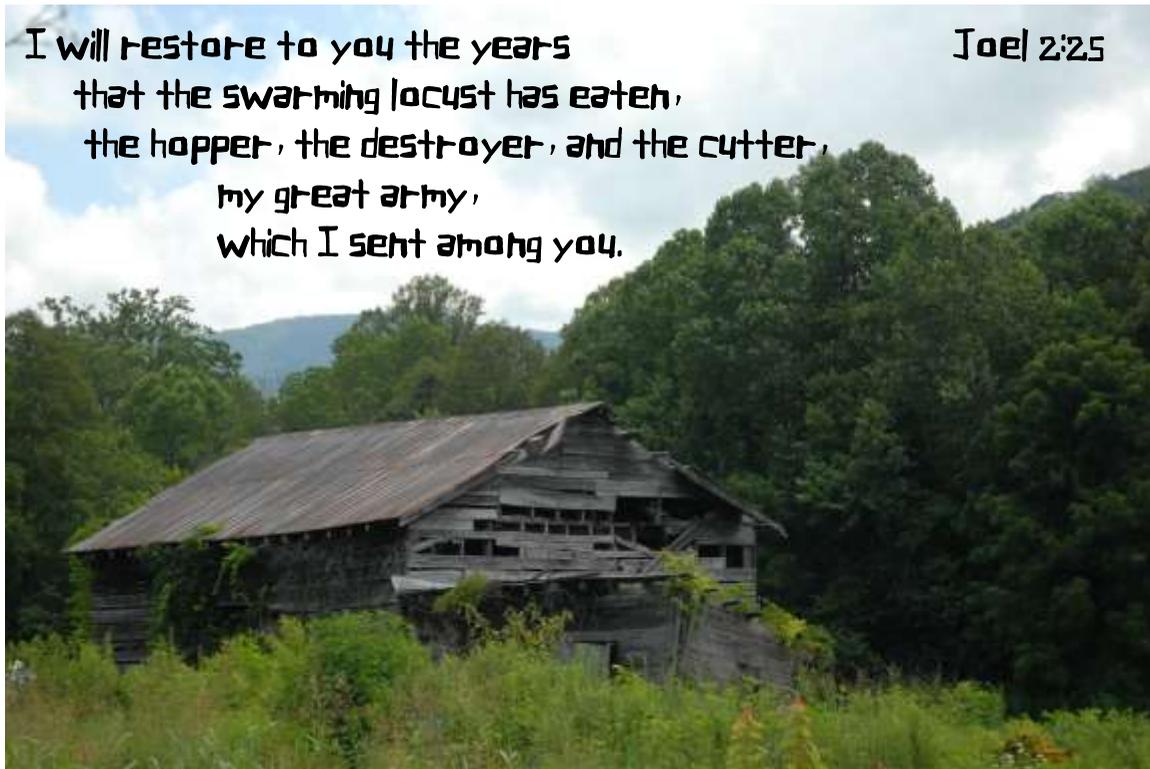


I will restore to you the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army,
which I sent among you.

Joel 2:25



Thanksgiving Eve November 27, 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.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper is celebrated according to the Lutheran Confessions based on the teaching Jesus gave his disciples and us that he is truly present in this meal. Confident that our sins are forgiven, we experience our oneness with him and each other as he gathers us at his table. His true body and blood, given and shed for us, we share in this meal as he invites in Matthew 26:26-28, "Take and eat; this is My Body ... This is My Blood..." Baptized Christians sharing these beliefs are invited to receive Communion. All others are invited to the altar rail for a blessing. Wine can be taken by common chalice, individual cup, or by dipping your wafer into the chalice. Please address questions to the Elders or the Pastor. ***Non-alcoholic wine is in purple-colored cups.***

