



# God Speaks

## Fall 2025

### Welcome to Lord of Life!

*All are welcome here. We extend a special welcome to visitors. We're glad you joined us today!  
The following information may help you in your worship experience and getting to know Lord of Life.*

**Communal words** spoken and sung will be on the screen and/or in this bulletin. The bold text is spoken together. Songs/hymns can also be found (with music) in either Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) cranberry hymnal or All Creation Sings (ACS) purple hymnal. Both can be found under a chair near you.

**Holy Communion** is the Lord's Table and all are welcome, regardless of age. We celebrate the Eucharist (literally "thanksgiving") during worship every Sunday. Our bread is dairy, nut, and gluten-free; wine and juice are both available.

**Children are welcome in this place!** At baptism, we welcome people into God's family and the community of Lord of Life. Children of all ages are integral members of the Body of Christ, and have a place in our community that includes worship. Children learn by seeing, hearing, and experiencing worship with adults (not just their parents) who care about them. We embrace the sounds and activity that accompany them.  
We have a few resources for parents:

*PrayGround:* Table up front with coloring supplies. Go with your child, sit near the table, or send them independently.

*Activity Bags:* great things to occupy busy hands during worship, located on the shelves just outside the sanctuary; ask an usher if you need help finding them.

*Nursery* (for children 0-5, 5-7 by exception): You can leave young children in the nursery. Our nursery attendant has been background checked. There is a sign-in sheet for security.

*Narthex* (Gathering/Entrance space): Benches, rocking chairs, or space to move around.

**Offering** is an act of worship and a privilege to return to God a portion of what God has given us. If you are a guest, do not feel obligated to give, but for those comfortable participating, please join us in this act of worship. Offerings given today are joyfully used for outreach to the greater church/community and for the work and ministry of Lord of Life. You may donate by using the QR code that leads you to the website ([www.lordoflife.org](http://www.lordoflife.org)), by mail, using direct deposit with your bank, or RMD / QCD / or stock gift (in consultation with your financial advisor).

If at anytime you are uncomfortable standing, you are free to remain seated.

**If you are worshipping from home**, you are invited to participate, not just observe. Please prepare your own sacred space for worship. You might include some candles, a cross, and water for remembering your baptism. Please join worship in-person to celebrate Communion with the congregation! If that is not possible, please reach out and we can have a member of our Care Team arrange a visit with Communion.

*Lord of Life is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). You can learn more at [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org).*

# Gathering

## PRELUDE

*The people gather for worship. Consider where you worship today and how it will facilitate a meaningful experience of what God has for you today. Take a few moments to breathe and center yourself to be present. Please put your device on silent, and set it aside so you can focus during this time.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Lutheran worship often begins with a Confession & Forgiveness or a Thanksgiving for Baptism. Sometimes we change things up, which is what we do during this season. This Call to Worship was written by Pastor Kirsten to incorporate the scriptures we will hear this fall. We hear these words from the baptismal font, through which we are welcomed into the body of Christ and from which we are sent into the world.*

God speaks, bringing all life into existence.  
God speaks, giving Abraham an impossible task.  
God speaks, revealing the promise to Jacob in a dream.  
God speaks, calling Moses to remove his sandals and be brave.  
God speaks, providing abundance in the wilderness.  
God speaks, turning Samuel into a servant.  
God speaks, declaring David the chosen one.  
God speaks, dwelling forever among the people.

God speaks, gathering the people.  
God speaks words of assurance and grace.  
God speaks words of calling and invitation.  
God speaks and sets the table.  
God speaks and sends us out.

Beloved, when God speaks, we know it's time to pay attention.  
When God speaks, we look for promise and hope.  
Sometimes there is challenge and rebuke.

God, open our ears and our hearts and our minds.  
Fashion us to be faithful to you like you are to us.  
Refresh us with these baptismal waters.  
With David we ask you to clean our hearts and make us ready for your work in the world.  
Help us to be brave and bold,  
using the gifts you have given each of us,  
empowered by your Spirit to share the good news of your love in ☩ Christ Jesus  
with the world.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

August 31 – ACS #1049 Before the Waters Nourished Earth  
September 14 – ELW #793 Be Thou My Vision  
September 21 – ELW #618 Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer  
September 28 – ELW #574 Here I Am, Lord  
October 5 – ELW #556 Morning Has Broken  
October 12 – ELW #737 He Comes To Us As One Unknown  
October 19 – ELW #648 Beloved, God's Chosen  
October 26 – ELW #641 All Are Welcome

