

# Thanksgiving at the Conclusion of Internship

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## Address

**A** Jeff, on May 28, 2017, First Lutheran Church commissioned you to serve, teach, and learn among us as Intern Pastor. During your time with us, you have served our congregation and community as Director of Evangelism and Outreach, brought God's Law and Promise to us in the Word preached, and shared God's gospel in Word and deed.

Sharing our joys and sorrows, you 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 your time as Intern Pastor comes to an end, we thank you for your partnership in the Gospel and pray for God's blessing in your work to come. We also give thanks and recognize the members of the Internship Committee who have accompanied Jeff over the past year: Denise Aamlid, Jaci Aberson, Amy Amundson-Kimber, Isak Larson, Martin Oyos, and Pastor Lars Olson.

People of God, as members of First Lutheran Church, do you release Jeff Backer from service as your Intern Pastor?

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

**A** Jeff, do you recognize and accept the completion of your time as Intern Pastor with First Lutheran Church?

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

## Thanksgiving and Sending

**A** 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 Jeff Backer among the people of God in this congregation over the past year. 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 steadfast in your Word. 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 Jeff and all in this congregation to live with courage and gladness in the future you promise us in Christ Jesus.

As Jeff has been a blessing to us and now looks toward a Call to ordained ministry in your name, send him forth that your name may be glorified, and your will be done; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.