

*Graduation Service
With Holy Communion
September 21, 2024*



Florida-Bahamas Synod's
School of Lay Ministry

*Mandarin Lutheran Church
Jacksonville, Florida*

PRELUDE

Gathering

CALL TO WORSHIP (Sung 2X)

(Please stand as you are able)

Surely the Presence 243

LANNY WOLFE

LANNY WOLFE

Sure - ly the pres - ence of the Lord is in this

place; I can feel His might - y pow - er and His

grace. I can hear the brush of

an - gel's wings; I see glo - ry on each face.

Sure - ly the pres - ence of the Lord is in this place.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gathering around the font for worship, Rev William Hamilton, Executive Director of School of Lay Ministry, will say a short welcome.

Thank you for joining us in worship. May God's presence bring you joy and strength.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

B In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

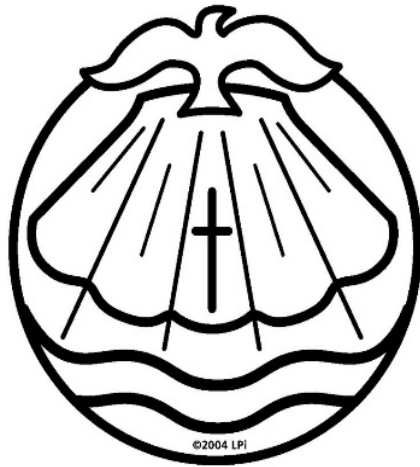
B Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.


C **Amen.**




The Procession starts with the Gathering Hym

Will You Come and Follow Me


The Summons




1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call




your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



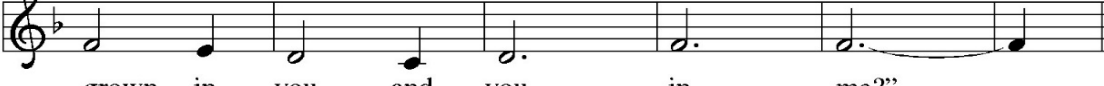
know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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- B** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

TFF 264

To God Be the Glory

1 To God be the glo - ry, great things he has done;
 2 Oh, per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood,
 3 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,

so loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
 to ev - 'ry be - liev - er the prom - ise of God;
 and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;

who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,
 the vil - est of - fend - er by grace may be - lieve,
 but pur - er, and high - er, and great - er will be

and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
 that mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceive.
 our won - der, our vic - t'ry, when Je - sus we see.

Refrain

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the peo - ple re - joice!

Oh, come to the Fa - ther, through Je - sus the Son,

and give him the glo - ry, great things he has done.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
 Music: TO GOD BE THE GLORY, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- B Let us pray. O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord.
- C **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

Word

EPISTLE READING: James 3:13 – 4:3,7-8a

- L A reading from James

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

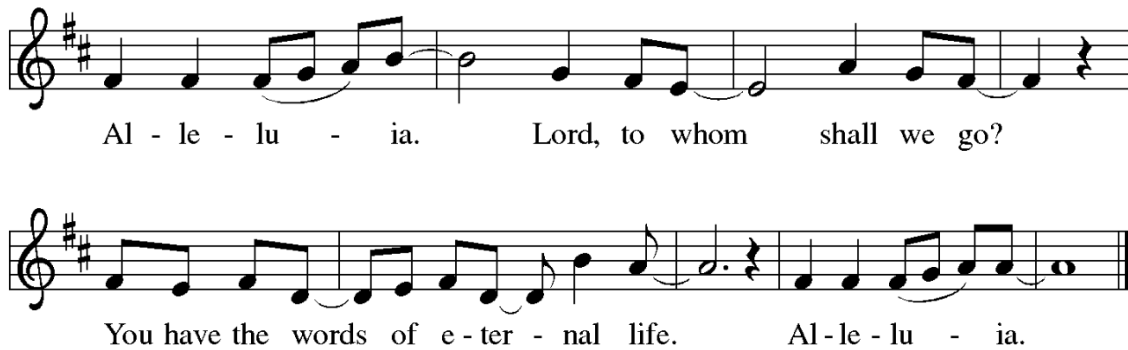
^{4:1}Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

- L Word of God, Word of Life.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

SETTING 6



GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37

B The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark

C **Glory to You, O Lord!**

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again."³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?"³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them,³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

B The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ!**

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Bishop Pedro Suarez

(Please stand as you are able)

HYMN (Sung 2X)

W&P 96

Make me a servant

96

Make me a ser - vant, hum - ble and meek.

Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.

And may the prayer of my heart al - ways be:

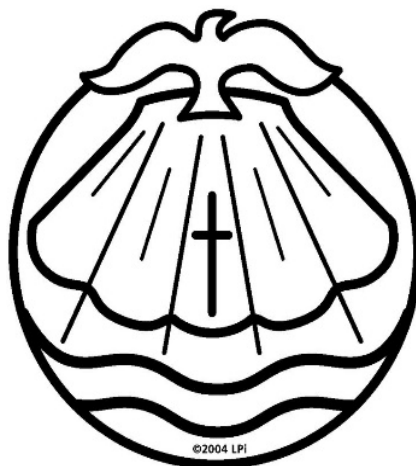
Make me a ser - vant, make me a ser - vant,

make me a ser - vant to - day.

Text and music: Kelly Willard

Text and tune © 1982 Willing Heart Music (admin. Maranatha! Music c/o The Copyright Company) and Maranatha! Music (admin. The Copyright Company)

(Graduates gather at the front of the altar as the assembly sings the second time).



PRESENTATION

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

- B Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these brothers and sisters in Christ, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism.
- WH I present the School of Lay Ministry Graduating Class of 2024 who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism. (*School of Lay Ministry, chair, Executive Director, Rev William Hamilton*)

Faith & Service Graduates **and where they worship**

Susan Brown

Mandarin Lutheran, Jacksonville

Walter Brown

Mandarin Lutheran, Jacksonville

Mary Delasin, n/OLF

St Timothy Lutheran, Tarpon Springs

Carol Gomez

Mandarin Lutheran, Jacksonville

Emanuel Harwood-Lopez

St Stephen Lutheran, Longwood

Robert Moore

St John Lutheran, Lake Park

Judy Olsen

Joy Lutheran, Ocala

Patricia Sartini

Mandarin Lutheran, Jacksonville

The presiding minister continues with prayer.

- B Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.
- C **Amen.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

B I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: I renounce them.

B Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response: I renounce them.

B Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

B Do you believe in God the Father?

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

B Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

B Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism:

- B You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person responds:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly:

- B People of God, do you promise to support *these sisters and brothers* and pray for *them* in their life in Christ?
- C **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Graduates may kneel. The presiding minister prays for God's blessing.

- B Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit, you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

B These graduates have completed the Faith & Service program of the School of Lay Ministry.

Susan Brown
Walter J Brown
Sr. Mary Delasin, n/OLF
Carol Gomez
Emanuel Harwood Lopez
Robert S Moore
Judith A Olsen
Patricia Sartini

C We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.



SCHOOL OF LAY MINISTRY

Faith and Service 2024 Graduates



Susan Brown
Mandarin Lutheran Church,
Jacksonville, FL



Walter J. Brown
Mandarin Lutheran Church,
Jacksonville, FL



Sr. Mary Delasin, n/OLF
St. Timothy Lutheran Church
Tarpon Springs, FL



Carol Gomez
Mandarin Lutheran Church
Jacksonville, FL

SCHOOL OF LAY MINISTRY

Faith and Service 2024 Graduates



Emanuel Harwood Lopez
St. Stephen Lutheran Church
Longwood, FL



Robert S Moore
St. John's Lutheran Church
Lake Park, FL



Judith A. Olsen
Our Savior Lutheran Church
at Mandarin Oaks, Ocala, FL



Patricia Sartini
Mandarin Lutheran Church
Jacksonville, FL

(Please stand as you are able)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- A Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

- A Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We pray especially for ministries of hospitality and faith formation. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

- A Creating God, you shape the world so there is more than enough for all. Curb our habits of overuse, and guide us toward more sustainable sources of energy, food, and water. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

- A Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage peace among peoples, tribes, and nations; heal divisions in our country and local communities, that together we might cooperate for the good of all. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

- A Faithful God, you draw near to you all who are in need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer *especially those we now mention in our hearts or on our lips*....Transform economic, political, and social systems that oppress vulnerable people, especially systems of structural racism and generational poverty. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

- A Transforming God, you accompany all through changes and transitions. Help us to see where you are calling this community to new ways of living the gospel promise; assure us that even as change brings loss, it also brings hope and life. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Merciful God, you embrace us on our final pilgrimage from this life. Accompany all who have died, console those who mourn, and at the last, show us the way to eternal life in you. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

Meal

PASSING OF THE PEACE

B The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The assembly greets each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

(Please be seated)

OFFERING

An offering is collected for the ministries of the Church.

