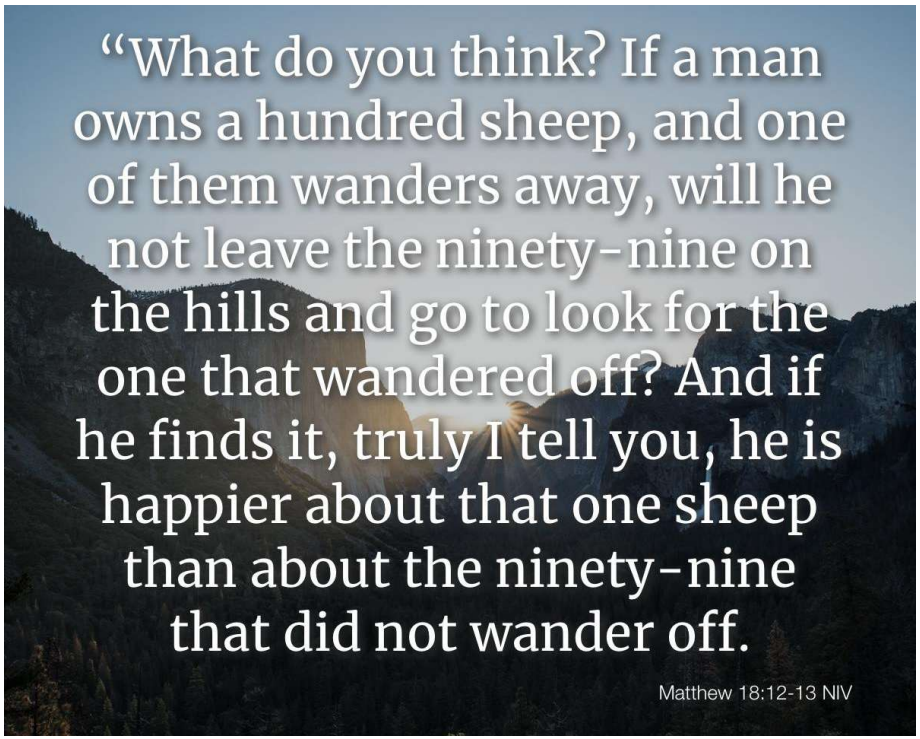
3) God's law is a <u>GUIDE</u>.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" **2** He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. **3** And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. **4** Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. **5** And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. **6** "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. **7** Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come! **8** If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. **9** And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell. **10** "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. **11** For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." **12** "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? **13** And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. **14** In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish. **15** "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. **16** But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' **17** If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. **18** "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. **19** "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. **20** For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Matthew 18:1-20

Living Word



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6th, 2026

10:00 am Service

"Welcome to Living Word!"

We invite our visitors to read the blue information card placed in the seat pocket next to you.

Order of Worship: Lutheran Service Book
Divine Service, Setting Three
[With Communion]
p. 184-202

~ SERVICE NOTES ~

Hymn of Invocation	*"Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"*	#904
Today's Psalm	*LSB front section*	Psalm 32:1-7

Scripture Readings *(facing page)*:

Old Testament Reading	Ezekiel 33:7-9
Epistle Reading	Romans 13:1-10
Gospel Reading	Matthew 18:1-20

Hymn of the Day	*"Chief of Sinners, Though I Be"*	#611
Sermon		*"I Will Confess"*
Closing Hymn	*"Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"*	#918

Please place offerings in basket at sanctuary entrance

"I Will Confess"

"I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.'
And you forgave the guilt of my sin."
Psalm 32:5b

1) God's law is a <u>MIRROR</u>.

7 "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel;
so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. 8 When I say
to the wicked, 'You wicked person, you will surely die,' and you do not
speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die
for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. 9 But if you
do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do
so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved.
Ezekiel 33:7-9

2) God's law is a <u>CURB</u>.

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no
authority except that which God has established. The authorities that ex-
ist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, whoever rebels
against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and
those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers hold no
terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want
to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and
you will be commended. 4 For the one in authority is God's servant for
your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the
sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring
punishment on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to
the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a
matter of conscience. 6 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities
are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. 7 Give to eve-
ryone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then
revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. 8 Let no debt re-
main outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for
whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "You
shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not
steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may
be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as your-
self." 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfill-
ment of the law.
Romans 13:1-10