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

Elders: Bob Souza

Comm/Asst. Elder: Dave Ziegler

Acolytes: Jude Squires, Kaylee Leicht

Lay Readers: Diane Boehm, Joanne Heidlauf

Ushers: Don Heidlauf, **OPEN**

Greeters: Al Diercks

VESPERS



Adapted from the Lutheran Service Book, “*vespers*” is a Latin word meaning “evening.” Originally one of eight daily offices prayed during the Middle Ages, Vespers was retained at the time of the Reformation as one of two chief daily services, the other being Matins (Morning Prayer). “Sunset marks the end of the day and also the beginning of the next day so that the days roll on without interruption. The hours of darkness are experienced as a time of waiting and watching... the unknown, isolation, fear, death, night... but also stillness, rest, peace, and promise. In Christ, the grave is transformed into the morning of new and unending life” (quotes from *Journey into the Heart of God*).

Opening Hymn

We Praise You, O God

LSB 785



1 We praise You, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship You, God of our fa - thers, we bless You;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



In grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
Through tri - al and tem - pest our guide You have been.
And glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore You, we kneel and a - dore You;
When per - ils o'er - take us, You will not for - sake us,
With You, Lord, be - side us, Your strong arm will guide us.



We bless Your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
And with Your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To You, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Opening Words

P: O Lord, open my lips,

C: and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C: make haste to help me, O Lord.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P: Praise to You, O Christ,

C: Lamb of our salvation.

Psalm Reading (Responsive)

Psalm 67 (ESV, alt.)

P: ¹May God be gracious to us and bless us

C: and make His face to shine upon us,

P: ²that His way may be known on earth,

C: And all nations will see His saving power.

P: ³Let the peoples praise You, O God;

C: let all the peoples praise you!

P: ⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,

for You judge the peoples in truth and guide the nations upon earth.

C: ⁵Let the peoples praise You, O God;

let all the peoples praise You!

P: ⁶The earth has yielded a wonderful harvest;

C: God, our God, shall bless us.

P: ⁷God shall bless us;

C: let all the ends of the earth greatly honor Him!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P: Father, through Your power the earth has brought forth its noblest fruit, the tree of the cross. Unite all people in its embrace, and feed them with its fruit: the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation, through Your Son, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ***And also with you.***

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, Your mercies are new every morning and You graciously provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your goodness, give thanks for Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience all our days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ***Amen.***

Anthem

“Sing a New Song to the Lord”

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.*

Join to rejoice; Lift up your voice; Sing a new song to the Lord!
Harmonies fair filling the air, sing a new song to the Lord!
Let one and all answer the call: music and melody raise,
God to adore forevermore with joyful anthems of praise!

Come, chant with delight canticles bright to God Almighty!
Sing songs of good cheer, echoing clear to God the Lord!
Now instruments bring, trumpet and string, this day of days,
The Lord God to adore forevermore with songs of praise!

With thanks, O God, for blessings all, our heritage we now recall;
With grateful hearts we pledge anew to sing your song our whole life through.

Join to rejoice; Lift up your voice; Sing a new song to the Lord!
Harmonies fair filling the air, sing a new song to the Lord!
Let one and all answer the call: music and melody raise,
God to adore forevermore with joyful anthems of praise!
God to adore forevermore with glad songs of praise!

Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:21–27 (ESV)

²¹“Fear not, O land;

be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done great things!

²²Fear not, you beasts of the field,

for the pastures of the wilderness are green;

the tree bears its fruit; the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

²³“Be glad, O children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God,

for he has given the early rain for your vindication;

he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the latter rain, as before.

²⁴The threshing floors shall be full of grain;
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

²⁵“I will restore to you the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent among you.

²⁶“You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

²⁷You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I am the LORD your God and there is none else.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

2 Corinthians 9:6–15 (ESV)

⁶The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹²For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission flowing from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Preparation**Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious**

LSB 548, st. 3 alt.

1 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, vic - to - rious! For Thy ho - ly,
 pre - cious Word; For Thy Bap - tism, which doth save me,
 For Thy blest Com - mu - nion board; For Thy death, the bit - ter
 scorn, For Thy res - ur - rec - tion morn, Lord, I thank Thee
 and ex - tol Thee, And in heav'n I shall be - hold Thee.

