

An end-times future-forward mission-supporting vision series

FutureVision 20/20

THE FIRST BECAME LAST
SO THAT THOSE WHO
THOUGHT THEY WERE FIRST
WOULD REALIZE THEY WERE LAST
BUT THEN BECOME FIRST
THROUGH THE TRUE FIRST
WHO WILL COME BACK
ON THE LAST DAY
SO WE CAN BE FIRST WITH HIM

*Last Sunday of the Church Year
November 24, 2019*

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

5110 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, Illinois 60031 – (847) 244-9647

Pastor Ben Squires

Cell phone: 224-419-5519 or email: pastor@bethelgurnee.org

Katrina Johns, Equipping Coordinator

Direct line: 224-623-0800 or email: katrina@bethelgurnee.org

Website: www.BethelGurnee.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion: 1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday of the month

Becky Lanzito & Karen Leicht - Organists, Ann Souza - Music Director,
Mandi Diver – Choir/New Music Accompanist, David Ziegler - Handbell Director

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We are pleased you chose to be with us in worship today, and pray the Lord blesses you as he has blessed us with your presence. Our goal is to help people find the right place for them to hear God's word and serve His mission. We'd love to support you in that spiritual journey. Please take a moment to complete an attendance card and place it in the Offering plate or give to an usher. This card will help us connect with you.

NURSERY

We have two rooms available for your use. When the service is in the sanctuary, the nursery is down the hall just past the restrooms. If the service is held in the gym, the nursery is in the youth room at the far end of the gym.

SERVING TODAY

Sunday 8:00 AM

Elders: JJ Jones
Comm/Asst. Elder: Mike Bandman
Acolytes: Dylan Love, Owen Squires
Lay Readers: David Ross, Cheryl Ross
Ushers: Al Diercks, **OPEN**
Greeters: Boivin Family,
Brazda Family
Fellowship: Michelle Bereczky
Nov. Altar Guild: Diane Mundrick
Nov. Counters: Margie Tatgenhorst

Sunday 10:45 AM

Bob Souza
Jack Warneke
Ruth Ziegler, Amanda Adams
Victor Sundararaj, OPEN
OPEN, Scott Gutzke
Ellen Dalrymple,
Ralph & Donna Danielsen

Deborah Wuethrick
OPEN

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:

Bill & Lynda Oesterreich in memory of her father, Lester Gerber.

In Today's Prayers

*If you have something you'd like added,
please go to one of the Prayer Stands,
write down your request, & put in the plastic rack.*



In our weekly Worship Prayers, we lift up praises, thanksgivings, requests, and concerns to our Lord. In order to help us pray to God about the wholeness of our lives in the world, we have a schedule for when we will focus on specific areas for prayer. Any immediate needs will always take priority, but in general, we will follow this schedule. Please note that this means on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, Pastor will speak the names of everyone on our health concerns list, but on other Sundays, this will be lifted up only as a general prayer for health and healing.

Local Churches

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Circuit (area) churches:

Beautiful Savior-Antioch, Faith-Lake Forest, Good Shepherd-Lake Villa, Immanuel-Glenview, Lord of Glory-Grayslake, St. Matthew-Hawthorn Wood Grace-Northbrook, Community of Faith-Spring Grove, Redeemer-Waukegan Prince of Peace-Waukegan

GO! Together partner churches in Gurnee:

Gurnee Community, Joy!, Lakeland, Life, Village, Immanuel, La Viña, Epicenter, House of Prayer, Rebaño Condado de Lake, Wildwood Presbyterian, New Hope, and Evangelist Matt Kearney

Waukegan Churches participating in the Mosaic Learning Community

For more info, go to <http://mosaic.tiu.edu>

Christian Neighbors, First Presbyterian, Iglesia Emanuel, Journey, Living Waters Cathedral, New Abbey, Shiloh Baptist, Sign of the Dove, Vertical Encounter, Waukegan Baptist Bible, Waukegan Christian Faith Fellowship, Waukegan Community Church

Congregation Goal: Missional Living

Living as disciples among our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, families, friends, and daily living

THE GOSPEL OF ST. LUKE SERVICE

Worship in a traditional order drawing words from Luke's Gospel.

