

LITANY OF WELCOME FOR AN INTERIM OR CONTRACT PASTOR
Southwestern Texas Synod

Today we celebrate a new beginning as Pastor _____ joins his/her ministry to ours during this time in the life of our congregation. We want to welcome him/her and let him/her know that we will support and honor his/her work among us as our Pastor.

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

S: Pastor _____ has been nominated by the Bishop of the Southwestern Texas Synod to serve as our Interim/Contract Pastor. In a duly called meeting of the Church of _____ Lutheran Church on _____, 200__, he/she was approved for this service. I therefore present him/her for reception into this ministry among us.

CP: Pastor _____, in the presence of this congregation I ask you to commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility. Will you promise to discharge your duties in harmony with the constitutions of the church?

PR: *I will, and I ask God to help me.*

CP: Will you love, serve, and pray for us, nourishing us with the Word and Holy Sacraments, and leading us forward during this important time in our congregational life?

PR: *I will, and I ask God to help me.*

CP: Will you lead us as People of God to give faithful witness to the Word and to make known the love of God through our loving service to one another and to our community?

PR: *I will, and I ask God to help me.*

CP: We join you in praying that Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, will give you the power of the Holy Spirit so that you may do these things with strength and compassion.

ALL: AMEN.

CP: I ask all of you, fellow members with me in _____ Lutheran Church, will you receive this messenger of Christ? Will you regard him/her as your Pastor, sent to bring the Gospel of hope and salvation? Will you work with him/her as a partner and shepherd in the ministry of our congregation?

ALL: WE WILL.

CP: Will you join me in praying for him/her and honoring him/her for his/her work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

ALL: WE WILL.

CP: Upon these mutual commitments — from you and from us — it is my great pleasure to welcome you as the Interim/Contract Pastor of this congregation. May God richly bless our time together in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

(The congregation may welcome the Pastor with applause!)