

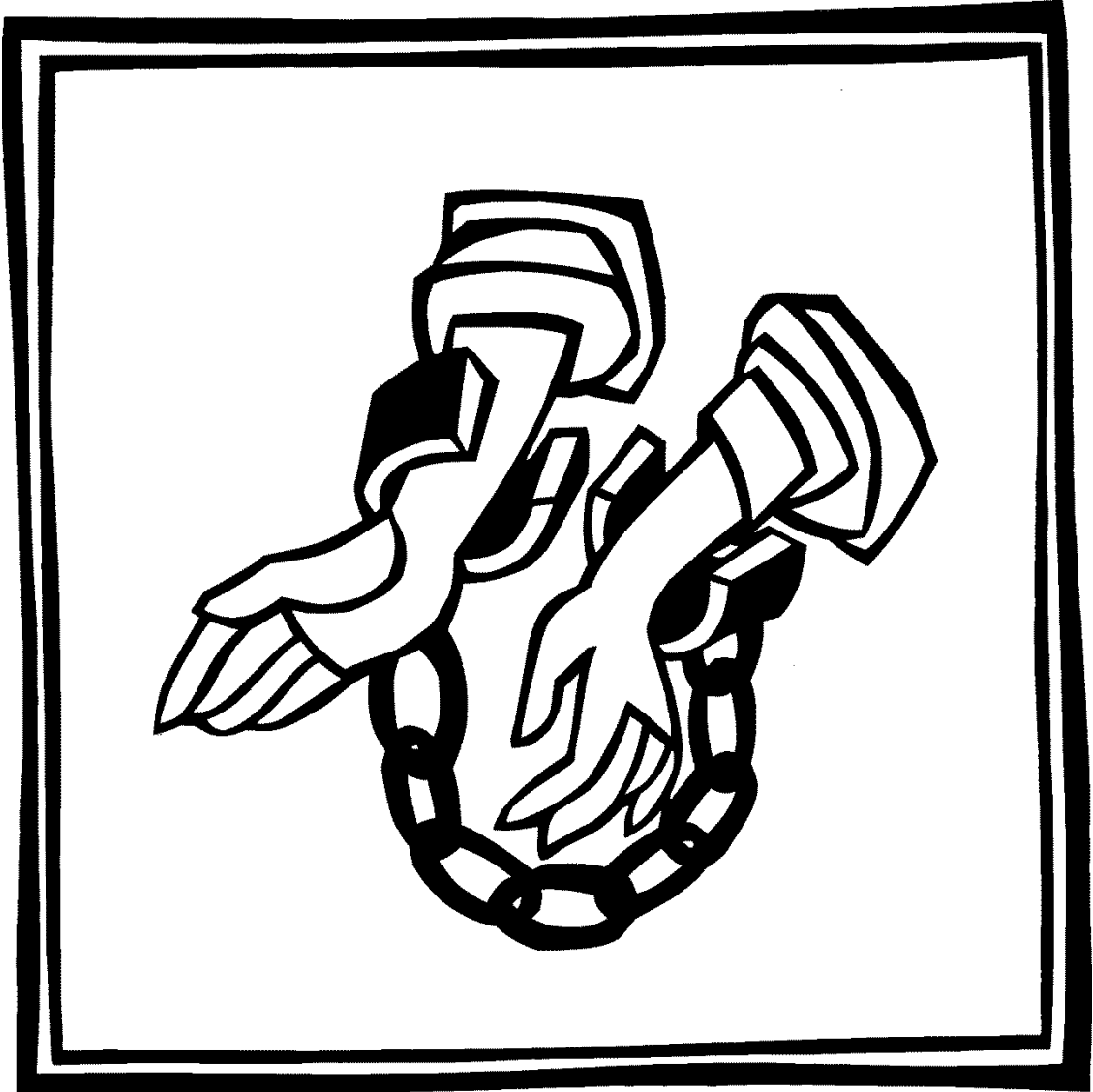


Salem Lutheran Church  
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Third Sunday after Epiphany  
January 23, 2022 – 9:00am

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**OUR MISSION:** We are God forgiven and mission driven.

**OUR VISION:** To be that Lake Mills place where belonging, healing, growing, serving and believing are open to all, regardless of background, experience or aptitude. Central to this is that we are a -forgiving, mission-driven community, which means we all want to have an impact, shaped by the love of Christ to serve all others.

<p><b>Saturday--5:30pm Worship Service</b>  <b>Preaching: Pastor Joel Guttormson</b>  <b>Organist:</b> Ruth Sheldon  <b>Reader:</b> Shannon Bruhns  <b>Liturgical Choir:</b> Open  <b>Sound:</b> Shannon Bruhns  <b>Acolytes:</b> Shannon Bruhns  <b>Ushers:</b> Shannon Bruhns  <b>Communion Servers:</b>  <b>Altar Guild for January:</b>  Joan Kloster &amp; Janet Swenson</p>	<p><b>Sunday--9:00am Worship Service</b>  <b>Preaching: Pastor Joel Guttormson</b>  <b>Organist:</b> Ruth Sheldon  <b>Readers:</b> Shannon Bruhns  <b>Liturgical Choir:</b> Nancy Guttormson, Bruce Adams, Al Skellenger, Willie Skellenger  <b>Sound:</b> Al Skellenger  <b>Live Stream:</b> Brad Evenson  <b>Acolytes:</b> Lyle Thomson  <b>Ushers:</b> Lyle and Orloue Thomson  <b>Communion Servers:</b>  <b>Altar Guild for January:</b>  Joan Kloster &amp; Janet Swenson</p>
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The radio broadcast is given in Memory of Fran Christiansen's birthday from Roger.  
Fran's birthday is January 24th.

