

Willow Springs Worship

June 29, 2025 9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Call to Worship

Voices Together #859 – Carol Gale
Prayer VT #868

Songs – Elaine and Ellen

VT 161 I Sought the Lord
VT 435 Blessed Assurance
VT 512 Let the Children Come

Children's time – Beth Gerig

Scripture – James Nicholson

Luke 15:11-32 NLT

Sermon – Sarah & James Nicholson

*Testimonies of God's Presence and
Reconciling Power*

Songs

VT 621 My Hope Is Built
VT 443 I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Sharing and prayer – Ellen Davis-Zehr

Song

VT 590 I Know Not Why God's Wondrous

Announcements

Sending – VT #1050

Sending Song – VT 417 Seek Ye First

Calendar

July 2 Discernment Committee, 7:30 pm
July 6 Worship plans still coming together
July 8-12 MC USA Convention, Follow Jesus '25,
Learn more [here](#)
July 11 Mennonite Women, 9:30 am

July 13 Input by Holly Zehr
July 20 Carry-in meal welcoming Phil Waite

Thank you to Sarah and James Nicholson for bringing the message today!

Willow Springs Missional Giving emphasis for May/June is Hungry World Farm ([HWF](#)). If you would like to give to the organization, write a check to Willow Springs and **make a notation on the memo line**. Thank you for supporting organizations ministering to many.

The family of Elaine Good will be using the church building on the afternoon of Tuesday, July 1.

If you haven't completed the Sunday School and Church Office Worksheet yet, there is still time to do so! Please return to Anna Zehr's church mailbox or email to willowspringsmenno@gmail.com by the **end of the day Monday, June 30**. As you are filling this out, consider what roles you are willing to serve in this year and underline your name for these roles.

On the table in between the elevator and the stairs there are two sign up sheets, one for doing children's time and one for being a helper for children's Sunday School. **Please sign up to help out in these roles throughout the summer!**

Check out the historical photos in the library to see the church building throughout its history and the changes that have been made to it, including digging a basement underneath part of the existing building!

Resource from Everence: Learn about Medicare - Deciding how and when to enroll in Medicare is one of the most significant decisions you will make about your health care as you move toward retirement. Take time to learn the facts. [Learn more.](#)

6/15 transitional pastor update: Pastor Phil Waite plans to arrive July 15, attending meetings that week and will preach on Sunday, July 20. We will have a carry-in meal on Sunday, July 20. Lasagna (meat and vegetarian), bread, and ice cream with toppings, will be provided. Please bring salads and vegetable dishes to share. We welcome Phil as he assists us in discerning what comes next for Willow

Springs. This process will require time, thought and energy. We hope all of you will be willing to put in this energy. We have work ahead of us! If you have questions about this process, please talk with one of the Elders.

If pastoral care is needed, please contact an Elder: Dale Bachman, Ellen Davis-Zehr, Pam Kaufmann, or Elvin Krabill

Luke 15:11-32 NLT

Parable of the Lost Son

11 To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: “A man had two sons. **12** The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

13 “A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. **14** About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. **15** He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. **16** The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

17 “When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! **18** I will go home to my father and say, “Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, **19** and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.”’

20 “So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. **21** His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.[a]’

22 “But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. **23** And

kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, **24** for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.

25 “Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, **26** and he asked one of the servants what was going on. **27** ‘Your brother is back,’ he was told, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.’

28 “The older brother was angry and wouldn’t go in. His father came out and begged him, **29** but he replied, ‘All these years I’ve slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. **30** Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!’

31 “His father said to him, ‘Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. **32** We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!’”