

All-parish training day — Sat. April 29th, 9:00-11:30: Lay Reader, Altar Server, and Acolyte training & licensure

Sign-up: for potluck sides, child supervision, and general attendance [\[link\]](#).

What: training for licensure, as required by the Diocese of the Living Word for Lay Readers and Altar Servers (including Acolytes).

Why: training has been somewhat *ad hoc* in the past, and sometimes has not occurred at all. We will begin to correct that with some standardized training (including for all new Reader/Servers), a formal licensure process, and *brief* annual ‘refresher’ sessions.

Who for: ideally, all members of the parish, especially all families *including both spouses* if possible. The Rector would like as many members as possible to be formally trained and licensed to read, lead Morning/Evening Prayer, and serve at the Holy Table—even if they are unable or currently prefer not to be regularly scheduled to do so (see Q&A below).

Outline of schedule and details:

- 9:00 — all candidates for Lay Reader & Server training convene in the nave
 - 9:00-10:20 — Lay Reader training (also required for Altar Servers)
 - 10:20 — Lay Reader candidates dismissed; break
 - 10:30-11:30 — Altar Server/Acolyte training
- 9:00-11:30 — non-Acolyte children play outside supervised by any parents not participating in training (and Lay Reader candidates after they dismiss)
 - Snacks, crafts, and some structured activities may be organized in Kent’s Place pavilion (to be discussed).
- 11:30-12:30 — all-parish lunch in the pavilion.

Q & A:

Why do I need training in a duty I’m not currently available to perform?

It’s preferable to have as many members as possible ready to serve if we are short-handed. It is also desirable for all members to better understand both *what* we do in our worship and *why*. Lay Reader training, especially, will address topics such as the layout and use of the Prayer Book (this includes use in family prayers and non-service settings such as small-group or retreat-type setting, which is applicable to all members).

Why are we getting everyone together on a Saturday? This seems like overkill

A single training morning is logistically the easiest way to get the most people trained and licensed. It’s a lot easier than trying to schedule multiple different times for couples to trade-off childcare, figure out which weeknights are best for everyone, etc.

What if I already serve in some other capacity (Altar Guild, choir, children's education, etc.)?

Thank you. Please join us to help with child supervision, general sociability, and lunch outside, especially if your spouse will be training as a Lay Reader or Altar Server.

What if I just don't want to do this?

Good news: this is not Calvin's Geneva, so you won't be compelled to come or publicly beaten with rods if you don't. But licensure is required by the diocese if you wish to continue serving at the Holy Table and/or as a Reader, and we'll try to make this as much of a fun social event for the whole parish as possible.