



Montana Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

First, congratulations on your call. It will be good to have you as a colleague.

As you prepare for your ordination, there are several things you need to know. Ordination is a rite of the Church. When you are ordained, it is not just a personal celebration, but rather a celebration of the whole church. In some Synods it is the practice to have ordinations at Synod Assemblies, as a way to demonstrate that this is a corporate act. It is also permissible to have an ordination in a congregation, with the permission of the Bishop and of the local congregation.

If you have not yet done so, please contact the Bishop in whose Synod you have received a call. The Bishop where you are called, rather than the Bishop from your home synod is the one who authorizes ordinations. If your call is to the Montana Synod, most likely you will already have contacted our office.

If your call is to another synod, but your home congregation or the congregation where you want to be ordained is in the Montana Synod, you need to get your authorization from the Bishop where you have been called. That Bishop may choose to come here to do the ordination, or may ask the local Bishop to do the ordination on his/her behalf.

The service of ordination is printed in the Occasional Services Book. Please consult with our office as you put together your service. You are free to choose texts you would like to have used, and to invite someone to preach at the service in consultation with the Bishop.

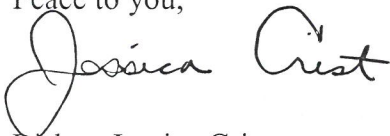
It is our practice in the Montana Synod to request that the offerings at ordinations and installations be designated for the Montana Synod/First Call Theological Education and the Montana Synod Scholarship and the Fund for Leaders in Mission. These programs help congregations and new pastors as well as Seminarians. Checks can be made out to the Montana Synod, and we will divide the income.

Please make sure that you provide a copy of the service to the Synod Office before finalizing it.

Enclosed are a few sample bulletins for an ordination.

Enjoy your planning, and don't let the details stress you out. Remember, it is God's work, not ours. It will be a marvelous day!

Peace to you,



Bishop Jessica Crist