

St. John
Lutheran Church

*Ritual for
Thanksgiving and Godspeed*



Pastor Jennifer Beamsley

*Saturday, September 10, 2022
Sunday, September 11, 2022*

**RITUAL FOR THANKSGIVING AND GODSPEED
FOR PASTOR JEN BEAMSLEY**

Pastor: Dear friends, today we celebrate how Pastor Jen Beamsley has enriched the ministry of the community of St. John-by-the-mall. We mark this good occasion as she takes the next faithful step in her calling to serve Jesus Christ. We use this time to praise God, to express our gratitude, to surround her with our prayers, and to say good-bye.

Pastor Jen: I thank our good and gracious God and the members and friends of St. John Lutheran Church for more than 17 years of shared ministry. You have offered your abundant love, kindness, and support to my family and to me. It is with joy that I will remember the experiences we have shared and the challenges we have faced together.

CONGREGATION: Thank you for walking with us through joyful and painful times; for sharing our lives with us; for giving from your heart. With gratitude and faith, we accept now that you conclude your ministry among us.

Pastor: *(At the pulpit)* At this pulpit, you proclaimed the Good News of Jesus Christ as a faithful messenger of God's love. You taught us that we belong to God and to one another. You reminded us not to take ourselves too seriously and you encouraged us to live out our faith in the world. As you leave this pulpit, we thank God for your inspirational preaching.

CONGREGATION: THANKS BE TO GOD!

Pastor: *(At the font)* At this font, you presided at the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. You mixed living water with holy laughter. You welcomed new members into this faith community and into the eternal family of God. You shared the Holy Spirit and the light of Christ. As you leave this font, we thank you for reminding us of the cleansing waters of God's grace.

CONGREGATION: THANKS BE TO GOD!

Pastor: *(At the altar)* At this altar, you presided over the Sacrament of Holy Communion. You set the Lord's Table for everyone seeking faith and forgiveness, offering the bread of life and the cup of salvation. You invited us to taste and see that the Lord is good! As you leave this table, we thank you for honoring God's living, breathing presence among us.

CONGREGATION: THANKS BE TO GOD!

Pastor: *(Walk to the top chancel step)* Standing on this chancel, you led services to let go of our loved ones who died. You led us through grief with hope of meeting again, proclaiming the Good News of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In this place, you also joined couples together in marriage, praying for the blessing of resilient love. As you leave this sanctuary, we thank you for being with us in our times of loss and times of joy.

CONGREGATION: THANKS BE TO GOD!

Pastor: Over the years, you left this place to bring God's word to us. You visited us in hospitals, homes, and nursing care facilities. You led retreats and weeks of Campfirmation that reconnected us to one another and restored our souls. You prepared for meetings, events, and ministries, giving us a vision of faithfulness to the God who called us to be Christ from the corner of Plainfield and Hennepin.

CONGREGATION: THANKS BE TO GOD!

Pastor: Thank you for your leadership. Thank you for your love of the Gospel, and for nurturing us in faith. Thank you for helping us see Christ in one another. Thank you for your words of absolution and hope; your genuine caring and playfulness; and your willingness to be unapologetically human. In all these things, we thank you for your prayers, your diligent work, your creativity, and your faithfulness on this journey.

CONGREGATION: THANKS BE TO GOD!

Pastor: It is indeed possible we will see you again, but you will no longer be a pastor at St. John. We rejoice with you as you take your next call to ministry and we also feel sad to let you go, because you have been with us through our joys and sorrows.

Now, we send you with our blessing.

Let us pray:

Gracious God, you call us in our baptism to be your servants. You enable us to respond to your call as a community of believers. Thank you for the partnership in the gospel we enjoyed with Pastor Jen. Now send her forth as we continue serving you, and also remain with us as we part ways. Strengthen us for the missions you have placed before us. May Pastor Jen go from here knowing our love and our continued prayers. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Well done, good and faithful servant.

Order of Worship resumes in bulletin