

## **Devotion – Sixteenth Week after Pentecost**

**Rev. Jeanne Simpson**

Some names have God's name included in them. If a name ends in "-iah," it means the Lord. So the name Isaiah means "salvation of the Lord." Names beginning with "Jeho-" or "Jo" also mean the Lord. So the name Jehoshaphat means "The Lord judges," and the name Joab means "the Lord is my father." Names beginning or ending with "el" mean God. The ancient Canaanite name for the highest God in the pantheon of all gods was "El." Older parts of the Old Testament use "El" for God rather than "Yahweh." The name Ezekiel means "God strengthens," and Bethel means "House of God." That is where Jacob falls asleep, dreaming of a ladder stretching to heaven. When he wakes up, he thinks "this is a sacred place. It is God's house and the entrance to heaven," so he names the place "Bethel."

May your week be one of grace and peace.

*Jeanne*