

Holy Nativity Lutheran Church

3 Lenape Trail
Wenonah, NJ 08090

OUR MISSION

Graced by a loving God to be a caring community of faith the fellowship of Holy Nativity is called to support one another, warmly welcoming others into our community, sharing in the mission of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed, and reaching out in witness and service to the communities to which we belong as one in the Body of Christ.

Worship Service for Sunday, July 28, 2024

10th Sunday after Pentecost LBW Holy Communion Setting Two

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

In response to God's overwhelming love, we stand in awe of the wideness of God's mercy and by God's Spirit we welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. In faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, mindful of our Lutheran emphasis on grace, and rejoicing in the celebration of our shared baptismal journey, we welcome all as members of our church family including any who have ever felt excluded by the Church for any of the reasons that too often divide us.

We are so glad you have joined us today!

First-time guests: *Please fill out a Communion Card and place it in the offering plate.* Newcomer orientations are held on various days several times a year for those who are interested in learning more about HNLC.

Restrooms are located in the hallway between the lobby and our fellowship hall.

Today's Altar Flowers are given by Marianne Halterman in memory of her husband
Don.

The Sanctuary Candle is given to the Glory of God.

PRELUDE

Suite Gothique: Choral Introduction

Leon Boelmann



Introduction to the day

Today is the first of five Sundays with gospel readings from John 6, the first four of which focus on Jesus as bread of life. Today Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus' table, seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally makes the difference: it is the power of Jesus working in the littlest and least to transform this world into the world God desires, a world where all the hungry are satisfied.

GATHERING The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (The congregation responds with text in bold print.)

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, (+) one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our provider, **help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus,(+) the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* (WOV 754 v. 1 and 2)



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



Refrain
Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 148)

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.
 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
 free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and
 strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.
 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the
 hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and
 might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
 has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

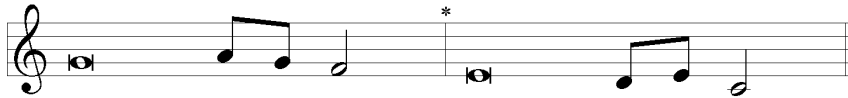
FIRST READING: 2 Kings 4:42-44 A reading from 2 Kings.

Today's reading is part of a larger section of 2 Kings that describes the miracles of Elisha, the successor to Elijah. Here the prophet gives food to a hungry crowd. Though there is not enough food to go around, Elisha trusts God, who provides enough and even more to satisfy the need.

⁴² A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to [Elisha,] the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat."⁴³ But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So he repeated, "Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, 'They shall eat and have some left.'"⁴⁴ He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 145:10-18 (The Psalm is sung responsively by verse.)



Refrain: You open | wide your hand * and satisfy the desire of every | living thing. (*Ps. 145:16*)

Refrain: You open | wide your hand * and satisfy the desire of every | living thing.

¹⁰ All your works shall praise | you, O LORD, * and your faithful | ones shall bless you.

¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory | of your kingdom * and speak | of your power,**

¹² that all people may know | of your power * and the glorious splendor | of your kingdom.

¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures through- | out all ages. * You,**

LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in | all your works.

Refrain: You open | wide your hand * and satisfy the desire of every | living thing.

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all | those who fall * and lifts up those who | are bowed down.

¹⁵ **The eyes of all wait upon | you, O LORD, * and you give them their food | in due season.**

¹⁶ You open | wide your hand * and satisfy the desire of every | living thing.

¹⁷ **You are righteous in | all your ways * and loving in | all your works.**

¹⁸ You are near to all who | call upon you, * to all who call up- | on you faithfully.

Refrain: You open | wide your hand * and satisfy the desire of every | living thing.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:14-21 A reading from Ephesians.

We have been rooted and grounded in the love of Christ, which surpasses all human knowledge. Because Christ dwells in our hearts, our lives are continuously strengthened and empowered by the ongoing presence of the Spirit.

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶ I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸ I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. A great prophet has ris- | en among us!* God has looked favor- | ably on us! Alleluia. (Luke 7:16)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
 You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 6:1-21 The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In John's gospel, the miracles of Jesus are called "signs," because they reveal the true character of God. As such, they remain within the mystery of God and cannot be brought under human control.

