Eastern North Dakota Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Synod Authorized Ministry

How to request authorization for Holy Communion

In the absence of a called Minister of Word and Sacrament (pastor), the Eastern North Dakota Synod allows for the authorization of lay persons for Holy Communion. In order to adhere to the ELCA Constitution on Synod Authorized Ministry* there are certain requirements that will have to be met for a lay person to receive authorization.

Congregations or parishes who would like to request authorization for someone who is not a Minister of Word and Sacrament (pastor), can send a request by email to Katie DeMarais, Katie@eandsynod.org, at least one full week in advance.

A request for authorization is to be made by a Council President or Parish President with the following information:

- Name of the person who they are requesting be authorized
- Specific date, dates, or timeframe (not to exceed one year)
- Specific location (name of congregation or congregations)

*** Synod-authorized Ministry.** When need exists to render Word and Sacrament ministry for a congregation or ministry of this church where it is not feasible to provide rostered ministers of Word and Sacrament, the synod bishop—acting with the consent of the congregation or ministry, in consultation with the Synod Council, and in accord with standards and qualifications developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and approved by the Church Council—may authorize a person who is a member of a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to offer this ministry. Such an individual shall be supervised by a minister of Word and Sacrament appointed by the synod bishop; such service shall be rendered during its duration under the sacramental authority of the bishop as the synod's pastor. Such an individual will be trained to fulfill this ministry for a specified period of time and in a given location only. Authorization, remuneration, direct supervision, and accountability are to be determined by the appropriate synod leadership according to churchwide standards and qualifications for this type of ministry. Authorization for such service shall be reviewed annually and renewed only when a demonstrated need remains for its continuation. (7.31.10 ELCA Constitution)