Holy Gospel**John 6:24–35 (ESV)**

²⁴So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” ²⁶Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” ²⁸Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” ²⁹Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? ³¹Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³²Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

³⁵Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory

LSB 230

P: Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth.

C: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

P: Unite my heart to fear Your name that I may walk in Your truth.

C: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Amen.

Hymn of the Day

For the Fruits of His Creation

LSB 894



1 For the fruits of His cre - a - tion, Thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har-vests of the Spir - it, Thanks be to God.



For His gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, Thanks be to God. For the
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done. In our
For the good we all in - her - it, Thanks be to God. For the



plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, Si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
world - wide task of car - ing For the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
won - ders that as - tound us, For the truths that still con - found us,



Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, Thanks be to God.
In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.

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Sermon

Joel 2:12-19

Offering

Offertory**O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee**

LSB 632

1 O Je - sus, bless - ed Lord, to Thee My heart - felt
 2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is
 thanks for - ev - er be, Who hast so lov - ing -
 come to me this day! My Sav - ior dwells with -
 ly be - stowed On me Thy bod - y and Thy blood.
 in my heart: How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

Offering Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

C: Amen.

Prayers of the Church

P: Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

C: and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

P: Merciful Father, whose guiding hand has brought us to the completion of this day, we humbly pray You to stay with us and shelter us in quiet hours of this night that we, who are wearied by the changes and chances of this passing world, may rest in Your changeless peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Visit our homes, O Lord, and drive from them all the snares of the enemy; let Your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace. Gracious Father, You direct Your people to use their gifts in service to other. Receive our thanks and praise for the faithful service of the servants in this congregation. Bless them with love and faithfulness to Your Word, so that they may continue to serve with gladness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: hear our prayer.

P: Eternal God, the hours both of day and night are Yours, and to You the darkness is no threat. Be present, we pray, with those who labor in these hours of night, especially those who watch and work on behalf of others. Grant them diligence in their watching, faithfulness in their service, courage in danger, and competence in emergencies. Help them to meet the needs of other with confidence and compassion; Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious Lord, we give You thanks for the day, especially for the good we were permitted to give and to receive. The day is now past, and we commit it to You. We entrust to You the night and rest in Your peace, for You are our help, and You neither slumber nor sleep. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Let us pray together.

C: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

The Lord's Supper: What We Believe

All Christians who are baptized and have been instructed are invited to receive Communion with us if you believe as we do—that the bread is the body of Christ, and the wine is the blood of Christ, truly present for us for the forgiveness of our sins.

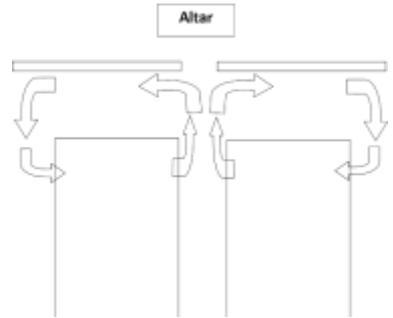
If this is a new teaching to you, or if this is different than you believe, we ask that you wait to commune until we've had a further chance to talk. We invite those who are not communing to come to the rail, cross your arms, and receive a blessing from the Lord.



Communion Distribution

- Pastor distributes the bread, and the Elders distribute the wine—with individual cups or common cup. The individual trays also contain alcohol-removed wine in the center of each tray in the purple cups.
- Each side will be ushered from the center aisle to the communion rail, row by row, starting with the front.
- Go to the rail on your side of the sanctuary, filling in starting with the outside wall towards the center.

- Once you have received the elements, you may remain at the rail for prayer and leave at your own pace.
- Return to your seat using the outside aisle.
- Use the distribution time to prepare yourself for communion, sing the hymns as prayers to God, and maintain this as meditative time.



Preparation for the Lord's Supper

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: *We lift them to the Lord.*

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: *It is right to give Him thanks and praise.*

P: We pray: Holy God, mighty Lord,

C: *gracious Father:*

P: Endless is Your mercy and eternal Your reign.