¹ Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ² A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³ Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴ Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵ When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹ "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." ¹³ So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

¹⁵ When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸ The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰ But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹ Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON *Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

HYMN OF THE DAY *Just As I Am, without One Plea* (LBW 296 v. 1, 3, and 6)



- 1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,
2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not to rid my soul of one dark blot,
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt,
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es, heal - ing of the mind,



and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
yea, all I need in thee to find,

- 5 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 6 Just as I am; thy love unknown
has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the
living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the
body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Johann Sebastian Bach, died 1750; Heinrich Schütz, died 1672; George Frederick Handel, died 1759;
musicians Sunday, July 28, 2024**

These three German-born musicians have done much to enrich the life of the church. Schütz was an early master who focused on settings of biblical texts. Bach wrote over 300 cantatas along with works for organ and instrumental pieces, and has been called the "fifth evangelist" for the way he proclaimed the gospel in music. Handel's great work, *Messiah*, is a setting of scriptural texts.

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany Monday, July 29, 2024

Friends of Jesus, Mary and Martha are remembered for the hospitality of their home that they offered him—Martha focused on serving their guest, and Mary on listening to him. Their brother Lazarus was raised from the dead as a sign of the greater resurrection to come.

Olaf, King of Norway, martyr, died 1030 Monday, July 29, 2024

Considered the patron saint of Norway, Olaf went from a life of piracy to becoming Christian and declaring himself king of Norway. He revised the laws and tried to administer them fairly. Driven from Norway in a rebellion, he was killed in battle trying to regain his kingdom.

PRAYER LIST

The friends and family of John Austino as they mourn his passing, The family of Bill Bartleson as they mourn his death, Nicholas Baud, John Brecht, The family of 3 year-old Cameron Bruder as they mourn his death, Max Belko, The family of Kaz Bielecki's son-in-law as they mourn his death, Madelene Budd, Sal Castelli, Sherwood Cotton, Rocco Cristinzio, The friends and family of Gladys Crooker as they mourn her death, Milton Cuevas, Jr., Aja DelRio, The family of Lorraine Donnelly as they mourn her passing, The friends and family of Pastor Bruce Ewen as they mourn his passing, Barbara Facchine, The family of Anne Fatum as they mourn her death, Scott Fey, Francis, John Forsman, Bobby G., Alma Garcia, Gavin Gigliotti, The family of Michael Gilletti as they mourn his death, Mark Gismondi, Terry Gismondi, Wilma Gismondi, the family of Doris Gordon as they mourn her death, Randi Gordon, Pastor Andy and his family rejoice in the birth of their grandson, Oriel, The family of Don Halterman as they mourn his death, The family and friends of Lynette Huntsinger as they mourn her death, Jane Johnston, Marilyn Kaiser, The family of Robert Keen as they mourn his passing, The family of Joseph Kelleher as they mourn his passing, Grace Laphan, The family of George Lofmark as they mourn his death, Joseph Lonia, The Lonia family rejoices in the birth of their great-Granddaughter, Jessie MacGregor, Joseph Mansfield, The McCall family in their time of grief and loss, The family of Michael McKee as they mourn his passing, George Muth, Carol Nardi, The family of Robert O'Connor, The O'Donald family as they mourn the passing of their young adult female family member, Bob Oehlman, Lazslo Orosze, Janet Ostrowski, The family of Joseph Ostrowski as they mourn his death, Otis, Danielle Peters, The family of Harry Rees as they mourn his death, Carole Rund and family on the death of her sister Joan, Billy Shea, The friends and family of William Snyder, Jr. as they mourn his passing, Brian Solt, Joy Stagliano, Samantha Sumner, Richard Sylvester, Eileen Simpson, The family of Dot Stagg as they mourn her passing, Julia Stanz, Nathan Storhoff, Corey Temean, The family and friends of Larry Wall as they mourn his passing, Sue Willard, The family of Madeline Williams as they mourn her death, Jerry, Pat, who are battling cancer, and Jerry, Pat and Kelly who are battling cancer.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer. *A brief silence.*

God of generations, you work in us far more than we can ask or imagine. Bless the church you have called into being across time and space, and fill it with the power of the Spirit for loving service. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of field and forest, streams and seas, you are the fullness of all things. As grains of wheat grow upon the earth and fish swim in the waters, sustain your creation. Protect harvests and give every person food in due season. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God beyond borders, you rule all in all. Bless the work of humanitarians and peacekeepers, shield those who live, work, or serve in harm's way, and bring an end to war and conflict (*nations and places may be named*). In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing, you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. We remember any who are sick or suffering (*especially*), families in our community who endure hunger, those who seek asylum or citizenship, and our beloved for whom death is near. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of grace, you root us and ground us in love. As you inspired our ancestors in this place in their ministry, sustain us also in new endeavors, that your glory may be made known, and your lovingkindness shared anew. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all, your love in Christ surpasses all knowledge. We give thanks for the departed who have come to know the fullness of your grace. Join our voices with theirs (*and with musicians Johann Sebastian Bach, Heinrich Schütz, and George Frederick Handel*) and all the saints in singing your praises. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

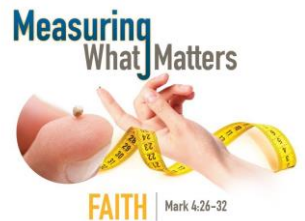
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY *Flute Solo* Arne

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE--*FAITH*

The power of growth in the natural world gives us a sense of resonance with these parables. We can feel the life-force of the earth through them. In nature this force is irrepressible. In seasons when we have rain and sunshine and just the right temperatures, it is so abundant. But even in drought and in the wake of fire and other traumas, you see bits and pieces of grass and other growing things trying to push their way into life.



