

Farewell to a pastor on retirement

1. PEACE

The minister exchanges the peace with the pastor who is retiring.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

2. PRESENTATION

A congregational or parish representative or an assistant minister says to the minister:

Pastor N is retiring after ____ years of service in the church. We now say farewell to him as he is about to leave us.

The presenter may add some words about the pastor who is retiring, recalling his life and work in the congregation and/or the church.

3. COMMENDATION

The minister says to the pastor who is retiring:

N, you were ordained into the public ministry of the Lutheran Church of Australia by ____ at ____ in 19__, and have now served our church for ____ years. *(Further details may be added.)* You have preached the word of God and administered his holy sacraments. God has blessed his church through your ministry. We now commend you to God, and pray that he will continue to support you as you enter your retirement.

4. PRAYER

The pastor who is retiring kneels, and the minister says the following or another suitable prayer.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for all that you have done for your servant N and for your people through his ministry; for calling him to be a shepherd and overseer to care for your flock; for supporting him, so that his faith has not failed; for making him a faithful steward entrusted with your mysteries; for giving him strength in times of weakness, and for keeping him safe in times of trouble. As you have helped N in the past, stay with him as he enters his retirement and support him in the remaining years of his life. And when his service on earth is over, bring him before your throne in heaven to praise and adore you eternally; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

5. BLESSING OF THE PASTOR

The minister lays his hands on the pastor and says:

The Lord keep you from all evil; the Lord guard your life; the Lord watch over you, as you go out and as you come in †, now and forever.

Amen.

6. GIFT

The pastor who is retiring stands. A gift may be presented to him, and he may respond.

7. WORD OF SCRIPTURE

The pastor who is retiring goes to the altar. He may say the following or another word of Scripture to the congregation before the blessing.

Friends in Christ: Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong. Do everything in love.

8. BLESSING

The pastor who is retiring pronounces the concluding blessing.