

Service of Farewell & Godspeed for Lacy

adapted from Sundays & Seasons and “Speak It Plain: Words for Worship & Life Together” by Meta Herrick Carlson

Lacy Tooker-Kirkevold, as you leave your ministry as Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries here at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, we wish to bid you farewell. Your ministry among us has embodied a spirit of courage and curiosity; of justice and joy. Today we give thanks for the ways you have helped to keep baptismal promises for so many people in this congregation, both young and old, and everyone in between: by encouraging imagination, affirming questions and doubts, inviting prayer, holding boundaries, blessing and engaging with chaos and uncertainty, and helping others to experience safety, challenge, and love in the body of Christ.

Release from Call

Lacy, we are glad and grateful for the relationships you have built in this community; for your leadership and accompaniment alongside so many milestones, and for the deep connections you have nurtured with members of this congregation, especially with children and youth.

And, as you leave, your role in the lives of the members here will change. You will no longer be the Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries here in this place, which means an intentional stepping away from these relationships.

This is not because these relationships no longer matter, but rather to honor how sacred they are, how sacred they have been, and to make space for something new, both for you and for us.

This stepping away will allow the members here – the children and youth, especially – the space to form similar and sacred relationships with the person who follows you in this role, and for you to have the space to do the same in whatever ministries will be part of your future.

Lacy, do you promise to honor this boundary for the sake of the health of this congregation, and the sake of your own heart? **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

Do you receive our grace and release for anything that feels unfinished in your ministry here? **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

Do you trust our gratitude as you move forward into a new chapter of your life and ministry elsewhere? **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, will you release Lacy from her role here in this place? Will you give thanks for her ministry among us? Will you respect, hold, and honor the boundaries necessary in this time of transition, difficult though that may be? And will you give thanks for God's continued work, both in Lacy's life and in the life of this congregation? **We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Prayer

Let us pray. Gracious God, bless your servant, Lacy. Surround them with our gratitude and love in this season of change and transition, that they would sense your presence and delight in their life, day by day. Thank you for giving Lacy to us to know as a sibling in Christ, a steward of your mysteries, and a tireless worker for justice and peace. We release Lacy (next Friday!) from their call to Children, Youth, & Family Ministry here at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, and we trust that you will continue working through them to bless both the church and the wider world through Jesus, who transforms us all. **Amen.**

Blessing

And now may our Creating God, who makes all things new,
prepare your heart and mind for new beginnings.
May Jesus the Christ, whose story makes us whole,
knit your love for your ministry here
into the fullness of who you are and who you will become.
And may the Spirit of Mystery, who comes beside us with power,
guide your discernment and delight
from this day on and forevermore. **Amen.**