

Annual congregational meeting opening liturgy

LITANY

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

And also with you.

Brothers and sisters, God calls each of us by name.

We are a church that belongs to Christ.

Recognizing the diversity among us, we are grounded in God's love and forgiveness to live and serve here and now.

We are a church whose unity is in Christ.

Young and old together, our life in Christ compels and empowers us to be open and accessible within any community, within any context.

We are a church that believes Jesus is God's "YES" to us.

Recognizing each of us has unique gifts and a unique story, we are part of a larger body and a larger story. Together, we achieve things we could not do alone.

We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world - together.

Skilled and unskilled, we do God's work together, restoring and reconciling communities. We pursue justice and seek peace no matter how long the journey or wide the chasm.

We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.

Recognizing the differences of perspectives, personalities and practice, we commit to being a force for connecting people, faiths and organizations. We respect the perspectives and strengths of others and share a common vision to uphold human dignity.

We are a church that is a catalyst, convener and bridge builder.

Outspoken and soft-spoken, we continually strive for a deeper understanding of what the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ means in the world while being in the thick of life.

We are a church that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life.

Recognizing our roots are in Scripture, tradition and the Lutheran Confessions, as well as the vibrant communities and rich history of our congregation, we are a church guided by the Holy Spirit that is both resilient and always being reformed.

We are a church that is deeply rooted in the gospel - and always being made new.

Let us pray: As we live into the church that we proclaim to be, fill us with hope as we engage in the work of serving you. Guide us that we may honor our missional heritage while opening our eyes to new ways of serving others. Steer our thoughts and words away from distraction and toward your will. In our deliberations keep us close to you and fill us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may serve you in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.



Pastor Melissa P. Lemons