### **Salem Contact Information:**

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## INTRODUCTION

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### A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH A. EATON

*“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” (James 1:17)*

*Dear friends in Christ,*

*The last year has been one of adapting and learning. In many places we have seen vibrant and vital ministry spring forth from changes made due to the pandemic. Digital worship opportunities have introduced to our congregations people who may never have walked into one of our buildings. Many congregations have found new ways to invite people to share their generosity through online giving. And many ministries have found just how vital they are as they continue to serve alongside people in their communities. The first chapter of James, verse 17, reminds us that “Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”*

*Yes, this has been a season of change, but Scripture also reminds us that we serve a generous, steadfast God.*

*While we stay rooted in God’s enduring, unchanging promise, God also gives us the gifts of creativity and learning. Across all three expressions of the church we have used those gifts to serve God, love our neighbor and share the good news of Jesus Christ. In this time of change, we have opened our arms wider to meet people where they are, living into the reality that we are not defined or confined by the four walls of our buildings.*

*Through all this, I am so grateful for your generous sharing of creativity, time, talents and resources. All good gifts do come from God, and we are called to share and use those gifts. We have and will continue to answer that call. There is still much change and learning to come, but God’s steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.*

*The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton*

*Presiding Bishop Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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## GATHERING

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### PRELUDE BELL

**LITANY** Annual Congregational Meeting Opening Liturgy  
Today our congregation gathers in prayer and hope to begin another year of ministry. We bring with us the memory of a year like no other, even as we move into a future that we cannot yet imagine. Yet even now, as in every age, God is our refuge and strength. In times of plenty and want, in times of conflict and peace, in times of growing and pruning, we remember:  
**God has called us for such a time as this.**

We remember the past year with lament and gratitude. We have lost so much, and so much still feels uncertain. We have also witnessed God's hand at work in new and unexpected ways. We delight at hidden seeds bearing surprising and wonderful fruit. When our own resources fail, when we cannot predict the future, when we must rely on God alone, we remember:  
**God has called us for such a time as this.**

We celebrate this moment and the many ways God has held us together as a community. We give thanks for the gift of our church building and the welcome it provides, even as we bless God for the marvel of technology and the new bonds of connection it makes possible. When our bodies need sanctuary, when our minds need expanding, when your grace must transcend our limitations, we remember: **God has called us for such a time as this.**

We look ahead to the road we will travel together this year. We anticipate and receive with joy the new gifts God's love has planned. We pray for the grace to let go of what has served its holy purpose. When we are trailblazers or followers, when we are seekers or visionaries, when we must walk by faith and not by sight, we remember: God has called us for such a time as this. And so we pray: Grace our meeting, O God, with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the Spirit who has guided the church from the beginning, the Spirit of our risen Lord Jesus, the Spirit who sends us as healers and restorers of your beloved world. You are the source of our life together. You are the rock and cornerstone.  
**You have called us for such a time as this.**

## GATHERING SONG

*We Are Called*

ELW #720



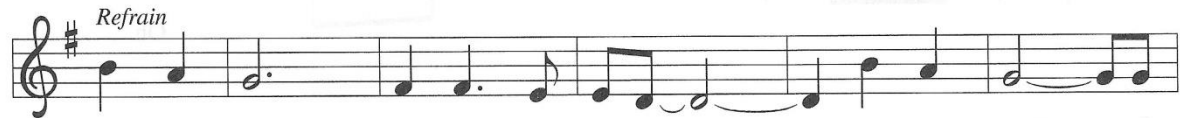
- 1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the  
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your . . mer - cy to all those in  
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be



Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to  
 fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so  
 one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.  
 ha - tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no more.  
 sis - ters and broth - ers . . . u - nit - ed in love.



We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Together let us pray:*

O God,

**You have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.** (ELW, p. 317)

## WORD

### FIRST READING

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

<sup>1</sup>All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup>Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup>He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. <sup>5</sup>And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup>Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. <sup>8</sup>So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

<sup>9</sup>And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SCRIPTURE SONG** *Oh, That the Word Would Guide My Ways* ELW #772



- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
- 2 Or - der my foot-steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
- 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
- 4 Make me to walk in your com-mands, 'tis a de-light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!  
 let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, but keep my con-science clear.  
 and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan-d'ring sheep.  
 nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

**SECOND READING**

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup>Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup>If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup>whereas our more

respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup>that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

<sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup>And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup>Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31a</sup>But strive for the greater gifts.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