Luke is the focus of Year C Gospel readings in the Lectionary.

Opening Hymn *Christ High-Ascended, Now in Glory Seated* LSB 840; tune: 825



1	Christ high	-as - cend - ed,	now	in glo - ry	seat - ed,
2	Christ from	the Fa - ther	ev -	'ry pow'r pos	-sess - ing,
3	Christ, who	in dy - ing	won	for us sal	-va - tion,
4	Christ in	His splen - dor,	all	do - min - ion	gain - ing,
5	As at	His part - ing,	joy	shall ban - ish	griev - ing,



Throned and ex -	alt - ed,	vic - to	-ry com - plet - ed,	
Who on His	cho - sen	lift - ed	hands in bless - ing,	
Lives now the	first - born	of the	new cre - a - tion;	
Christ with His	peo - ple	ev - er	-more re - main - ing,	
Faith in His	pres - ence	strength - en	our be - liev - ing;	



Death's	dread	do - min - ion	fi -	nal - ly	de -
Sends	forth	His ser - vants,	still	in faith	con -
To	win	dis - ci - ples	out	of ev -	'ry
Christ	to	all a - ges	glo - ri -	ous - ly	
Filled	with	His Spir - it,	love	and pow'r	re -



feat -	ed,	We are	His	wit - ness - es.
fess -	ing,	We are	His	wit - ness - es.
na -	tion,	We are	His	wit - ness - es.
reign -	ing,	We are	His	wit - ness - es.
ceiv -	ing,	We are	His	wit - ness - es.

Invocation *(Based on Luke 2:14)*

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Glory to God in the highest,

C: peace to all the Earth,

P: and goodwill from God in heaven.

C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

(Based on the Song of Zechariah—Luke 1:68-79 (LSB 238), along with Luke 3:7-8,10; 15:21)

P: John the Baptist was called the prophet of the Most High,

for He went before the Lord Jesus to prepare His way,

confronting the people and us with our sin, saying:

“Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon?

Produce fruit that shows you have repented.

Produce actions that show you have changed your hearts and lives.”

The crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?”

And we find ourselves asking this same question.

C: Lord, we have sinned. What then shall we do?

P: God calls on us to confess our sin and seek His forgiveness and mercy,

so that these words from the prodigal son in the parable of Jesus

become our own words of confession:

C: Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.

I am no longer worthy to be called your child.

P: John the Baptist, the prophet, went before the Lord Jesus

to give His people knowledge of their salvation

by the forgiveness of their sin.

In the tender compassion of our God,

the dawn from on high shall break upon us

to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

C: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;

He has come to His people and redeemed them.

He has raised up for us a mighty Savior,

born of the house of His servant David.

P: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis (based on Luke 2:14)

LSB 204



1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shi - ped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, You took our illnesses and bore our diseases, bringing hope to the sick and the dying. In Your death on the cross, You completed Your work of bearing all our burdens and on the third day showed us in Your resurrected body the firstfruits of the new creation. Heal us now by Your Word and Sacraments, and raise us up on the Last Day that we might live with You forever; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Anthem**“I Sing th’ Almighty Power of God”****Adult Choir**

- Use the anthem’s music and words to help you to meditate on God’s Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.

*I sing th’ almighty power of God, That made the mountains rise;
That spread the flowing seas abroad, And built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained The sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at his command, And all the stars obey.*

*I sing the goodness of the Lord, That filled the earth with food;
He formed the creatures with his word, And then pronounced them good.
Lord how thy wonders are displayed where’er I turn my eye;
If I survey the ground I tread, Or gaze upon the sky.*

*There’s not a plant or flower below But makes Thy glories known;
And clouds arise and tempest blow, By order from thy throne;
While that borrows life from thee Is ever in thy care,
And everywhere that man can be, Thou, God are present there.*

Old Testament Reading**Malachi 3:13–18 (ESV)**

¹³“Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, ‘How have we spoken against you?’ ¹⁴You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts? ¹⁵And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.’”

