

Thanksgiving at the Conclusion of a Call

This order is appropriately set within the service of Holy Communion on the final Sunday of a minister's service under call in a congregation. The order follows the prayer after communion.

This order may be led by a pastor of the congregation (unless the pastor's call is the one concluding), another rostered leader, a representative of the congregation, or a representative of the synod.

Address

The person whose call is concluding and representative/s of the congregation come before the assembly.

A pastor

A representative of the congregation addresses the pastor whose call is concluding with these or similar words.

Name, on *date of call*, we of *name of congregation* called you to be pastor in this place: 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 you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you [and your family] 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 leave this community of faith, we say farewell, and we pray for God's blessing.]

A deaconess, diaconal minister, or associate in ministry

A representative of the congregation addresses the person whose call is concluding with these or similar words.

Name, on *date of call*, we of *name of congregation* called you to serve among us as a *deaconess / diaconal minister / associate in ministry*. Here a description of the particular ministry may be included. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you [and your family] 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 leave this community of faith, we say farewell, and we pray for God's blessing.]

The leader addresses the assembly with these or similar words.

People of God, members of *name of congregation*,
do you release *name* from service
as your *pastor / deaconess / diaconal minister / associate in ministry*?

We do, and we give thanks to God for our ministry together.

The leader addresses the person whose call is concluding.

Name, do you recognize and accept
the completion of your ministry with *name of congregation*?

Response: I do, 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 name among the people of God in this place.

You watch over our going out and our coming in:

bless 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 name [and *her/his* family] 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/us* forth to be a blessing to others;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

The presiding minister, or the pastor whose call has concluded, proclaims God's blessing in these or similar words.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

A sending song may be sung.

Dismissal

The assisting minister may send the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

This order may be adapted for use in settings other than ministry in a congregation.

At the conclusion of a call to a rostered leader other than an ordained pastor, Farewell and Godspeed may be used instead of this order. Farewell and Godspeed may also be used at the conclusion of a lay professional worker's time of service.

The bracketed words at the end of the initial address may be omitted when the person is continuing in the membership of the congregation. The address may be adapted as appropriate when this order is used on the occasion of the retirement of a rostered leader.

When a representative of the synod leads this order, the representative may address the person whose call is concluding and the assembly with these or similar words. This address may precede the blessing.

Your sisters and brothers in the name of synod

and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

give thanks to God for the ministry you have shared.

We promise you our continued support and prayer.

Rejoicing in the blessings of God in this congregation

and in the ministry of name,
with hope in God's abundant grace in years to come,
I announce that *name's* service as position in this congregation
is now concluded.

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