

Annual Congregational Meeting Opening Liturgy

Litany

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

God has joined us to one another, in congregations, in our denomination, and with Christians around the world. As church together, we faithfully strive to participate in God's reconciling work, near and far.

Together, we are partners in ministry.

We plant new congregations and renew existing ones; we work with ethnic ministries to reach all God's people; we develop and share resources for God's work when we gather.

Together, we are partners in ministry.

We support The Lutheran World Federation's global communion of churches, and send more than 200 missionaries to more than 40 countries; we facilitate dialogue and common action among communities of other faiths, that God's love may spread far and wide.

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We equip current and future leaders through our colleges, universities, seminaries, and lay ministry schools; we engage in hopeful conversation about current economic, environmental, political, public, and social issues.

Together, we are partners in ministry.

Christ has freed us *from* sin and death, even from ourselves, so that we can live with and *for* our neighbors; in worship we cry out to be forgiven, fed, and equipped, that our faith may be aligned with our lives, and our lives with God's good purposes.

Scattered into the world, we do God's work.

Sent into the world – in every relationship, in every daily task, in every corner of life – we provide daily bread for our neighbors, nurture hope and faith, and work for a healed, reconciled, and just world.

Scattered into the world, we do God's work.

On the highway and in the skies, in jails and in offices, in the unemployment line and at the mechanic's shop, in kitchens and in classrooms, shopping for toys or hoping to find our next meal, in nursing homes and in the voting booth, God is at work, providing for our needs, and for our neighbors' needs.

Scattered into the world, we do God's work.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you call us together and you send us out. Give us strength to be Your people, both when we gather and when we scatter. Deliver us from service of ourselves alone; and deliver us from service to the welfare of our congregations; that we may do the work you are calling us to do, alone and together. Whether in our daily lives or in and through our congregation, may we always seek common good. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.