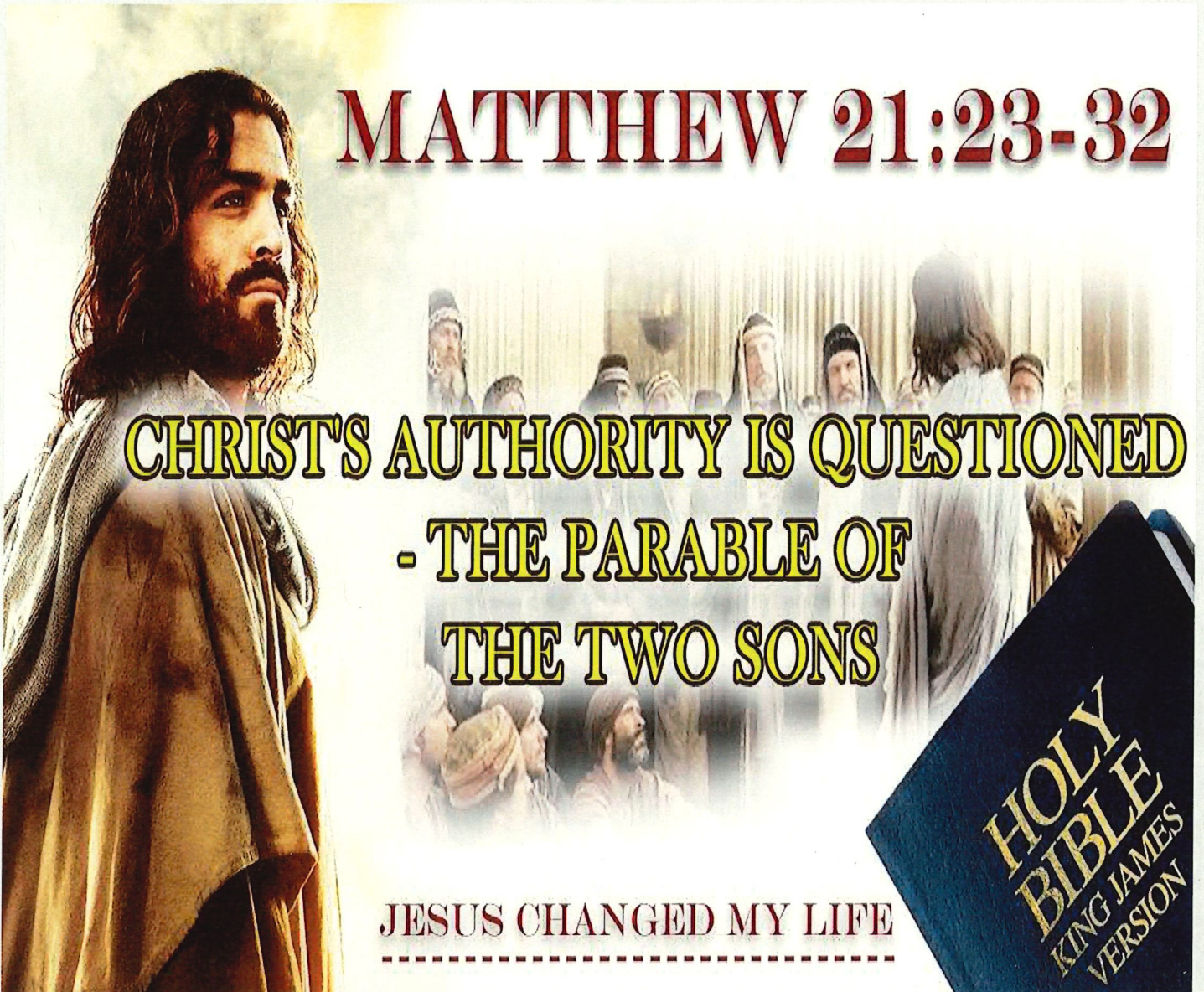




MATTHEW 21:23-32

**CHRIST'S AUTHORITY IS QUESTIONED
- THE PARABLE OF
THE TWO SONS**

JESUS CHANGED MY LIFE

**HOLY
BIBLE
KING JAMES
VERSION**

First Lutheran Church

September 27, 2026

Pentecost 18

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT

Raymond H. Haan

O God, My Faithful God

MORNING PRAYER

The assembly stands.

