

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.

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

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

Pastor John, on August 11, 1991, we of Mount Cross Lutheran Church 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.

The leader addresses the assembly with these or similar words.

People of God, members of Mount Cross, do you release Pastor John from service as your pastor?

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

The leader addresses the person whose call is concluding.

Pastor John, do you recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with Mount Cross?

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

Thanksgiving and Sending

The Assisting Minister or ____?____ 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 John 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 Pastor John and 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 forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.