



## PRAYER FOR BACKPACKS . . .

**Lord, These backpacks remind us that a new school year is beginning. We pray your blessing upon their owners and upon all students, young and old, as they begin this new school year. We ask your blessing, also, on all teachers and others who work with or support them in their education. Let each person who stands before us now feel the love and support of this congregation, and grant all of us the wisdom and means to meet their needs throughout the coming year.**

**We all are called to be part of your work in the world, Lord, and you have given each one of us gifts and strengths to use in that work. Help each of these students to discover and develop their gifts and strengths and know how to use them for your purposes. Remind them, too, that whatever their gifts, they are doing your work when they are kind and caring to others, when they do their best in their studies and other activities, when they respect others and themselves, and when they contribute in even small ways to make things better for others.**

**Bless also, Lord those who stand here with the students. Whatever their task or role in education, guide them to do it with a conscious effort to in some way help and serve others. Give them a sense of privilege in all they do, reminding them, and us, that even the most ordinary task becomes extraordinary when done in God's Name.**

**We ask this all, Lord, knowing that you love and hear us. Amen.**

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## **STEWARDS CORNER - - -**

**Scripture tells us that God doesn't need our money, yet we have a need to give. Although there are several reasons for giving, a very important reason should be to express our thanksgiving for our created and redeemed lives in Christ. Giving shows our gratitude for the abundance that God gives to us. When we give, we acknowledge that God owns everything. Giving helps us put things in the right perspective. In our faithful giving, we worship and honor the Lord. In faith, we will want to give regularly, generously, and cheerfully. Giving is an important part of our Christian life.**