AM: Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

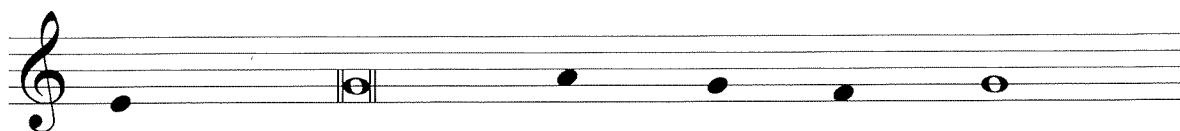
OPENING



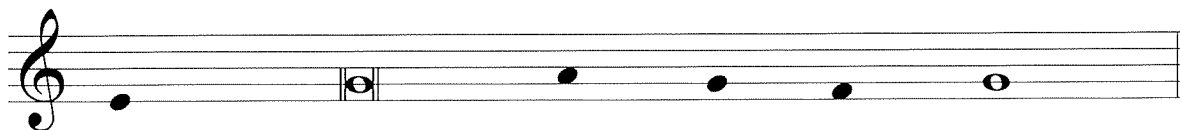
Leader: O Lord, o - pen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro - claim your praise.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it:
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,
and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

PSALMODY

INVITATORY



Give glory to God our light and our life.



Oh, come let us wor - ship and praise.

MORNING PSALM OF PRAISE

PSALM 95:1-7



Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us



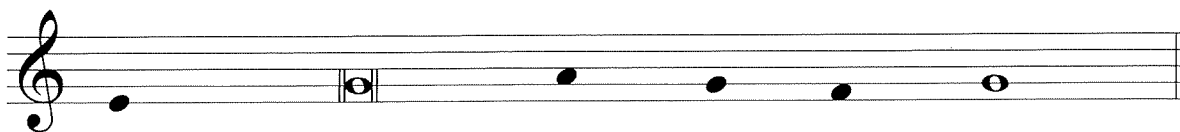
shout for joy to the rock of our sal - va - tion.

The Cantor will sing the verses.

FINAL INVITATORY



Give glory to God our light and our life.



Oh, come let us wor - ship and praise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

WORD

FIRST READING

EZEKIEL 18:1-4,25-32

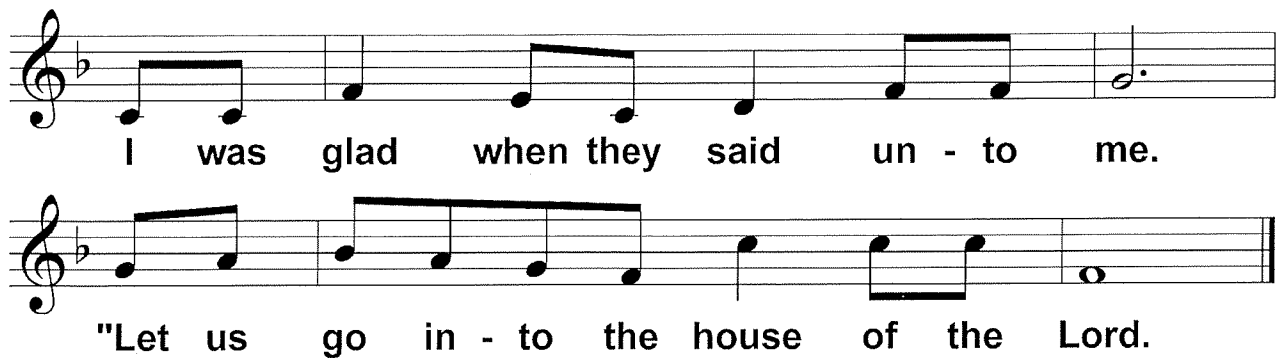
Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

AM: A reading from Ezekiel, the eighteenth chapter.

