

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS AND THE SCHOOL YEAR

LEADER: Today, we have before us backpacks to be carried to and from school by the children and youth. These backpacks will contain work to be done, work that's been returned, books to be studied, and homework assignments. Notebooks, pencils, pens, computers, crayons, and other items used for school work will find their way in and out of these backpacks.

Some days, so much stuff will fill these backpacks that the student may find it difficult to walk. Other days, they will be light and nearly empty. But on each and every day, these backpacks represent work required of the students gathered here. And, as in every aspect of our life, we bring these before God for blessing at this time.

LET US PRAY TOGETHER:

Gracious God, we lift to you today, these students.

They stand here ready to receive your blessings and they commit themselves to study and learning in the school year ahead. We ask your blessing on each of them.

Further, we ask your blessing on these backpacks. They will hold the school work of each student and will be carried from home to school and back again. As these students carry these backpacks, may they be reminded of the love and care of their parents, families, teachers, and this congregation that surrounds them each school day.

We pray in the name of Jesus who we seek to follow day by day. Amen.

PRAYER FOR TEACHERS & ADMINISTRATORS

LEADER: Lord, thank you for every teacher and administrator as they begin this school year. Thank you for their ministry to your children. **Sustain them** in health: strong in body, mind and spirit to move in faith, patience, and with expectation. **Protect them** and keep them. **Encourage them** to behold the beauty of your holiness. **Bless their hands** to be tender-helping hands to those in need, hands that bless. May their hearts be humble and receptive to those around them. May their minds be strong, disciplined, balanced and faith-filled. **Your grace** be upon their homes and classrooms that the sounds of joy and laughter may fill each room.

CONGREGATION: Lord bless them and keep them. Make your face shine upon them, and be gracious to them. Lord lift up your countenance upon them and give them peace. In the name of Lord Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION

LEADER: We all are called to support, encourage, and pray for the children who are members of the fellowship we all share in Christ Jesus. We are all called to be teachers and learners with children. We are to teach them about God's love, and also learn from what children have to teach us. We ask your blessings now as we support these children.

LET US PRAY TOGETHER:

Lord God, bless all of us gathered here today. Especially bless us as we support, protect, and encourage the children among us. May we, with the children, be both teachers and learners. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.