## WELCOME

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## CANTICLE: LBW #14 *Listen! You Nations*

*Refrain*



Lis - ten! you na - tions of the world: lis - ten to the Word of the Lord. An -  
nounce it from coast to coast; de - clare it to dis - tant is - lands.  
1 The Lord who scat - tered Is - ra - el will gath - er his peo - ple a - gain; and  
he will keep watch o - ver them as a shep - herd watch - es his flock.  
2 With shouts of joy they will come, their fac - es ra - diant - ly hap - py, for the  
Lord is so gen - 'rous to them; he show - ers his peo - ple with gifts.  
3 Young wom - en will dance for joy, and men young and old will make  
mer - ry. Like a gar - den re - fresh - ed by the rain, they will nev - er be in want a -  
gain. Break in - to shouts of great joy; Ja - cob is free a - gain! Teach  
na - tions to sing the song: "The Lord has saved his peo - ple!"

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

*August 31*

Great God, grand designer of all things, the light and darkness, the dome in the midst of waters, the sky and dry land, the vegetation, the seasons, the swarms of living creatures, birds and great sea monsters, creeping things and wild animals, and us; all these were brought into being with a word on your lips. And it was good. Amen.

Sept 14

God of promise, you stayed the hand of Abraham and fulfilled the promise you made to him, that he would father a great nation. Keep your promises to us, that we become inheritors of eternal life. Amen.

Sept 21

Loving God, like Jacob, who dreamed of your promises, you have filled us with dreams, too. Show us your promises in our dreams, so that we awake in joy like Jacob, ready to live them out. Amen.

September 28

God of all people, you remembered your children who were enslaved in Egypt, and by the power of your name you set them free. Remember us and free us from slavery to sin by the power of your name. Amen .

Oct 5

O God, Holy provider, despite your people's hardened hearts you gave them manna when they were hungry. Soften our hearts, and make us grateful for your marvelous gifts. Amen .

Oct 12

Beckoning God, in the stillness of the night you called Samuel into your service. Call us into service with a voice we are able to hear, and give us hearts to respond when we are called by you. Amen.

October 19

God of strength, in David you chose a king with a big heart. Create clean and willing hearts in us, and choose us to do your work. Amen.

October 26

Mighty Lord, the splendor of Solomon's temple cannot compare to the majesty of your heart. Show your heart in this place, that we might worship you with joy and gratitude. Amen.

## Word

*All Christian worship is biblical. We follow the Narrative Lectionary (NL).*

*You can read more about that in the notes at the back of this bulletin.*

*Hearing the proclamation of the Word is central to our worship experience. The Word is proclaimed throughout our worship, in our liturgy, prayers, sermon, hymns, and yes, scripture. You are invited to let go of the need to read along and simply listen, and let the Spirit lead your imagination and inspire your hearing.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*We end with this refrain:*

**All: You are a dearly loved child of God!**

Children: And so are you!

## INTRODUCTION TO THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

*Because the Narrative Lectionary focuses on passage from the Old Testament in the Fall, and because many Christians are less familiar with the context of those readings, we start with an introduction to set the stage so we are able to receive the reading of scripture more fully.*

## SCRIPTURE ACCLAMATION: ELW #513 Listen, God Is Calling

*The Worship Team selected this hymn because it fits the theme for this fall of God speaking, which means we have to listen. It turns out that this is a traditional Tanzanian hymn, which is significant for us because our Companion Synod is the Ulanga-Kilombero Diocese in Southern Tanzania, and we will get to have a visitor from the UKD in worship with us on September 14. What an honor it is to have church friendships and partnerships around the world.*

Leader All

Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,  
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,

ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma. ma.  
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

## READING OF SCRIPTURE *(The readings are printed at the back of this bulletin, sorted by date.)*

A reading from...