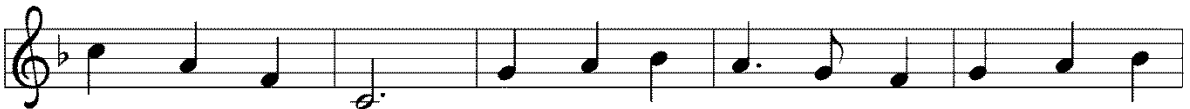
**GOSPEL ACCLAMATON**

*God, Whose Almighty Word*

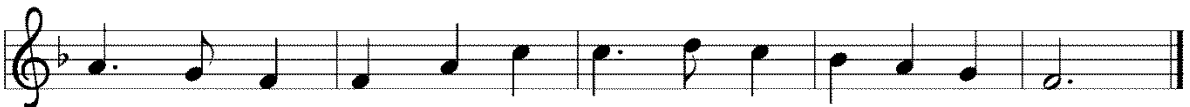
ELW #673



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard  
 2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,  
 3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,  
 4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the  
 heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -  
 speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the  
 Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.  
 lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.  
 lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.  
 full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.



**GOSPEL**

Luke 4:14-21

The Holy Gospel according to Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup>Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup>He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup>When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup>“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,

<sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

<sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.****SERMON**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Let Streams of Living Justice*

ELW #710



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
 2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
 3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
 for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
 your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,  
 Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
 Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
 on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
 our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;  
 O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.  
 dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
 your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

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## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

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### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Salem's Mission and Vision

We are God forgiven and mission driven.

**As God's people...we desire to be that Lake Mills place where belonging, healing, growing, serving and believing are open to all, regardless of background, experience or aptitude. Central to this is that we are a forgiving, mission-driven community, which means we all want to have an impact, shaped by the love of Christ to serve all others.**

Belonging means:

**..that we all belong! We all have a place! We all fit!**

Healing means:

**...that we all have brokenness and are in need of wholeness. God's Word, the Bread of Life, and so much more, helps us to take these important steps forward!**

Growing means:

**...we are designed by God to change, to grow, to evolve. We are committed to that process for everyone who is open to it!**

Serving means:

**...that Jesus made clear that being a servant was central to being a disciple. Therefore, we see that everyone who is a follower is a servant, as well.**

Believing means:

**...that faith and not works is central to our life. Simple, and yet profound trust in the promise of forgiveness and mercy, and the presence of the Spirit, guides us in all we do.**

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*All may be seated as the pastor invites us into a time of prayer*

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

*A brief silence.*

You reveal yourself to us in the reading of scripture. Fulfill your word through the faithful witness of your church. Send us out to bring your liberating good news to all people. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

All creation proclaims your handiwork. Teach us to love the intricate and beautiful bodies that you have created. Bless tiny insects, enormous whales, and every creature in between. Sustain species at risk of extinction. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

You desire that there be no dissension among us. Where we are divided in our society, nation, or world, come quickly to reunite us into one body. Ease conflict, dispel violence, and bring an end to war. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Anoint with your Spirit all who seek your favor. Grant provision and justice for people living in poverty, people living with disability, those living with pain, or those living under oppression. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Build up the body of Christ in this place. Bless the variety of ministries in this congregation *especially* our council and board members who we elect and install today, and each and every member as well. Empower us to freely welcome and deeply value each person who enters into worship and ministry among us. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving we lift before you the saints for whom the promise of salvation has now been fulfilled. Tend to those who mourn. Bring us together in your everlasting glory. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered as the pastor concludes the prayers.*

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

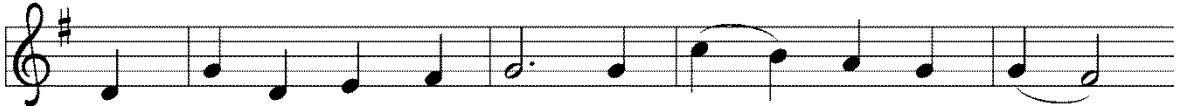
**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
And also with you.

**OFFERING****MUSICAL OFFERING****OFFERING SONG***We Give Thee but Thine Own*

ELW #686



- 1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
- 2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
- 3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
- 4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.  
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing.  
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. May these gifts and our very selves be used to feed and nourish the world you so dearly love and care for, in the name of Christ our light.

**Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*There will be a brief break following the prayers to set up for the Annual Congregational meeting held in the Sanctuary. After establishing a quorum the meeting will be called to order by our President Shannon Bruhns. Before adjournment we will install the newly elected council, board members, committee and Synod Assembly Delegates. Following the meeting all are invited to a luncheon provided by our Board of Life and Growth.*

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## SENDING

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### INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

The following people have been *elected* by the congregation to positions of leadership (*their names are read*) We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these *sisters and brothers* will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

You have been *elected* to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world. You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified. You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

*Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.*

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:  
Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices  
to which you have been *elected*?

**Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.**

*The assembly stands. Those being installed face the assembly. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your *elected* leaders,  
and will you share in the mutual ministry  
that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

I now declare you installed as *council members* of this congregation.

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace,  
that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and  
who calls you by name, ✠ bless your going out and your coming in, today and  
forever.

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go with Christ into a weary world.

Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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Annual  
Meeting  
Of The  
Congregation