

PASTOR SUE SABBATICAL SENDING LITURGY

The assembly is seated while Presiding Minister, Pastor Sue, members of the Sabbatical Team, leaders of the Care Ministry Team, and Council President come forward and gather around the Baptismal font.

INTRODUCTION (Pastor Steve)

Friends in Christ: Today we give thanks to God for Pastor Sue and ask for God's blessings as we send her for Sabbatical rest. We ask God to bless this intentional time of growth both for her and for our congregation, and we ask that God to bring her and her family back to our community refreshed and nourished with God's Spirit as we seek to *Glorify God with our gifts to serve all.*

READINGS (Care Team)

A reading from Exodus: Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. (Exodus 20:8).

And again from Exodus: I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. (Exodus 23:20)

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke: Now, more than ever, the word about Jesus spread abroad; many crowds would gather to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. But he would withdraw to out-of-the-way places and pray. (Luke 5:15-16)

SABBATICAL LEAVE-TAKING LITANY (Sabbatical Team, Council President)

L1 We wish Godspeed to Pastor Sue as she begins her sabbatical.

L2 As you journey, God dwell with you while we are away from one another.

PS God's blessing on you while I am gone from you.

L1 God fill you with the Holy Spirit as you study and visit new surroundings.

PS I thank God for the ministry we share and the gift of this time away.

L2 We pray that you experience the gift of spiritual growth in your journey and that you return renewed and energized for ministry.

PS I pray that you, too, might be renewed and energized to serve in God's name.

L1 We send you with our blessing.

PS God's peace be with you as I leave to walk in different places.

L2 Let us pray. Spirit of God, bless Pastor Sue during her sabbatical. Renew her for ministry through this time set aside for reflection and study, the refreshment of a break from daily tasks and routine, and the excitement of new learning and direction. Grace her with your presence and keep her steadfast in the faith while we are gone one from another.

C Amen

REMOVAL OF STOLE (Pastor Holley)

The primary and unique symbol for Pastors is their stole. It points to their being set apart by the Church for Word and Sacrament ministry. We will now remove Pastor Sue's stole and place it

on the pulpit where it will remain until she returns from Sabbatical. The presence of Pastor Sue's stole will remind us of our shared Sabbatical journey and of our mutual commitment to prayer for one another during this time of rest and growth.

Members of the Sabbatical Team and Care Team remove Pastor Sue's stole and place it on the pulpit.

Pastor Sue's family is invited to come forward.

FAMILY BLESSING (Pastor Steve)

God of love, whose will it is that humans live in community, bless the Briner family during this Sabbatical time. Fill their home with joy, laughter, and prayer, so that this might be a time of renewal for each of them individually and together as a family; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Pastor Sue and other leaders process to the middle of the sanctuary while the assembly stands, gathers near, and lays hands on Pastor Sue.

CONGREGATIONAL LAYING ON OF HANDS (Pastor Steve)

Eternal God, you fill us with every good thing and your steadfast love endures forever. We thank you for Pastor Sue, her family, and for our life together at St. Luke's. As they depart for Sabbatical, send them forth with your blessing, fill them with your Spirit, and bring them again into our presence with renewed life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING (Pastor Steve)

God most high,

God with us,

God pour out on us,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit

bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Assembly returns to their seats, Pastor Sue and family return to the front pew.