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die. ²⁵ Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

AM: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



The Cantor will sing the verses:

- ¹ I was glad when they | said unto me, "Let us go into the house | of the Lord."
- ² Now our | feet are standing within your gates, | O Jerusalem.
- ³ Jerusalem is built | as a city that is at unity | with itself;
- ⁴ to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the Lord. **Refrain**
- ⁵ For there are the | thrones of judgment, the thrones of the | house of David.
- ⁶ Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem: "May they pros- | per who love you. **Refrain**
- ⁷ Peace be with- | in your walls and quietness with- | in your towers.
- ⁸ For the sake of my kindred | and companions, I pray for | your prosperity.
- ⁹ Because of the house of the | Lord our God, I will seek to | do you good." **Refrain**

SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

AM: A reading from Philipians, the second chapter.

- ¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he

existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human,⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name,¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling,¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

AM: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Cantor will sing the verse: My sheep hear my voice, ^I says the Lord;
* I know them and they ^I follow me. (John 10:27)

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

PM: The Gospel according to Matthew.

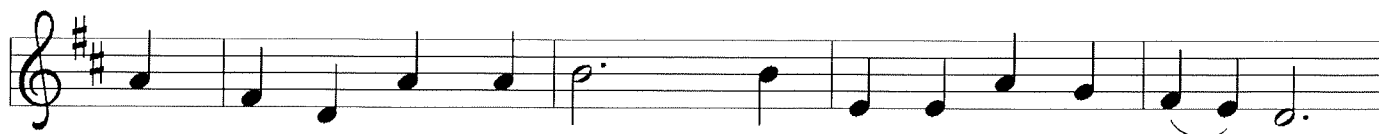


²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

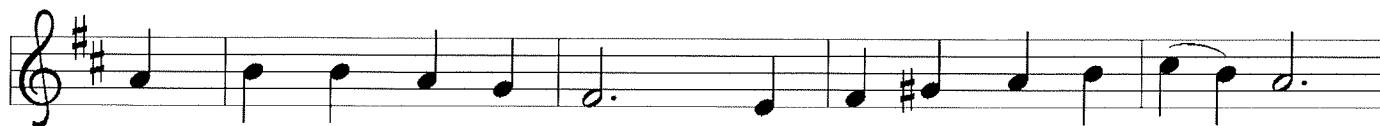
PM: The Gospel of the Lord.



*The assembly remains standing for the **HYMN OF THE DAY.***



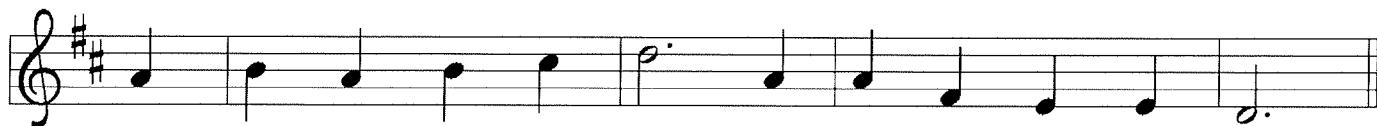
1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
 2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
 3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;
 4 When dan-gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;



with - out whom noth-ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
 what - ev - er you com-mand, my call-ing here ful - fill - ing—
 guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;
 help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer-less;



give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
 to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless
 but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,
 help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,



a con-science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
 what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.
 then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.
 and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

The assembly is seated.

REFLECTION

SAM RICK GREENE

The assembly stands.

CANTICLE

Refrain

In the ten - der com - pas - sion of our
God the dawn from on high shall
break up - on us.

The Cantor will sing the verses.

APOSTLES' CREED

PM: Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith as expressed in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Aria

The assembly stands.

OFFERING SONG

THE FEAST IS READY

ELW# 531



1. The trum-pets sound, the an gels sing, the feast is
2. Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the
3. The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the poor



read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o pen wide
 peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;
 his par - a - dice. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap-p;aud



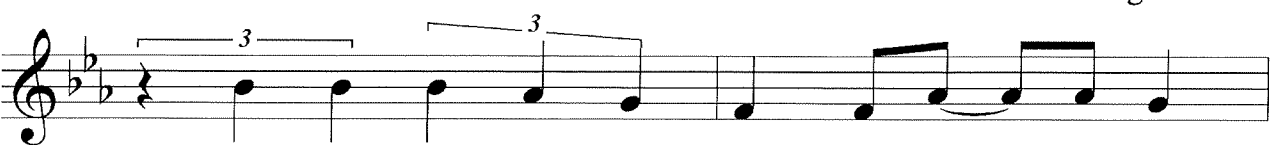
and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.
 He'll turn your wa - ter in to wine.
 the a - maz - ing 3 good - ness of the Lord.



Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.



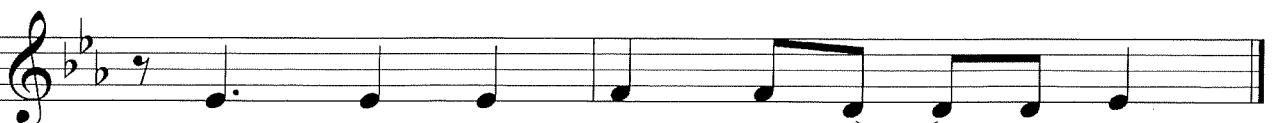
Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.



Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.



The feast is read - y to be - gin;



the feast is read - y to be - gin.

OFFERING PRAYER

AM: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you
and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

C: Amen.

The assembly kneels.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

PM: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

AM: Move your global church away from judging and hating others. Help us live out the deep forgiveness you gave us through Jesus.

Each petition concludes:

PM: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

PM: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

The assembly stands.

LORD'S PRAYER

PM: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: 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.

SENDING

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

PM: We Pray together:

C: Oh God, your everlasting love for us is always trustworthy and sure.

We are grateful for your goodness
and we ask now for confidence to go forward into the future.

Bless our community of faith,
bless the changes that are before us,
bless our pastoral leaders who will shepherd us
through this time of transition.

We thank you for the wisdom you show us.

Help us to keep looking to you to define our ministry and our future.

Receive our prayer, O God, through Jesus Christ,
our strength and salvation. Amen.

BLESSING

PM: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, + one God,
bless, heal, and hold you today and always.





1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
 3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
 win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
 dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
 fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
 you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

DISMISSAL

AM: Go out in joy.

PM: Be led forth in peace.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Donald Busarow

Chorale

Events in Review

<u>Sunday</u>	Sept 27
10:00 AM	Pentecost 18
<u>Monday</u>	Sept 28
10:00 AM	Bible Study at Willows
5:15 PM	Bells of Praise Practice
<u>Tuesday</u>	Sept 29
<u>Wednesday</u>	Sept 30
<u>Thursday</u>	Oct. 1
<u>Friday</u>	Oct 2
<u>Saturday</u>	Oct 3

Blessing of the LWR

Quilts

Thank you to all
who dedicated hours
of work in putting the
many quilts together year after year.



Blessing of the LWR

Backpacks

Thank you also to
those people who
donated and also
helped put together the school back-
packs. We are able to send 50 kits out
this year.



Blessing
of the
Backpacks



If you have a prayer request for today,
please raise your hand during announce-
ments and a host will give you a green
card to fill out.

Next Week

<u>Sunday</u>	Oct 4
10:00 AM	Pentecost 19
Blessing of the Backpacks	
Blessing of the Quilts	
<u>Monday</u>	Oct 5
10:00AM	Bible Study at Willows
5:15 PM	Bells of Praise Practice
<u>Tuesday</u>	Oct 6
<u>Wednesday</u>	Oct 7
6:00	Worship & Music mtg
<u>Thursday</u>	Oct 8
<u>Friday</u>	Oct 9
<u>Saturday</u>	Oct 10

Sharing Kitchen

October 12th & 15th

Sign up sheet
located on the hallway
Table.



Contact Us



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Facebook Camera Jonathan Nominee
Host Shelley Ross
Reader: Melissa Chester
Worship Assistant Melissa Chester
Director of Music: Curtis L. King
Minister: Minister Rick Green
Assisting Minister:

Interim Pastor

Pastor Mark Schuring

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Our Mission Statement

"God is among us!"

**"We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel,
forgive, reconcile and trust God for all that we need."**