

## Blessing and Godspeed for Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor \_\_\_\_\_, on December 3, 1965, we called you to be our Pastor to proclaim God's Word, to baptize new members into the church of Jesus Christ, to announce God's forgiveness to us, and to preside at our celebrations of the Lord's Supper. With the Gospel you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, both yourself and your family have been important to our life together in the Church of Jesus Christ and in our service to this community.

On this day we celebrate you and your 31 + years of faithful service here at Bethel as well as the years you spent in your first two pastoral calls at \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. We recognize how God has blessed us through you, and we are grateful to God for sending you to us.

As you begin your retirement, though your role will change, we nevertheless invite you to continue to receive and share God's wondrous gifts of grace and to work beside us as servants in God's kingdom. May God's richest blessings be upon you and \_\_\_\_\_.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we thank you for Pastor H\_\_\_\_\_ and for \_\_\_\_\_ and for our life together in this congregation and community. As they have been a blessing to us, so now bless them as they begin their retirement. Grant them peace and contentment, leisure and good health, and a richness of life that comes from knowing you as Creator, Redeemer and Comforter. This we pray in the name of Christ. Amen.