

Group Prayer

Invite those gathered to place their hands on the head or shoulders of the person who is retiring or ask group members to join hands to offer a blessing

Let us pray.

 (Name) , we give thanks for your work. We ask God's richest blessings on your new calling. We promise to continue to hold you in our prayers. May God's peace be with you always! Amen.



For Individuals

These readings and prayers may be adapted by the retiree for personal thanksgiving and reflection.

Gracious God, bless and preserve me during this time of transition. Day by day, guide me and give me what is needed, friends to cheer my way, and a clear vision of that to which you are now calling me. Be present in my journey. I know that you are the way, the truth and the life. Amen.

(Adapted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 2006, page 82)

God's Peace

A Blessing ...

A blessing is a thank you,
a wish, a dream, a message of
hope, an acknowledgement of
joys and sorrows,
a celebration,
a passing of time, a gathering
of people and thoughts,
a reflection, a time to be still,
a time to jump with joy,
a time of quiet meditation,
a gift of love and a prayer.

***God's grace and peace
as you discern God's new
call and discover new ways
to serve***

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RETIREMENT BLESSING

Everybody has a vocation to
some form of life-work.
However, behind that call
(and deeper than that call),
everybody has a vocation to be
a person fully and deeply
human in Christ Jesus.
Brennan Manning

On a table, place several reminders of the work which has been accomplished, such as a uniform, ID, pen, company logo, planner, photos, certificate, retirement notes or cards. The retiree may wish to honor family members or special co-workers by inviting them to serve as readers.

Gathering

A reading from Psalm 145:1-5

"I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; God's greatness is unsearchable.

One generation shall laud your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts.

On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate."

We have gathered today to pray for God's blessing on _____'s retirement and to celebrate the new opportunities ahead of _____.

Give Thanks

We give thanks for the contributions that *she/he* made throughout *her/his* career and offer our appreciation for the ways that his/her skills and abilities were used each day for the good of all.

Gifts

A reading from I Corinthians 12

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

Sharing Our Stories

_____, your work and your way of approaching it each day made a difference. Lives were touched in countless ways.

Those gathered are invited to share a story, recall an experience or reflect on a contribution.

Prayer of Thanks

Creator God, we give thanks for the unique ways that you work through each person to care for the world and its people. We are humbled by the variety of talents and abilities that surround us each day.

Today, we trace your blessings and your presences in _____'s career. By the way _____ worked, by the lives that were touched and by what was accomplished, she/he honored you.

Guide _____ during this time of transition; at times of joy, new-found opportunities and celebrations, as well as at the moments of uncertainty or regret or feelings of loss. Open each of our hearts to new callings and fresh possibilities. Anchored by your never-ending promises, we pray. Amen.

A reading from Philippians 4:4-9

"Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me and the God of peace will be with you."

Keep On