(Please stand as you are able)

OFFERTORY**W&P 41****Give Thanks**

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And
now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Text: Henry Smith
Music: GIVE THANKS, Henry Smith

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OFFERING PRAYER

A Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

B The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

B Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

B Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise**

PREFACE

B It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the witness of your saints you show us the hope of our calling and strengthen us to run the race set before us, that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory. And so, with all the saints, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy *Santo, santo, santo*



San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te_a - do - ra.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.



Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de-cir: San - to_e-res Se - ñor.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

Text: Argentine traditional

Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional

The presiding minister continues to give thanks.

B You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

B For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

B Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

B Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us:

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

B Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

*This is the Lord's Table and all are welcome.
Please indicate to the pastor if you need a gluten free wafer.
Both wine and grape juice are served.
The wine is red and the grape juice is white.*

(Please be seated)

COMMUNION SONG

ELW SETTING 6

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -

way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

(Please stand as you able)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

B The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C Amen.

Sending

BLESSING

B God all mighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

C Amen.



Here I Am, Lord



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte

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DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Leading the Worship

Bishop Pedro Suarez Presiding, Bishop of the Florida-Bahamas Synod

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MANDARIN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Mission Statement

Living in the grace of God and by God's command, we **M**ake disciples, **L**ove our neighbors, and **C**are for the world.

Mandarin Lutheran Church
11900 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32223
(904) 268-4591 • Office@MandarinLutheran.org

OUR AKNOWLEDGEMENT and THANKS
from the
SCHOOL OF LAY MINISTRY STEERING COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Florida-Bahamas Synod School of Lay Ministry Steering Committee, we are deeply grateful to the following individuals for their unwavering support of this ministry for laypeople:

A heartfelt shout-out and big thank you to Pastor Daniel Locke of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, FL, for creating the service bulletins for this special graduation service.

We extend a special thank you to Mandarin Lutheran Church for their generosity in hosting the 2024 Service and Graduation event.

A big thank you to Bishop Pedro Suarez for his warm and generous presence at the service, supporting the 2024 graduates and the Florida-Bahamas Synod School of Lay Ministry.

A heartfelt thanks to Rev. William Hamilton, the Director of the school, for his tireless work with the Synod on behalf of the School of Lay Ministry and his support of the Steering Committee.

A warm thank you to Rev. Anne Enderle for her hard work and dedication in helping prepare the bulletin, coordinating with the Mandarin Lutheran congregation on food and logistics, and supporting the students as an instructor and facilitator at the Mandarin location throughout the year, even in retirement.

A musical thanks to Roger Feingold for sharing his wonderful musical talents during the graduation service.

A loving thanks to Pat Sartini for her help in coordinating this event and her devotion to the School of Lay Ministry as a graduate.

A blessed thanks to Michelle Langston for capturing this significant moment for the graduates of the School of Lay Ministry with her photography skills.

Kudos and thanks to the congregation of Mandarin Lutheran Church for preparing the food, providing the cake for the reception, and setting up the rooms for the retreat and service. These are the unsung heroes of the church who keep everything running smoothly behind the scenes. Faithful people of God.

An appreciative thanks for their dedication and love for the School of Lay Ministry program, the Steering Committee: Rev. William Hamilton as Director, Rev. Bruce Dillman as Instructor; Michele Hilton as Chair and Administrator, Ed Bornman as IT and Finance, Debora Koepke, as Events Coordinator, Lisa Gomez, Cindy Kamp and Carol Stanton for all their hard work and many hours spent in making this school available to the lay community of the ELCA Lutheran Church and for all the behind-the-scenes work that they do to make this program such a successful one.

May God bless each of you for your dedication and service to the School of Lay Ministry and the lay people of God. May the Holy Spirit grant you special blessings on this day!

Finally, a big CONGRATULATIONS to the 2024 Florida-Bahamas Synod School of Lay Ministry graduates for all your hard work. May the knowledge you have gained and the deepened relationship with God help you share your newfound wisdom with those around you, making disciples as you go forth. God's blessings on your amazing journeys ahead!

