

These Certificates Are Pointless

When we set out to design some keepsake certificates adorned and inspired by the art and teaching of Pastor Daniel Erlander, we realized that the conventional idea behind things like diplomas and awards—earning a fancy piece of paper to show off one’s achievements or smarts or skills—doesn’t fit so well with the vision of Christian life and community Dan shared so freely and generously.

“You don’t need points,” he would sometimes say. “It’s okay to be pointless.” With the deep grace of that declaration in mind, we made these certificates to help you and your congregation try another way to recognize and celebrate people.

We’ve divided these slips of (pointless) paper into three categories: Marking a Moment, Encouragement and Accompaniment, and Gratitude. We have also included some language you can use as you distribute these certificates to the people in your congregation.

Marking a Moment

Certain occasions in the life of faith are momentous. Whenever you look at this certificate, you can remember what happened and what it means. Your congregation will help you understand and celebrate what God is doing in your life.

Encouragement and Accompaniment

Whenever you look at this certificate, you can remember that you are not alone on your journey of faith. Your congregation cares about you and loves to see you learn and grow. Keep it up!

Gratitude

Whenever you look at this certificate, you can remember that you are valued, honored, and known. We thank God for you. We also thank you for you. The gifts you share with us and with the world matter. You make a difference.

You don’t
need points.



Come sing
with me!



An “official” seal

This seal uses the back-cover image from *A Place for You*. It incorporates the no-longer-crabby people and Sarah dancing and smiling together. The rulebook / scorecard is thrown away, and they share the good news: All is gift. All is grace.

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Erlander Certificates Value Pack

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Encouragement and Accompaniment

Whenever you look at this certificate, you can remember that you are not alone on your journey of faith. Your congregation cares about you and loves to see you learn and grow. Keep it up!



You Are a Learner!

You ask good questions and look for answers that make sense to your mind and heart.
We love watching you learn and grow!

Congregation

Location

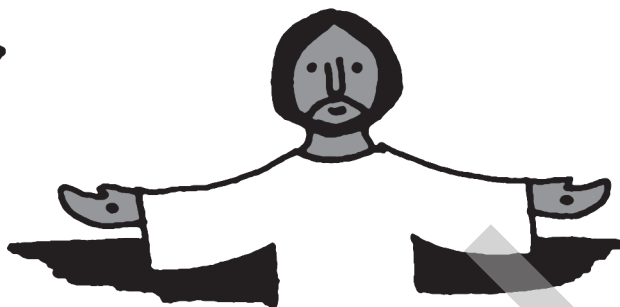
Official Signature

Date



Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning,
for in you I put my trust.
Teach me the way I should go,
for to you I lift up my soul.
Psalm 143:8

“come
and



follow
me.”



Today we placed your very own copy of the Bible in your hands. This is a great milestone in your journey of faith! We thank God for these Holy Scriptures and what they mean to our lives. We will continue to discover with you how God's living word speaks to our community of faith.

Congregation

Location



Official Signature

Date

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

MATT 28:18-20



You have spent time and energy learning about what the church teaches and confesses. Keep learning and growing, keep living the truth, and keep sharing God’s love with others.

Congregation

Location



Official Signature

Date



Gratitude

Whenever you look at this certificate, you can remember that you are valued, honored, and known. We thank God for you. We also thank YOU for you. The gifts you share with us and with the world matter. YOU make a difference.

The Spirit of
the Lord is
upon me
because he
has chosen
me to bring
good news
to the
poor... to
proclaim
liberty to the
captives and
recovery of
sight to the
blind, to set
free the
oppressed
and
proclaim
the
acceptable
year of
the Lord.



Luke
4:18-19

Certificate of Appreciation

You show us how justice, freedom, and dignity made real reveal the nature and strength of God's love. Thank you for your gifts of policy advocacy, direct action, and mutual aid.

Congregation

Location

Official Signature

Date





Care for Creation

Your care for our beloved planet and its creatures bears witness to God's delight and God's longing for creation's wholeness. Thank you for leading us in opportunities of repentance and repair.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that fills it;
let the field exult and everything in it.

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

Psalm 96:11-12



Congregation

Location

Official Signature

Date



You can frolic!

You teach us about joy, delight, and play. Thanks for reminding us that God wants us to have fun as we learn and grow!

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that fills it;
let the field exult and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy.
Psalm 96:11-12



Congregation

Location

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