¹⁶Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. ¹⁷“They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. ¹⁸Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle (New Testament Letter)

Colossians 1:13-20 (ESV)

¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Song of Praise

Glory to Our Great Redeemer



1. Glo - ry to our great Re -
(2. Glo - ry) to our great Re -



-deem -er, spot-less Lamb for sin-ners slain; my par-don pur-chased, my _ ran-som paid. Glo-ry,
-deem -er, died my death that I might live; such cost -ly grace He so _ free -ly gives. Glo-ry,



1. glo - ry to His name. 2. Glo-ry name, Glo - ry to our per - fect
glo - ry to His



Sac - ri-fice, a Lamb whose blood cov - ered my _ shame. The wrath of God poured out and



sat - is-fied. Glo-ry, glo - ry to His name.

Holy Gospel

Luke 23:27–43 (ESV)

²⁷And there followed [Jesus] a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. ²⁸But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ ³¹For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Children’s Message

Acknowledgements

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires.

Portions used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 000013448.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Luke 3:6-8 used in Confession of Sin and Luke 24:27 used in Confession of Faith are based on Common English Bible (CEB)

Copyright © 2011 by Common English Bible.



1 Praise be to Christ in whom we see The im - age of the
2 Praise be to Him whose sov - 'reign sway And will up - holds cre -
3 Praise be to Him who, Lord Most High, The full - ness of the



Fa - ther shown, The first-born Son re - vealed and known, The truth and
a - tion's plan; Who is, be - fore all worlds be - gan And when our
God-head shares; And yet our hu - man na - ture bears, Who came as



grace of de - i - ty; Through whom cre - a - tion came to birth,
world has passed a - way: Lord of the Church, its life and head,
man to bleed and die. And from His cross there flows our peace



Whose fin - gers set the stars in place, The un - seen pow'rs, and
Re - demp - tion's price and source and theme, A - live, the first - born
Who chose for us the path He trod, That so might sins and



this small earth, The fur - thest bounds of time and space.
from the dead, To reign as all - in - all su - preme.
sor - rows cease And all be rec - on - ciled to God.

Text: © 1984 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001267

Sermon

Colossians 1:13-20

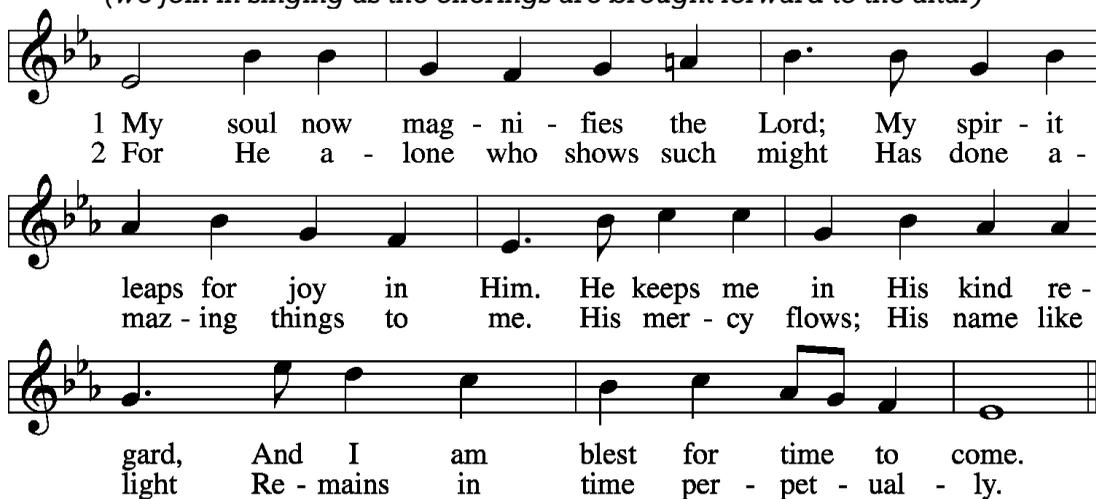
Confession of Faith from Luke 24:26-27,32; 4:21; 24:44-49

We confess that Jesus interpreted for us the things written about Himself in all the Scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets, so that our hearts burn within us when He opens the Scriptures to us by His Holy Spirit to reveal His grace and mercy. —As Jesus declared, “Today these words have been fulfilled in your hearing.”—He has opened our minds to understand the Scriptures, and shown us, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you—the Holy Spirit.” Amen.