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY

August 31 – ELW #771 *God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*

September 14 – ACS #1004 *Faith Begins By Letting Go*

September 21 – *When We Share God's Dream (at back)*

September 28 – *Our God, You Called To Moses (at back)*

October 5 – *To Be Determined*

October 12 – ELW #798 *Will You Come and Follow Me*

October 19 – ELW #800 *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

October 26 – ELW #652 *Built On A Rock*

## WELCOMING NEW PARTNERS IN MINISTRY (October 12), ELW p. 234

## APOSTLES' CREED

*The creed is both a response to and a proclamation of the word. It is a statement of faith of the whole church. It links us to the ancestors of our faith, the saints, and unites us with the church around the world and people of every nation. This fall we are using the Apostles' Creed, known as the baptismal creed, is thought to date back to the early church, earlier than any other statement of faith. Creeds were originally teaching documents and weren't included regularly in Sunday worship in Western Christianity until the 11th century (Nicene Creed) and twentieth century (Apostles'). The Apostles' Creed will be used on November 2 when we celebrate with our 9th graders as they Affirm their Baptism (or "get confirmed").*

*The word "catholic" used in the third article of the creed may seem confusing. The word comes from the Greek katholikos, meaning "universal." This is the sense with which it is being used (catholic or universal), contrasted with the Roman Catholic Church (Catholic).*

With the whole church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**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.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*As a community we offer prayer for the church, the well-being of creation, for peace and justice in the world, the poor and all in need, local needs and special concerns, and in thanksgiving for the faithful departed. These prayers are prepared weekly, so they are not included in this seasonal bulletin. At Lord of Life these petitions are spoken by the congregation. They will be on the screen so that you may give voice to them as they call upon your heart.*

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words. Please be aware that we all have different comfort levels for this. The peace we share is a sign of God's mission of reconciliation among us and the reconciliation we have with one another in Christ Jesus.*

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

Oct 19—A Voice for You, Men of Life Choir, Directed by David Baldwin

Words and music by Dwight Liles and Niles Borop, Arr by Richard Kingsmore. © 1997 Niles Borop Music; A Little Good News Music. Used and streamed with permission under CCLI License #2012875.

Oct 26—The Church's One Foundation, Grace Notes Chime Choir, Directed by David Baldwin

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*In the Life of LoL:*

Sept 14 – Blessing of Teachers

Sept 21 – Presentation of Bibles

Oct 5 – Blessing of Animals

Oct 26 – Mission Moment: Stewardship Inspires Generosity

# **Meal**

## **OFFERING**

*A collection of material goods for the church's mission, including the care of those in need, is a sign of the giving of our whole selves in grateful response for all God's gifts. We offer to God what God has first given us: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Your financial gifts for LoL can be placed in the offering box at the baptismal font, made electronically through our website ([www.thelordoflife.org](http://www.thelordoflife.org)), sent in the mail, using direct deposit with your bank, or RMD / QCD / or stock gift (in consultation with your financial advisor). Please contact the Financial Secretary with questions.*

**OFFERING SONG: God Bless Us and Keep Us**

1 God bless us and keep us and make us a bless-ing,  
 2 Christ, shine on our path as the flame of good cour-age,  
 3 Pour out on all peo-ple your boun-ti-ful Spir-it—

a sign of your mer-cies out-num-b'ring the stars.  
 a light in the dark-ness, the dawn of our days.  
 new vi-sions she wak-ens, sweet wis-dom she breathes.

En-liv-en our la-bor with love for our neigh-bor, the  
 With kind-ness up-hold us, de-fend us, and clothe us in  
 To-day and to-mor-row, in joy and in sor-row, in

har-vest of grate-ful and grace-bear-ing hearts.  
 gar-ments of glad-ness and gar-lands of praise.  
 life and in death, ev-er, God, give us peace.

Text: Susan R. Briebl

Music: GARLANDS, Robert Buckley Farlee

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## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Lord of the harvest, **we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for you spoke light into darkness,  
 called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being.

You called your people Israel to proclaim freedom from captivity,  
 a pathway home from exile, and wisdom for life with you.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh,  
 you speak to us and call us to proclaim forgiveness through the cross,  
 life to those entombed by death, and the way of your self-giving love.

In the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks and he broke it. He gave it to his friends saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: This is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the promise of new life. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts of bread and wine. Bless us to be a blessing. Make us a sign of your faithfulness. Send us to tend and cherish the earth and to serve the world with mercy and love.

With the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, and all the saints in light, we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus, in your Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER (NEW ZEALAND PRAYER BOOK VERSION)**

*The New Zealand Prayer Book was first published in 1989 as a resource of the Anglican Church specific to New Zealand, Polynesia, and Aotearoa. As it says in its introduction, "Liturgy needs to reflect our context, which includes our environment and our people. So, these words are just the beginning in offering worship. The work of developing liturgy is the work of the local people." The work for NZPB has included multiple indigenous churches, and has many Maori resources.*

*For some, using a different version of the Lord's prayer will be jarring. For others, it will be life giving. We will use it for eight weeks, so you are invited to lean into it and let it settle in. Who knows what the Spirit might do.*

Held in the embrace of God, let us pray.

