



**SLOW DOWN THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON**

**SUNDAY & CHRISTMAS DAY  
SERMON SERIES**

**SLOW ADVENT**

AS SLOW FOOD IS TO FAST FOOD,  
SO SLOW ADVENT IS  
TO MOST PEOPLE'S FAST SEASON OF ADVENT

**THE  
ADVENT  
LIFE**

# **1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT DECEMBER 1, 2019**

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## ***BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL***

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

**Pastor Ben Squires**

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## ***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

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### ***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.

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### ***SERVING TODAY***

#### ***Sunday 8:00 AM***

***Elders:*** JJ Jones  
***Comm/Asst. Elder:*** Mike Bandman  
***Acolytes:*** Holly Faitsch, Emma Megerle  
***Lay Readers:*** Madeline Adams, Diane Boehm  
***Ushers:*** Don Heidlauf, ***OPEN***  
***Greeters:*** ***OPEN***  
Cindy Ellwein  
***Fellowship:*** Tim & Linda Moran

#### ***Sunday 10:45 AM***

***Bob Souza***  
***Jack Wameke***  
***Michaela Rosenthal, OPEN***  
***Glen Drollinger, OPEN***  
***Scott Gutzke, John Schultz***  
***OPEN***  
***Suzanne Fowler***

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### ***TODAY'S FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:***

Tim and Linda Moran in memory of Evelyn Kovac, it would have been her 91st birthday.

### ***THANKSGIVING EVE FLOWERS WERE PROVIDED BY:***

Katrina Johns who is thankful for the members of Bethel & in celebration of her 2nd year of service.

# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Missionaries**

Pastor Nicholas Salifu and churches in Northern Ghana  
Chris, Heather, Moses & Micah  
Carlos & Suzanne Tejada, former preschool family, Costa Rica

## **Prayers for Justice**

Heal our communities, break systems of injustice, use us as Your people  
help us see others as children of God

## **Our local partners**

Love INC—serving churches to help Christians serve those in need  
COOL—food bank and transitional housing  
PADS—homeless advocacy and support  
A Safe Place—support for those affected by domestic violence  
Informed Choices—Pregnancy & Parenting centers, Grayslake & Crystal Lake

## **Congregation: Care in Community**

We will provide direct assistance and build supportive relationships

## ***THE GOSPEL OF ST. MATTHEW SERVICE***

Worship in a traditional order drawing words from Matthew's Gospel.  
Matthew is the focus of Year A Gospel readings in the Lectionary.

### ***Opening Hymn***

### ***O Lord, How Shall I Meet You***

LSB 334 sts. 1-2, 4-5



1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?  
2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair - est palms;  
4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.  
5 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, Can - not His love e - rase;



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!  
And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms.  
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
Your guilt the Lord will par - don And cov - er by His grace.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast  
My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais - es new  
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace  
He comes, for you pro - cur - ing The peace of sin for - giv'n,



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.  
And from Your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.  
In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.  
His chil - dren thus se - cur - ing E - ter - nal life in heav'n.

**Invocation (Based on Matthew 11:28-30)**

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

**C: Amen.**

P: Jesus says, “Come to Me all who are weary, and I will give You rest.

Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me.

For I am gentle and lowly in heart.”

**C: For You have promised we will find rest for our souls.**

P: For His yoke is easy, and His burden is light.

**C: Amen.**

**Confession and Absolution (Matthew 22:34-40;19:16-26;18:13-14,19-20;20:28)**

P: When asked “Teacher, what is the great commandment in the Law?”, Jesus said,

**C: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart**

**and with all your soul and with all your mind.**

**And you shall love your neighbor as yourself.**

P: Jesus said, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

**C: This brings us sorrow, Lord,**

**Because we treasure many things which are not focused on You.**

**Who then can be saved?**

P: Jesus declares, “With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

He rejoices more over finding one lost sheep than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. It is not His will that one of you should perish.

**C: For the Lord has promised:**

**Where two or three are gathered in His Name,**

**He is among us with His forgiveness.**

P: Indeed, He is here in the power of His forgiveness for you today.

He comes not to be served

but to serve, to give His life as a ransom for you.

Therefore, 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 Matthew 20:28)**

LSB 971, st. 2

2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, Name a - bove all names;  
 Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Hope for sin - ners slain.  
*Refrain*  
 Thank You, O my Fa - ther, For giv-ing us Your Son,  
 And leav - ing Your Spir-it Till the work on earth is done.

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**Collect (Prayer of the Day)**

P: Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading**

**Isaiah 2:1-5 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>It shall come to pass in the latter days  
that the mountain of the house of the LORD  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be lifted up above the hills;  
and all the nations shall flow to it,  
<sup>3</sup>and many peoples shall come, and say:

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob,  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples;

and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war anymore.

<sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm Reading**

### **Psalm 122 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>I was glad when they said to me,

“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

<sup>2</sup>Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!

<sup>3</sup>Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together,

<sup>4</sup>to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

<sup>5</sup>There thrones for judgment were set, the thrones of the house of David.

<sup>6</sup>Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

“May they be secure who love you!

<sup>7</sup>Peace be within your walls and security within your towers!”

<sup>8</sup>For my brothers and companions’ sake

I will say, “Peace be within you!”

<sup>9</sup>For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,

I will seek your good.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Holy Gospel**

### **Matthew 24:36–44 (ESV)**

<sup>36</sup>[Jesus said:] “But concerning that day and hour [of the end of the age] no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. <sup>37</sup>As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. <sup>42</sup>Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn of the Day**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

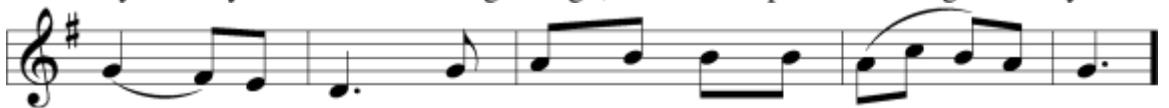
LSB 357 sts. 1, ref, 4-6



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from  
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen  
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y  
wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that  
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.  
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.

*Refrain*



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

## **Sermon**

## **“The Advent Life”**

### **Confession of Faith from Matthew 11:2-6; 16:13-16**

P: When John the Baptist heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?”

**C: Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”**

P: Jesus asked His disciples, using the title “Son of Man” to speak about Himself, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

And the disciples said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

Then He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?”

And I also ask you, disciples here today, “Who do you say that Jesus is?”

**C: Simon Peter replied, and we also say, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 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.*

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#### **Acknowledgements**

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires; with the assistance of the Pastors of Circuit 1 of the Northern Illinois District (LCMS).

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The “Slow Advent” series is inspired by Rev. Bosco Peters (<http://www.liturgy.co.nz>).

Cover photo: “Sproutings #3”

Bong State Recreation Area, Kansasville, WI © 2019 BiCS Pics.

## Offertory (Based on Matthew 19:28, 12:18-21)

LSB 920 sts.2,5; tune: 616

(we join in singing as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)



2 King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings; King - ship with  
5 We are the Church: Christ bids us show That in His  
Him His ser - vants gain; With Christ the Ser - vant  
Church all na - tions find Their hearth and home where  
- Lord of all, Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign.  
Christ re - stores True peace, true love to all man - kind.

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## Prayers

### **Preface of the Lord's Supper (based on Matthew 21:1-11; 26:2; 3:17; 17:15; 25:34)**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: The Lord sent His prophet to say to the people of Zion, Jerusalem,  
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,  
humble, and mounted on a donkey.’”

And when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people welcomed Him saying:

**C: “Hosanna to the Son of David!**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!**

**Hosanna in the highest!”**

P: The whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” And the crowds said,

**C: “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”**

P: But Jesus was not just another one of the prophets,  
as God the Father declared at His Baptism:

**C: “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”**

P: And God the Father reminded the disciples again at His Transfiguration:

**C: “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.”**

P: Then Jesus reminded the disciples in Jerusalem that “the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.” By His crucifixion, and by His Supper, He extends this invitation: “Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

**Proper Preface for Matthew**

LSB “Apostles and Evangelists”

P: We pray: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; for You have mightily governed and protected Your holy Church, in which the blessed apostles and evangelists proclaimed Your divine and saving Gospel. Therefore with patriarchs and prophets, apostles and evangelists, with Your servant Matthew, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**Sanctus (based on Matthew 26:26–29)**

LSB 445, st. 1 & 3, alt.

I When You woke that Thurs - day morn - ing, Sav - ior,  
 teach - er, faith - ful friend, What great gift that you would  
 give them, What last will and tes - ta - ment?  
 “Show Me and the world you love Me, Know Me  
 as the Lamb of God: Do this in re - mem - brance  
 of Me, Eat this bod - y, drink this blood.”

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 Text: © 1991 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001267

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

LSB “Apostles and Evangelists”

P: You once proclaimed Your saving promise through the prophets of Israel, and by the apostles and evangelists You published the good news of Your saving promise fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Grant that we, being instructed in the doctrine of the blessed apostles and evangelists, may faithfully eat His body and drink His blood and declare His salvation to all the world.

**C: Amen.**

## **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.**

## **Words of Institution as in the Gospel of Matthew** Matthew 26:17a, 20–21, 26–30

P: <sup>17</sup>Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread,... <sup>20</sup>when it was evening, [Jesus] reclined at table with the twelve [to eat the Passover meal]. <sup>21</sup>And as they were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” <sup>26</sup>[Then] Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” <sup>27</sup>And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, <sup>28</sup>for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup>I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” <sup>30</sup>And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

## **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****The Advent of Our King**

LSB 331 sts. 1-5



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,  
 2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,  
 3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,  
 4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain  
 5 Be - fore the dawn - ing day Let sin's dark deeds be gone,



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.  
 Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.  
 Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.  
 And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.  
 The sin - ful self be put a - way, The new self now put on.

**Second Distribution Hymn****Savior of the Nations, Come**

LSB 332 sts. 1-5



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it  
 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a  
 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and  
 5 God the Fa - ther was His source, Back to God He



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
 of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—  
 vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:  
 king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,  
 ran His course. In - to hell His road went down,



That the Lord chose such a birth.  
 Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
 God was there up - on His throne.  
 His he - ro - ic course be - gan.  
 Back then to His throne and crown.

**Post-Communion Prayer (Based on Matthew 1:22-23; 2:5-6; 3:17; 3:16)**

P: Let us pray. Lord, all this has taken place to fulfill what You had spoken by the prophet, “They shall call His Name Immanuel—God with us.” And it was also written, “From Bethlehem... shall come a ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.” Jesus came preaching, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand,” and now we are the people dwelling in darkness who have seen a great light, those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, and on us a light has dawned in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and in His body and blood given to us.

C: Amen.

**Benediction (Blessing) (Based on Matthew 28:18-20)**

P: As Jesus said to His disciples before He ascended into heaven, He says to you, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

C: Amen.

**Closing Hymn**

**Savior of the Nations, Come**

LSB 332 sts. 6, 8

6 For You are the Fa - ther's Son Who in flesh the  
8 Glo - ry to the Fa - ther sing, Glo - ry to the  
vic - t'ry won. By Your might - y pow'r make whole  
Son, our king, Glo - ry to the Spir - it be  
All our ills of flesh and soul.  
Now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

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**Announcements**



[www.bethelgurnee.org/sabbatical](http://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!).

