

**LITANY OF FAREWELL FOR AN INTERIM OR CONTRACT PASTOR**  
**Southwestern Texas Synod**

*Today we offer our thanks and farewell as Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ concludes his/her time as Pastor to our congregation. We wish him/her to know that we appreciate what he/she has done in ministry among us.*

(S: Church Council Secretary; CP: Congregational President; PR: Pastor, ALL: Congregation)  
(The President stands before the altar as the Secretary steps forward with the Interim Pastor.)

S: Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ has served \_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran Church faithfully or \_\_\_\_\_ months as our Pastor. The Church Council and Congregation therefore wish to have his/her ministry recognized with our thanks.

CP: It is important that we within the Fellowship of Christ recognize the endings and beginnings that are so often a part of our life together. We wish to say thanks over what has been and to invoke God's blessings on what next will be. You have been a blessing to us, and we thank you. We wish you every blessing as you leave us.

PR: *I thank \_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran Church, its members and leadership, for the love, kindness, and support that you have shown me. I am grateful that you received my ministry and that we were able to work together to accomplish many good things. I am confident that God has already forgiven any mistakes we made and that God has already blessed the work we did.*

**ALL: WE THANK YOU FOR THE COMPASSION, WISDOM, ENERGY, AND FAITH THAT YOU BROUGHT TO OUR CONGREGATION. YOU HAVE HELPED US IN OUR TIME OF NEED, AND WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL. YOU ARE A SERVANT OF CHRIST AND A BLESSING TO GOD'S PEOPLE.**

CP: Will you, members with me of \_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran Church, now release Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ from the duties of Interim/Contract Pastor?

**ALL: WE DO, WITH THANKS TO GOD.**

CP: Will you pray for him/her as he/she continues in ministry in a new place?

**ALL: WE WILL, WITH THANKS TO GOD.**

CP: Will you, Pastor \_\_\_\_\_, release and commit the shepherding of this congregation to its next pastor.

PR: *I do, with thanks to God.*

CP: Will you pray for us as we make a new beginning in our life together as \_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran Church?

PR: *I will, with thanks to God.*

**ALL: O GOD, YOUR EVERLASTING LOVE FOR US ALL IS TRUSTWORTHY AND SURE. GIVE US CONFIDENCE TO GO FORWARD INTO THE FUTURE, GRATEFUL FOR THE GOODNESS YOU SHOWN US IN THE PAST. BLESS THIS SERVANT OF CHRIST, AND BLESS OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH, FOR THE SAKE OF CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR AND LORD. AMEN.**

CP: Go now, Pastor \_\_\_\_\_, surrounded by our love and led by the promises of God, the presence of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Amen.