

**Conference 8 Baccalaureate Service**  
**May 31, 2020**

**Prelude**

**Welcome: Pastor Stacy Pethke, Trinity  
& Faith, Ishpeming**

**Opening: #731 Earth and All Stars**

**Litany of Thanksgiving: Pastor Ann  
Gonyea, Eden, Munising**

Let us give thanks to the Lord who guides  
us to face the challenges and  
opportunities of life.



**We thank you Lord, for your leading, your encouragement, your gifts of educators and teachers, of friends and neighbors who have helped us and encouraged us in the opportunities of life.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord for the families and homes into which these graduating seniors were born and have been nurtured.

**We are grateful, Lord, for our children and our parents, our homes and families where we learn to grow and experience all the wonders of this life.**

Lord, this is a time of joy for us as we watch these graduating seniors gather before us to celebrate the completion of this phase of their education and move out from here in new directions for their lives. We ask that you would be with them as they go and strengthen them as they take on new responsibilities in this world. Give them, and us, faith and encouragement as we try to be your servants who live in joy and thankfulness for all we have received.

**We praise you Lord, for all your gifts, and for the opportunity to come together as people from many faith backgrounds to celebrate this day with these graduating seniors.**

Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

**Welcome and Poem: Joe Michael Davis**

**Scripture:**

**Jeremiah 31:31-34: Pastor Andrew Plocher, Messiah, Marquette**

**1 John 4:16-21**

**John 8:31-33**

**Sermon: Pastor James Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop of NGLS**

**Hymn of the Day: #732 Borning Cry**

**Prayers of Intercession: Pastor Steve Solberg, Immanuel, Negaunee**

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Build us up, mothering God, as living stones united in your spiritual house. Continually strengthen your church as it is sent forth to proclaim your love. We pray especially for new congregations and those in redevelopment. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Humble us, creator God, as part of your creation. Fill us with respect and awe for the world you have made, including volcanoes, ocean currents, tropical rainstorms, glaciers, and other forces that both destroy and create. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Align our ways to your love, O God. We pray for countries, leaders, and other organizations as they prepare places for those seeking refuge and safety (*aid organizations may be named*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing and rest, help those whose hearts are heavy and weighed down by many troubles. Comfort their suffering, ease their distress, and carry their burdens (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, we pray for those who tend and teach our children and adults. We give thanks for all the sacrifices they have given to love and care for our children and adults through their education. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

All knowing God, we pray for all our graduates and all their hard work through the year.. Grant them patience and courage as they look forward to the future and all that is to come. May they remember that you are always walking with and guiding them in their ups and downs. Show them your love in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Generous God, you call into your brilliant light all who have died. Give us faith to take hold of the promise of your eternal life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Sharing of the Peace**

**Special Music: Eric Banitt**



**Thanksgiving for the Word: Pastor Ann**

Gracious God, we give you thanks for your Word of life and for faithful people who have trusted in your guidance when they, like us, have faced an unknown future.

When Abram of the ancient Chaldeans was living in the land of Ur, God called him to leave his country and kinsman and follow where God directed him. And when Abram, later named Abraham, followed in faith, he was led to a new unseen land filled with opportunities and became the father of a great nation. For your word of life, O God, **We give you thanks and praise.**

When Joseph, the favored son of Jacob, was sold into slavery by his brothers, he was taken to a new land called Egypt. Yet, trusting in God's assurance, he used his skills to become second only to the mighty Pharaoh and saved nations from starvation. For your word of life, O God, **We give you thanks and praise.**

When Ruth, the Moabite, lost her husband and was encouraged to go back to her family by her mother-in-law she answered, "Where you go, I will go; your people shall be my people, and your

God my God." She trusted God and became mother to the line of the kings of Israel. For your word of life, O God, **We give you thanks and praise.**

Life is filled with challenges that draw us into growth and learning. There is always more to learn and to understand in life and faith. As we are sent out to praise our Lord today and honor those in the Northern Great Lakes synod who are graduating this year, let us give thanks to God who claims us, calls us, and redeems us through Jesus Christ. For your word of life, O God, **We give you thanks and praise.**

We are sent out in thankfulness for all the LORD provides and the opportunities we have in life as we live and learn upon this earth. **Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Sending: #537 On Our Way Rejoicing**

**Blessing Pastor: Pastor Andrew**

### **Postlude**