**Eternal Spirit,**

**Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,**

**Source of all that is and that shall be,**

**Father and Mother of us all,**

**Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!**

**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!**

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.**

**In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.**

**In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.**

**From trials too great to endure, spare us.**

**From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

### **COMMUNION**

*All are welcome at the Lord's table, as we receive the presence of Christ for us in bread and wine. This meal is for all regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, criminal record, or list of offenses.*

*When we are inside, make your way to the front using the side aisle. There will be bread, wine, and grape juice. A basket to collect used cups is in the center. After receiving the elements, return to your seat by the center aisle. If you have questions when you get up front, it is okay to ask. The bread is gluten-free, nut-free, dairy-free, and full of grace!*

*The Meal may be brought to your seat if it would be helpful; please let the ushers know and they will notify the leaders.*

*When we are outside, we commune using the sealed cups at our seats so that no one has to risk a fall. The Communion cups are available at the usher table.*



## INVITATION TO COMMUNION: ELW #461 *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*

*This hymn is particularly fitting this Fall where we will hear about manna in the wilderness and God's abundant provision. Now God provides sustenance for us: Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.*

## COMMUNION HYMN

August 31 – ELW #684 *Creating God, Your Fingers Trace*  
September 14 – ACS #1084 *God Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*  
September 21 – *As We Eat This Bread (at back)*  
September 28 – *In the Desert, on God's Mountain (at back)*  
October 5 – n/a  
October 12 – ELW #574 *Here I Am, Lord*  
October 19 – ELW #778 *The Lord's My Shepherd*  
October 26 – ELW #883 *All People that on Earth Do Dwell*

## SENDING OF COMMUNION (October 19)

*Gifts of bread and wine are shared with others by the Care Team who cannot join us in-person due to mobility or health issues. They share an extension of the Sunday meal from among our community.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

**God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.**

**Amen.**

# Sending

## BLESSING

By a word from God, creation sprang forth with the breath of life.  
By a word from God, death is overcome, and Christ is raised from the tomb.  
By a word from God, we are given new life in the power of the Spirit.  
May we boldly proclaim this good news in our words and deeds,  
Rejoicing always in the powerful presence of God, Creator, ✠ Redeemer, and Sustainer. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

August 31 – ELW #879 *For the Beauty of the Earth*  
September 14 – ELW #858 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*  
September 21 – ELW #731 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*  
September 28 – ELW #834 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*  
October 5 – ELW #618 *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*  
October 12 – ELW #809 *Send Me, Lord*  
October 19 – ELW #793 *Be Thou My Vision*  
October 26 – ELW #504 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be brave and bold to serve the Lord. **We will. Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

# Narrative Lectionary

## FALL 2025 - YEAR 4 of the Narrative Lectionary – God Speaks

**August 31** - 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Creation by the Word

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

**September 7** - 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – God’s Work Our Hands worship  
at First Lutheran Kennewick

**September 14** - 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Binding of Isaac

Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14

**September 21** - 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Jacob’s Dream

Genesis 27:1-4,15-23; 28:10-17

**September 28** - 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - God’s Name Is Revealed

Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17

**October 5** - 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - God Provides Manna

Exodus 16:1-18

**October 12** - 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - God Calls Samuel

1 Samuel 3:1-21

**October 19** - 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - God Calls David

1 Samuel 16:1-13

**October 26** - 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Solomon’s Temple

1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13

## Music not found in hymnals

### September 21—Hymn of the Day, *When We Share God’s Dream*

1 When we share God's dream, we know  
2 When we share God's dream, we know  
3 When we share God's dream, we see

there will be laugh - ing, there will be sing - ing.  
our hearts are beat - ing with all cre - a - tion.  
God's king - dom com - ing now in our long - ing.

When we share God's dream, we know  
When we share God's dream, there's a  
When we share God's dream, we know

there will be just - ice, there will be kind - ness.  
vi - sion to guide us hope to re - vive us.  
God in our suf - 'fring God in our long - ing.

When we share God's dream, when we share God's dream, when we share God's dream, when we share God's dream.

share God's dream. share God's dream. share God's dream.

Text and music: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, based on Psalm 126  
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## September 21 – Communion, *As We Eat This Bread*

As we eat this bread and we drink this cup, we're be -

com-ing the bod - y of Christ. Come and fill our hearts so we'll

dream your dreams and your king-dom will come through our lives.

