



youth + family ministry

DELAWARE-MARYLAND SYNOD, ELCA

# Commissioning of LYO Leaders & Mentors in the Congregations of the Delaware-Maryland Synod

## Introduction

This order is intended for use toward the beginning of the school year to commission, recognize, and bless congregational youth and their adult mentors who will be serving as leaders in the synod Lutheran Youth Organization (a year-long leadership development program for high school youth in our synod).

When set within Holy Communion or the Service of the Word, this order is recommended for use before the prayers of intercession OR before the benediction.

Many congregations will have more than one LYOr being commissioned. As such, the rite is written in the plural. Please adjust the rite according to the particular needs of your community.

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

The following people have been set apart for positions of leadership within our congregation and our synod as part of the Delaware-Maryland Synod Lutheran Youth Organization. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In that work of leadership, they will be particularly guided and supported by mentors drawn from our congregation.

*The names of those who are to be commissioned as servants in the Lutheran Youth Organization, and their corresponding adult mentors, are read by a representative of the congregation. The LYOrs and their mentors should approach the front of the sanctuary as their names are called and face toward the presiding minister.*

*ex: "Matthew Wilson, mentored by Josh Brown"*

*"Dysha Johnson, mentored by Linda Jones"*

*The presiding minister addresses the community.*

In baptism these sisters and brothers received God's promise of love and forgiveness, and were sealed with the Holy Spirit. We surrounded these promises with those of our own, as parents, God-parents, and fellow believers: promises of love, support, mentoring, encouragement, and guidance in faith and life. We rejoice in all that God is doing in their lives, and renew our promise to support and encourage them as they respond to God's call in this new way.

*The presiding minister addresses those being commissioned using one or more of these texts.*

*A reading from Ephesians:* For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. (*Ephesians 2:8-10*)

*A reading from First Timothy:* But as for you, child of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. (*1 Timothy 5:11-12*)

*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 set apart for positions of leadership and trust in this congregation and in the wider Church of Christ.

*The following or similar words may be said.*

You are to serve as leaders in the Delaware-Maryland Synod, and as faithful witnesses to the life and ministry we share in this congregation.

You are to be faithful in your specific team of serving--worship, music, small groups, service and outreach, or fellowship and hospitality--that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to share your gifts of leadership within this congregation, among your peers but even more so in our broader community, that our mutual life and ministry may be strengthened.

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

*The presiding minister addresses those being commissioned.*

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

Will you accept and faithfully carry out your responsibilities as members of the Lutheran Youth Organization and leaders in our congregation?

*Response:*

I will, and I ask God to help me.

*The presiding minister addresses the congregational mentors.*

And I ask you, congregational mentors:

Will you faithfully accompany these leaders in this year of study and service? Will you walk alongside them with listening ears, good counsel, and great encouragement?

*Response:*

I will, and I ask God to help me.

*The community stands. Those being installed face the community. The presiding minister addresses the community.*

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your leaders, with your prayers and your encouragement, 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.*

On behalf of this congregation which you call home, and in which you serve, I now commission you as leaders in the Church of Christ and members of the Delaware-Maryland Synod Lutheran Youth Organization.

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

**Amen.**

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