You have filled all creation with light and life;

C: *Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.*

P: Through Abraham, You promised to bless all nations.

Through the prophets, You renewed Your promise.

C: *And now in these last days, You have sent Your Son.*

P: Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup,

C: *We remember the life our Lord offered for us.*

P: And believing the witness of His resurrection and His promise to return again,

C: *We wait to share in the great and promised feast.*

P: Send now, we pray,

C: *Your Holy Spirit,*

P: So that we who receive the Lord's body and blood,

C: *May receive Him with a living faith. Amen.*

Words of Institution

Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *And also with you.*

(We greet one another in peace saying "God's peace" or "The Lord be with you.")

First Distribution Hymn Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

LSB 806

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, _____ give thanks. _____

Second Distribution Hymn Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

LSB 790



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,
4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -
5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your
reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly
fend you; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy shall
dore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His
lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is
fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has
dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -
prais - es be - fore Him! Let the A - men Sound from His



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?
failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.
might - y can do As with His love He be - friends you.
peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him!

Common Dismissal

P: Now may this true body and true blood of our Lord...

C: Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Thanksgiving at the End of the Day

P: Gracious Lord, we give You thanks for the day, especially for the good we were permitted to give and to receive; the day is now past and we commit it to You. We entrust to You the night; we rest in surety, for You are our help, and You neither slumber nor sleep. **C: Amen.**

Benediction

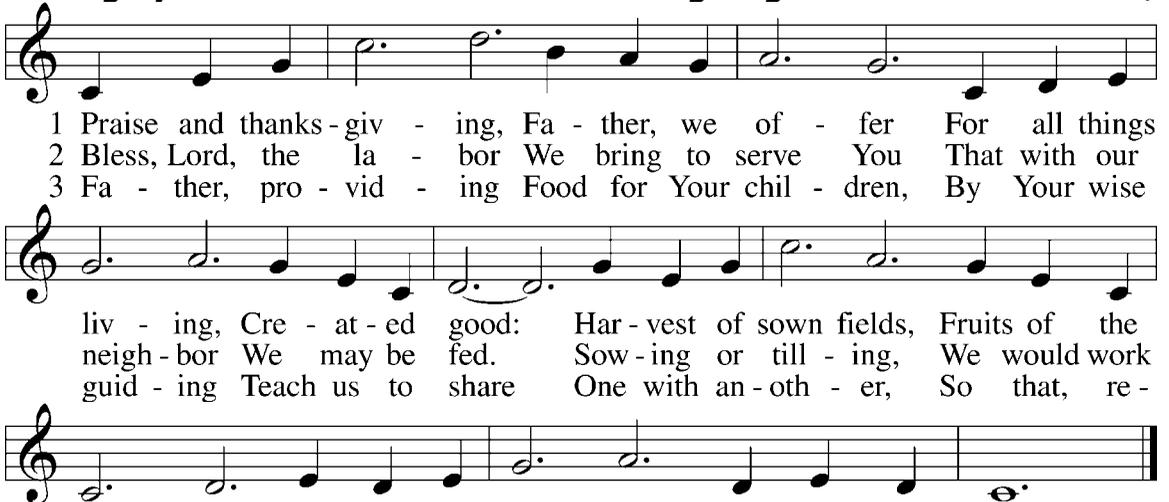
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

Praise and Thanksgiving

LSB 789



1 Praise and thanks - giv - ing, Fa - ther, we of - fer For all things
2 Bless, Lord, the la - bor We bring to serve You That with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing Food for Your chil - dren, By Your wise
liv - ing, Cre - at - ed good: Har - vest of sown fields, Fruits of the
neigh - bor We may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, We would work
guid - ing Teach us to share One with an - oth - er, So that, re -
or - chard, Hay from the mown fields, Bloss - om and wood.
with You, Har - vest - ing, mill - ing For dai - ly bread.
joic - ing With us, all oth - ers May know Your care.

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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!).