Text and music: Stephanie Spellers  
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## September 28 – Hymn of the Day, *Our God, You Called to Moses*

(Tune "Lead On, O King Eternal" ELW # 805)

**Our God, you called to Moses to set your people free.  
What wrongly some suppose is: he answered easily.  
"I'm not the one you're seeking!" he seemed instead to say.  
"My strength is not in speaking; God, find another way!"**

**And yet, O Lord, you told him to trust in what you said.  
Your strength would surely hold him through all those days ahead  
Though many would oppose him, by your own name he'd know:  
You were the one who chose him to help your people go.**

**You call each congregation to serve those lost and poor.  
We doubt our own vocation; we ask, "Lord, are you sure?"  
Yet you give gifts for sharing, you show us what to say.  
Your Spirit gives us daring to serve Christ every day.**

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## September 28—Communion, *In the Desert, on God's Mountain*

(Tune "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" ELW # 490)

- 1      **In the desert, on God's mountain, Moses saw the bush aflame,  
wondered at the fiery foliage, heard the crackling call his name.  
May we notice bushes burning; may we wonder at the flame.**
- 2      **On Mount Horeb Moses halted, stood unshod on holy ground,  
felt the pulsing of God's presence, sensed the holiness around.  
May we stop amid life's labor; may we honor holy ground.**
- 3      **"I AM THAT I AM have called you," spoke the incandescent voice.  
Moses felt the message searing to the heart of will and choice.  
May we pause to answer summons; may we hear God's burning voice.**
- 4      **Moses hid his face in terror, offered his objections four:  
doubt of worth and doubt of talent, lack of trust and lack of lore.  
May we set aside excuses; may we take the task before.**
- 5      **Later in the wild of Sinai, from another mountain height,  
bringing promise to his people, Moses shone with God's own light.  
May we, not consumed, yet burning, guide all to the mountain height.**
- 6      **Far from deserts, far from mountains, yearns a bound humanity.  
Filled with fire of holy grounding, burning bushes may we be,  
drawing all to God's bright presence--beacons of divinity.**

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## Readings

### **August 31 - 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Creation by the Word**

#### **Genesis 1:1-2:4a**

<sup>1</sup>When God began to create the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup>And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." <sup>7</sup>So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup>And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup>Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup>And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon

the earth.” And it was so. <sup>16</sup> God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup> God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup> to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup> And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” <sup>21</sup> So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” <sup>23</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created humans in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;

male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” <sup>29</sup> God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup> God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

<sup>4</sup> These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

## **September 14 - 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Binding of Isaac**

### **Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14**

#### **Chapter 21**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. <sup>2</sup> Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. <sup>3</sup> Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him.

#### **Chapter 22**

<sup>1</sup> After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>2</sup> He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.” <sup>3</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. <sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. <sup>5</sup> Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.” <sup>6</sup> Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. And the two of them walked on together. <sup>7</sup> Isaac said to his father Abraham, “Father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” <sup>8</sup> Abraham said, “God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them walked on together.

<sup>9</sup> When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. <sup>11</sup> But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>12</sup> He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” <sup>13</sup> And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his

son.<sup>14</sup> So Abraham called that place “The LORD will provide,” as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

## **September 21 - 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Jacob’s Dream**

**Genesis 27:1-4,15-23; 28:10-17**

### **Chapter 27**

<sup>1</sup> When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called his elder son Esau and said to him, “My son,” and he answered, “Here I am.” <sup>2</sup> He said, “See, I am old; I do not know the day of my death. <sup>3</sup> Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field, and hunt game for me. <sup>4</sup> Then prepare for me savory food, such as I like, and bring it to me to eat, so that I may bless you before I die.” <sup>15</sup> Then Rebekah took the best garments of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob, <sup>16</sup> and she put the skins of the kids on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. <sup>17</sup> Then she handed the savory food and the bread that she had prepared to her son Jacob.

<sup>18</sup> So he went in to his father and said, “My father,” and he said, “Here I am; who are you, my son?” <sup>19</sup> Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, so that you may bless me.” <sup>20</sup> But Isaac said to his son, “How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?” He answered, “Because the LORD your God granted me success.” <sup>21</sup> Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not.” <sup>22</sup> So Jacob went up to his father Isaac, who felt him and said, “The voice is Jacob’s voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.” <sup>23</sup> He did not recognize him because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands, so he blessed him.

