

## PASTOR SUE SABBATICAL SENDING LITURGY

*The assembly is seated while Presiding Minister, Pastor Sue and her family (11:15), 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 she returns to us from her three month Sabbatical rest. We give thanks to God for using this intentional time apart for growth and rest both for her and our congregation. We give thanks to God for bring her and her back into our community safely and we look forward the new things that God is doing in our midst as we seek together to *Glorify God with our gifts to serve all.*

READINGS (Care Team)

*A reading from Isaiah:* I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness. (Isaiah 42:6-7)  
*And again from Isaiah:* See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them. (Isaiah 42:9)

*A reading from the Gospel according to Luke:* The Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surround country. He began to teach in the synagogues and praised by everyone.  
(Luke 4:14-15)

*Pastor Sue's family is invited to come forward.*

FAMILY BLESSING (Pastor Steve)

Let us pray for the Briner the Family.

God of love, whose will it is that humans live in community, we thank you for bring the Briner Family back into our community refreshed from this Sabbatical time. Continue to fill their home with joy, laughter, and prayer; so that they may continue to support each other and reflect the love you have for them through Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

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

L1: We wish to welcome Pastor Sue back from her Sabbatical rest.

L2: We rejoice that God has brought you back into our presence refreshed and we welcome you with open arms.

PS: It's good to be back! I have journeyed in new places and experienced rest and renewal during my Sabbatical time.

L1: We thank the Lord for this time away and also for this time of returning!

PS: I thank God for our shared ministry over these last 9 years and now I am excited about returning to St. Luke's and the future that God has in store for us.

L2: Let us pray. Spirit of God, descend upon our hearts. We thank you for this time we have had apart to renew ourselves, and now for this time to reunite with one another and continue our ministry together once again. We pray that together, as your church, we may be open to your Spirit's leading in the future, to be willing to have a risky faith that is bold to follow where you lead.

**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 place Pastor Sue's stole upon her shoulders marking the end of this intentional Sabbatical time.

*Members of the Sabbatical Team and Care Team place Pastor Sue's stole on her shoulders.*

*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 return from Sabbatical, enfold them back into the life and ministry on this congregation and fill them with your Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

PEACE (Led by Pastor Sue)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**