry
at the
re-election of a synod bishop**

This order is intended for use when a bishop of a synod is re-elected and is intended to be used during the synod assembly. When possible, this rite is set within Holy Communion and precedes the prayers of intercession. This rite may be used by itself when circumstances do not allow for the affirmation to take place during Holy Communion. The vice president of the synod and/or the churchwide representative leads the rite.

The leader addresses the assembly.

**When a bishop is newly elected,
a service of installation is planned
and takes place at a time after the assembly.
At this assembly we re-elected our bishop
and now we affirm *them* in *their* call.**

**name has been re-elected
to serve a six-year term
in the office of bishop in the synod name
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

**The prophet Isaiah writes,
“How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger
who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’ ”**

The leader addresses the bishop.

**Bishop name,
when you were first installed
you promised to discharge your duties
in accordance with the Holy Scriptures
and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church.
You promised to be diligent
in your study of the Bible
and in your use of the means of grace.
You promised to give faithful witness in the world,
that God’s love may be known.**

**You promised to guide, encourage
and support the people of this synod
in their varied ministries and the ministries of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

**Now, this synod, gathered here in assembly,
has renewed your call to this ministry.**

**Will you renew your efforts
to keep the promises you have made,
striving to fulfill all of the duties,
responsibilities, and obligations
of your office as bishop of this synod?**

The bishop responds:

I will, and I ask God to help me.

The leader addresses the assembly.

**People of God,
will you continue to receive first name,
as a servant of God and a shepherd
in Christ's church?**

**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?
If so, answer, "We will."**

The assembly responds:

We will.

Let us pray. (*brief pause*)

**Ever-living God,
strengthen and sustain, first name,
that with patience and understanding
he/she may love and care for your people.
Give *them* the courage and the compassion
to do the things you have called *them* to do.
Surround *them* with your love
and uphold those who love and care for *them*.
Grant that together we may all follow
in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*When set within Holy Communion the service continues with the prayers
of intercession.*

*When the order is used at another time, an assembly song or another acclamation of
thanksgiving may be included.*