### **Chapter 28**

<sup>10</sup> Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. <sup>11</sup> He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. <sup>12</sup> And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. <sup>13</sup> And the LORD stood beside him and said, “I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, <sup>14</sup> and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. <sup>15</sup> Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” <sup>16</sup> Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!” <sup>17</sup> And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

## **September 28 - 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - God’s Name Is Revealed**

**Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17**

### **Chapter 2**

<sup>23</sup> After a long time the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned under their slavery and cried out. Their cry for help rose up to God from their slavery. <sup>24</sup> God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. <sup>25</sup> God looked upon the Israelites, and God took notice of them.

### **Chapter 3**

<sup>1</sup> Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup> Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up.” <sup>4</sup> When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>5</sup> Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” <sup>6</sup> He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup> Then the LORD said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup> and I have come down to deliver them from the

Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup> The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup> Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” <sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” <sup>12</sup> He said, “I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

<sup>13</sup> But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” <sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” <sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’:

This is my name forever,  
and this my title for all generations.

#### **Chapter 4**

<sup>10</sup> But Moses said to the LORD, “O my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.” <sup>11</sup> Then the LORD said to him, “Who gives speech to mortals? Who makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? <sup>12</sup> Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak.” <sup>13</sup> But he said, “O my Lord, please send someone else.” <sup>14</sup> Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, “What of your brother Aaron, the Levite? I know that he can speak well; even now he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you his heart will be glad. <sup>15</sup> You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you what you shall do. <sup>16</sup> He indeed shall speak for you to the people; he shall serve as a mouth for you, and you shall serve as God for him. <sup>17</sup> Take in your hand this staff, with which you shall perform the signs.”

### **October 5 - 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - God Provides Manna**

#### **Exodus 16:1-18**

<sup>1</sup> The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim and came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. <sup>2</sup> The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

<sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. <sup>5</sup> On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” <sup>6</sup> So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, <sup>7</sup> and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?” <sup>8</sup> And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD.”

<sup>9</sup> Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: ‘Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’” <sup>10</sup> And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. <sup>11</sup> The LORD spoke to Moses, <sup>12</sup> “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

<sup>13</sup> In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. <sup>14</sup> When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. <sup>15</sup> When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. <sup>16</sup> This is what the LORD has commanded: Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer per person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents.” <sup>17</sup> The Israelites did so, some gathering more, some less. <sup>18</sup> But when they measured it with an omer, those who gathered much had

nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed.

## **October 12 - 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - God Calls Samuel**

### **1 Samuel 3:1-21**

<sup>1</sup> Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

<sup>2</sup> At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup> the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup> and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup> The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." <sup>7</sup> Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup> The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup> Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup> Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." <sup>11</sup> Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. <sup>12</sup> On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. <sup>13</sup> For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. <sup>14</sup> Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

<sup>15</sup> Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. <sup>16</sup> But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." <sup>17</sup> Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." <sup>18</sup> So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him."

<sup>19</sup> As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup> And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD. <sup>21</sup> The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

## **October 19 - 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - God Calls David**

### **1 Samuel 16:1-13**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup> Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" <sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup> He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." <sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>10</sup> Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup> Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup> He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." <sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of



the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

## **October 26 - 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Solomon's Temple**

**1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13**

### **Chapter 5**

<sup>1</sup> Now King Hiram of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father, for Hiram had always been a friend to David. <sup>2</sup> Solomon sent word to Hiram, saying, <sup>3</sup> "You know that my father David could not build a house for the name of the LORD his God because of the warfare with which his enemies surrounded him, until he put them under the soles of his feet. <sup>4</sup> But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor misfortune. <sup>5</sup> So I intend to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD said to my father David, 'Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, shall build the house for my name.'

### **Chapter 8**

<sup>1</sup> Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion. <sup>2</sup> All the people of Israel assembled to King Solomon at the festival in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month. <sup>3</sup> And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests carried the ark. <sup>4</sup> So they brought up the ark of the LORD, the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the tent; the priests and the Levites brought them up. <sup>5</sup> King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who had assembled before him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered. <sup>6</sup> Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. <sup>7</sup> For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim made a covering above the ark and its poles. <sup>8</sup> The poles were so long that the ends of the poles were seen from the holy place in front of the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen from outside; they are there to this day. <sup>9</sup> There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone that Moses had placed there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites when they came out of the land of Egypt. <sup>10</sup> And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, <sup>11</sup> so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> Then Solomon said,

"The LORD has said that he would dwell in thick darkness.

<sup>13</sup> I have built you an exalted house,  
a place for you to dwell forever."