

## **Litany of Welcome – Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen**

Leader: A church community is constantly changing. Loved ones come to the end of their lives. Individuals come and go in our church life. It is important and right that we recognize these time of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share the time of welcome with Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen whose time as our interim pastor/transition specialist begins.

Leader: Pastor Heidi, in the presence of this congregation will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, and promise to discharge your duties in harmony with the constitutions of the church?

Pastor: I will and I ask God to help me.

Leader: Will you love, serve and pray for these people of God, nourishing them with the Word and Holy Sacraments and lead them forward during this important time of change?

Pastor: I will and I ask God to help me.

Leader: Will you lead this people of God in giving faithful witness to the word and making known the love of God through loving service among themselves and this community.

Pastor: I will and I ask God to help me.

Leader: Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, give you the power of his Spirit so that you may perform them with strength and compassion.

**Congregation:** Amen

Leader: I ask all of you, now, people of this congregation, will you receive this messenger of Christ, Pastor Heidi, who continues the work of bringing the Gospel of hope and salvation? Will you regard her as a fellow servant of Christ and work with her in the ministry of this congregation?

**Congregation:** We will.

Leader: Will you pray for her and honor her for her work's sake and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

**Congregation:** We will.

Leader: By your statements of commitment and the affirmation of this congregation, we welcome you as interim pastor/transition specialist of this congregation in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.