

Installation for the Women of the ELCA

(The new & current officers come forward; officers who have completed their term of office may be seated. Officers who have completed their term of office are recognized here.)

Prayer:

God of grace, we thank you for the gifts of Christian ministry shared by so many of our women. We celebrate the years of their labor in the fields of the Lord, and rejoice in the blessings so many have received. Give these servants a sense of fulfillment and completion, a time of refreshment and rest, and new opportunities for living the good news of your love in Jesus Christ. Amen

Installing the officers:

(Officers who have completed their term of office may be seated.)

Leader: You have been chosen by the Women of Caloosa Conference to serve as officers. The purpose statement of the Women of the ELCA acknowledges that this is "a community of women, created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit."

In the 12th chapter of Romans, Paul speaks of the variety of gifts of the Spirit that empowers us. Listen to his words according to Romans 12:6-8:

"We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith, ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate in cheerfulness."

You are members of this community and have many unique and special gifts. You have been called to responsibilities that will allow you to employ these gifts for one another as good stewards of God's grace. Sisters in Christ, you have been chosen for leadership responsibilities in the Women of the ELCA. We rejoice in the gifts God has given you and in your willingness to offer them for this service.

Will you continue to seek to grow in faith, attending daily to God's holy Word, and listening to God in prayer?

Officers: *Yes, and I ask God to help me.*

Leader: Will you earnestly seek to affirm the gifts of others, to share the responsibilities of your office in partnership with your sisters and to encourage others to offer their talents and skills in the ministry of the gospel?

Officers: *Yes, and I ask God to help me.*

Leader: Will you seek to lead the Women of the ELCA in Caloosa Conference in ministry and action, extending God's loving promise of hope to those beyond this community?

Officers: *Yes, and I ask God to help me.*

Leader: Will you seek to promote healing and wholeness within the church, the society and the whole world?

Officers: *Yes, and I ask God to help me.*

Leader: Do you accept the specific responsibilities for which you have been elected and will you seek to serve faithfully?

Officers: *Yes, and I ask God to help me.*

Leader: Do you accept responsibility for the financial and constitutional order of the Caloosa Conference of the Women of the ELCA?

Officers: *Yes, and I ask God to help me.*

Leader: Through Holy Baptism, you were gathered into the family of God and called to minister to others, and through your election, you have been chosen to serve as leaders of the Women of the ELCA. May God work through you to share hope and healing with the world in which you live. God is faithful and will graciously enable you to fulfill your task. May God's blessing give you peace.

As a sign of support for these leaders and for Women of the ELCA, I ask those here gathered to stand, as they are able.

The congregation stands.

Leader: Together with these elected leaders, you are called through Holy Baptism to a life of discipleship. Will you receive these leaders and work with them, pray for them, and support them for the sake of the gospel? If so, respond with "Yes, and we ask God to help us."

All: *Yes, and we ask God to help us.*

Leader: These leaders are now commended to you. May God grant them grace and strength for their tasks.

Closing prayer:

Let us pray. Dear Lord, we ask today for your special blessing on these women who have answered the call to serve as officers in the Caloosa Conference. Guide them and uphold them in your love. Grant them vision of your mission, understanding of your will, and the strength and wisdom to serve you with joy. In your name we pray. Amen