Offering & Prayer Requests

In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

Offertory (Based on Mary’s Song—the Magnificat—Luke 1:46-55) LSB 934 sts. 1-2 (we join in singing as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it
2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -
leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -
maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like
gard, And I am blest for time to come.
light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.

© 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100013448.

Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction (Blessing) (Based on the Beatitudes—Luke 6:20-23)

P: The Lord Jesus lifts up His eyes on you, His disciples, and says:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you
on account of the Son of Man!

Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy,

for behold, great is your reward in heaven.”

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

LSB 515



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.
Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.
A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride - groom is at hand.
In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.
The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

Announcements



www.bethelgurnee.org/sabbatical

PASTORAL SABBATICAL - FALL 2020

A rest and renewal experience for Pastor Ben Squires and Bethel Lutheran Church

September – November

A Message from Bethel's Sabbatical Team

The duties and responsibilities of a pastor are very demanding, stressful, and emotionally taxing. Every day and week a pastor needs to manage his time to allow time to refresh, unwind, and family time. For a medium-sized congregation like Bethel, who only has one pastor, this work balance is even more challenging.

We believe an extended break time/sabbatical will be very beneficial for Pastor Squires. The sabbatical will allow him to refocus, re-energize, take up some learning opportunities, and spend some valuable time with his family.

Is a “Sabbatical” just another word for “vacation”?

No, “sabbatical”—from the word Sabbath—means rest. It is an *intentional* stepping away from regular pastoral duties to *purposefully* use time for resting from responsibilities, renewal through study & reading, and recreation through family time & hobbies.

What will Pastor be doing?

Pastor and his family will remain at home in Gurnee, except for some more flexible time for family trips. Pastor will use his time for:

- A trip to the United Kingdom for a walking poetry adventure
- Reading and studying poetry and other spiritual literature
- Writing poetry and other reflections
- Pursuing his hobby of photography, and
- Attending church elsewhere so that he simply sit and worship.

What will be the outcome of Pastor's Sabbatical?

The Sabbatical Team intentionally asked Pastor to refrain from trying to “produce” finished products of writing or art by the end of the Sabbatical. Instead, this will be a 3-month creative period, leaving the finalizing for after the Sabbatical is done. This creative period will fuel his ministry for years to come.

What will the Congregation be doing?

- Be served by an Interim Pastor
- Opportunities for additional leadership by Bethel's members
- Congregation Wellness Weekend at Bethel to focus on our mission
- “Imaginative Faith” Faith Story writing workshop series

Why are we raising funds for the Sabbatical?

Bethel committed to continue paying Pastor's salary and benefits during the 3 months of renewal leave. The additional costs for the Sabbatical are outside of the congregation's budget. Funds raised will cover the costs of our Interim Pastor, congregational renewal activities, and Pastor's traveling and renewal activities.

Does this mean that Pastor is looking for a new church?

No, most certainly not. The Sabbatical is designed to renew his energy for the mission here at Bethel—as well as renew the congregation for that mission. This is about extending and sustaining the work that God has for us together.

Saturday Starbucks Sabbatical Session

December 7 – 9:30-10:30AM

Starbucks (Grand & Dilleys)

Come get a FREE DRINK at Starbucks

(through a Thrivent Action Team grant)

and find out more about Pastor's Sabbatical.

Pastor and Sabbatical Team members will be there to share the vision and answer questions. Feel free to stop anytime during this hour.

(Parents, this is during the Children's Christmas Worship rehearsal at Bethel, making it a perfect time to grab a cup of coffee!).





SLOW DOWN THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

SLOW ADVENT

SUNDAY SERMON SERIES

DECEMBER 1, 8, 15, & 22

AND CHRISTMAS DAY

AS SLOW FOOD IS TO FAST FOOD.

SO SLOW ADVENT IS

TO MOST PEOPLE'S FAST SEASON OF ADVENT

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8 & 10:45AM

9 FELLOWSHIP

9:30 EDUCATION HOUR

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

10AM

Theologygrams: Stories of Jesus' Birth

Midweek Advent & Christmas Eve Series

Based on a drawing by Rich Wyld

Wednesday Midweek Advent Worship

6:30PM - December 4,11,18

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

6:00PM & 10:00PM

← New Time for 2019

