

## 2013–2014 Thankoffering Service

*As we collect the Thankoffering today, we share in a tradition dating back to the 1800s, when Christian women formed “mite” or “cent” societies to fund mission. When others in the church said there was not enough money to carry out these projects, the women believed otherwise. In cent societies, each woman collected offerings at home. They would gather as we do today to worship and combine their offerings and offer them up with thanks and praise, dedicating the funds to mission. When Women of the ELCA was formed more than 25 years ago, we committed to continue this tradition of giving in gratitude for blessings. Each year, in thousands of congregations, Thankofferings are collected and sent to support the life-changing ministries of Women of the ELCA. Together, we do more than we could ever do apart. In gratitude for all God has given to us, and with hope for all that is to come, we now collect our Thankoffering.*

**OFFERTORY** *(Regular offering collected by Miana Tveit and Logan Buum)*

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

**One:** God of grace *(Reader 3)*

**All: You have showered us with abundance and entrusted to us the ministries of Women of the ELCA. Accept these offerings to further your mission. Help us to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world. Accept these gifts and this prayer that, nurtured by your Word, filled with your spirit, and fed at your table, we may share with gladness all that you have shared with us until all creation is satisfied. Amen.**

**Choir:** Come Ye Thankful People Come

### THE LORD’S PRAYER

**BLESSING** *(Pastor)*

**One:** God bless you with courage, with peace, and with love, that you may freely live for God and freely give for others.

**BENEDICTION** *(Pastor)*

**CLOSING HYMN:** We Plow the Fields and Scatter (ELW 681)

**Opening Hymns:** Worship and Praise: 80 – King of Kings  
94 - Majesty  
154 - We Will Glorify

**GATHERING** (Reader 1)

**One:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, creator, giver, and gift, one God now and forever.

**All: Amen**

**LITANY FOR GATHERING** *(Reader 1)*

**One:** This is the day that the Lord has made.

**All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Today brings the gift of life.

**Creator, you make us in your image.**

Today brings all we need to live with purpose.

**Inviter, you call us to discipleship in Jesus Christ.**

Today brings the strength to live more fully.

**Inspiring one, you empower us by the Holy Spirit.**

Today brings women of many generations who grow together in faith and affirm and support one another.

**Companion, you embolden us with community.**

Today brings a world in need of healing and wholeness.

**Healer, you engage us in ministry and action.**

For the church, the society, and the world,

**God, we humbly enter this worship.**

Prepare our hearts.

**Amen.**

**GREETING** (*Reader 2*)

**One:** We hear you calling, O God.

**All: Make us bold to listen and to follow.**

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**One:** Creator God, you call us into relationship with you and with all of creation. In Jesus you gave us mercy beyond our understanding and showed us how to live with grace toward each other. Your blessings are like the dew in the morning and the stars in the heavens, not to be counted but to be received with thanksgiving and generously shared. Keep us moving always toward you and our neighbor, eager to share and receive. In the name of Christ we pray.

**All: Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:1-6** (*Cynthia*)

**PSALM: 46** Choir leads

**SECOND READING: Colossians 1:11-20**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**GOSPEL: Luke 23:33-43**

**HYMN:** “The Numberless Gifts of God’s Mercies” (*ELW*, 683)

**SERMON:** *Pastor Duane*

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** Praise and Thanksgiving” (*ELW*, 689)

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** (*Judy Swanson/Deacon of the Month*)

**Prayers for the Day from the Lesson Insert**

**One:** With the whole people of Christ Jesus, let us call upon God for the sake of the church, the world, and all in need of prayer.

God who made all things good, you create us to be caretakers and stewards in your creation. You equip us to provide for the people, places, and ministries that you have

entrusted to our care. Draw us together in the light of faith and hope so that we may recognize our calling to this work.

We pray in abundance,

**All: Creator, draw us in.**

God who blesses our labor, you light our paths with the histories of women who acted boldly on their faith to change the world. Bring their influence to our attention and their stories to our lips and ears. May we see in them our own potential to live boldly.

We pray in abundance,

**Creator, draw us in.**

God who provides, you endow us with all we need to nurture, harvest, and share the fruits of creation. In this abundance, direct our eyes and feet to our neighbors who are on the margins, both near and far. Give us curiosity and courage to live into the fullness of our communities.

We pray in abundance,

**Creator, draw us in.**

God who was and is and will be, through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Women of the ELCA, you have called us more deeply into relationship with you and the world. Bless every church, everywhere, that through our work, all may know your grace and accept your call to love one another.

We pray in abundance,

**Creator, draw us in.**

God who reaches every people, turn our hearts to see those with us now, gathered at this Thankoffering service to give thanks and praise to you. Urge us on to the fullness of life, in the name of Christ, our lord.

**Amen.**

**THANKOFFERING** (*Cynthia*) *with music in background*

You may introduce the offering with these words: