



Pastor Gary's Sabbatical

April 23 - August 20, 2018

Lord of Life's Personnel policy allows for a 3-6-month sabbatical every five years of service for ordained pastors. I will be taking 4 months in the spring and summer of 2018.

The purpose of this sabbatical is to rest, reflect on ministry and make plans regarding ministry priorities for the next few years. My plan includes spending a few weeks resting in Wisconsin, and reading and preparing for the Spanish Language Institute by doing some intensive Spanish studies. I will return to preach for Confirmation Weekend, May 18-20. Then I will travel to Costa Rica to participate in the Spanish Language Institute's 9-week immersion program. This organization, originally a Presbyterian ministry, has been training missionaries for 70 years.

The reason for this training is that Lord of Life has been lacking in the ability to accomplish our goal of welcoming Latino neighbors into our fellowship. Along with the presence of current Spanish speaking members to reach out to new people, research indicates that it is essential to have pastors who speak Spanish to develop that spirit of welcome. Where we take the ministry of multicultural welcome is up to us as a congregation once we have pastors who speak conversational Spanish and are able to preach and lead worship in Spanish. Pastor David has basic background in Spanish, but I have very few words of the language.

In addition, I will be spending time catching up on some reading of books I have been wanting to read for some time- Biblical commentaries, novels, etc.

As a result of this sabbatical, I plan to return renewed, refreshed, and refocused for the remaining years of my ministry with Lord of Life.

During the four months of my sabbatical, Pastor David will assume all pastoral leadership, assisted by occasional guest preachers, and assisted by staff and congregational members who will be asked to step up even more to share the ministry workload.

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