

Pastor _____ you have faithfully served your calling: to proclaim God's word, to baptize and teach, to announce God's forgiveness, and to preside at the Lord's table. With the Gospel of Jesus Christ, you have comforted the people in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you have been important to our life together in the church of Jesus Christ, in our service to this community, and in God's mission to the whole world. As you prepare to leave this community of faith, we say farewell, Godspeed, and we pray God's blessing upon you.

People of God, members of _____ *Lutheran Church*, do you offer your blessing upon Pastor _____, along with _____ (*family members*), as they go forth in God's peace and love?
We do, and we give thanks to God for our ministry together.

Pastor _____, as you receive this congregational blessing and farewell, you will be held in prayer and love for the days ahead. Will you in turn pray for _____ Lutheran Church, as God calls them into the future?

Response: I will, and I give thanks to God for our ministry together.

Thanksgiving and Sending

The presiding minister leads the assembly in prayer.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ

you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock.

You equip your people with abilities that differ according to the grace given to them, and you call them to various avenues of service.

We give you thanks for the ministry of *Pastor* _____ among the people of God in this place.

You watch over our going out and our coming in:

bles this time of ending and beginning.

You surround your people in every time and place:

keep us close in your love.

You accompany your people in times of joy and times of trial:

prosper all that has been done to your glory in this time together;

heal and forgive all that has fallen short of your will for us.

Help _____ (*pastor and family members*) and all of us

to live with courage and gladness in the future you give to us.

As *they have* been a blessing to us,

so now send *them* forth to be a blessing to others;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.