

A Service of Beginning

Leader: Let us pray:

O God, through the Holy Spirit you illumine the minds and sanctify the lives of those who are called to be pastors and teachers. Look with favor upon the seminaries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and upon all seminaries as they seek to instruct those preparing to serve in the ministry of your church. Bless your people in this congregation who by word and example aid your servant, student's name, in learning to do the ministry for which they are being prepared. As we diligently work together, grant that our lives may be enriched and our ministries filled with joy, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

The Apostle Paul writes, "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone." (1 Cor. 12:4-6 NRSV)

During the next period of time, student's first name will work with us as part of their formation to be a pastor and to develop skills for pastoral ministry.

Leader: student's first name, I ask you, are you willing to assume your partnership in ministry here, and will you seek to engage in that ministry to God's glory? If so, answer, "I am ready, and I ask God to help me."

Intern: I am ready, and I ask God to help me.

(The congregation stands)

Leader: In the coming period of time, the members of this congregation, along with me as supervising pastor, are asked to accept student's first name as a partner in ministry: welcoming them into our homes, sharing in their learning and growth, and encouraging, supporting and praying for them.

Now I ask you, will you receive student's first name as a partner in ministry and uphold and support them in every way? If so, answer, "Yes, by God's help."

All: Yes, by God's help.

Leader: Almighty God, by whose call we are at work, bless us in our labors together.

Let us pray. God, we ask you to bless this congregation, and to sustain all who labor in it: make us faithful to your word; empower us to show one another and all creation your justice and love; and bring all at last to your heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.