It is all well and good to compare the coming of the Realm to the unrelenting growth in nature. Of course, the Realm comes in more ways than we can imagine. But what happens when we think of our *lives as seeds*—time, talent, money—that we give to the church and to other communities and causes that embody the values of the Realm of God? Does that force flow through us and through our resources offered in faith to help the Realm come to expression in us and through our relationships, communities, and commitments?

Stewardship As Discipleship

OFFERTORY VERSE

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE, PREFACE AND SANCTUS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

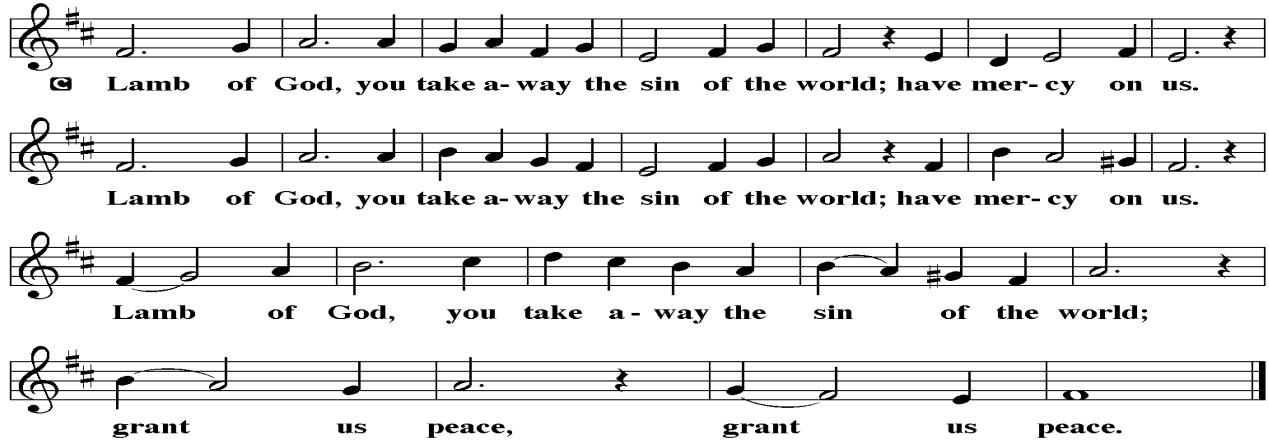
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. **Amen.**

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;

grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.** The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION MUSIC

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

Michael Burkhardt

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our risen savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you now and forever (+) in God's grace. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise*



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let

ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.

Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

SENDING God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, (+) be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* (WOV 754 v. 3)

3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! Refrain

Refrain

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Offering received June 20 and 21-- \$2115.00. Weekly amount needed to meet the spending plan-- \$2725.00. Total received year-to-date--**\$70666.06**. Amount needed to meet the spending plan--**\$79025.00**. (Please note that we are currently about \$8000 behind our approved spending plan. Don't forget the church when you go on vacation this summer!)
- Don't forget that we have ACME and ShopRite cards for sale after the church service.
- Community Wide VBS July 29-August 2 (6:30 pm to 8:30 pm) for children ages 4-12 at Memorial Presbyterian. See the poster in the Narthex to scan the QR code to register. They are also looking for donations for materials for classes, including paper towel tubes, battery-operated tea lights, adult knee socks in bright colors, fiberfill stuffing, new pillowcases in light solid colors, oil pastels, felt in bright colors, burlap, yarn, embroidery floss and buttons. (See the basket in the Narthex for donations.)
- This year's NJ Synod Bishop's Challenge asks all NJ congregations to engage in the care of God's good creation by choosing one of the following action areas focusing on environmental sustainability, including Building, Grounds, Programs, Worship & Education, Community Action & Activism. Our congregation is already engaged in significant work with our church grounds. If you are interested in sponsoring one of the areas on our property, see the poster in the Narthex or speak to Pastor.
- This year's churchwide youth assembly is focusing on World Hunger. If you would like to contribute to the "Generation Zero Hunger" project, see the poster in the Narthex for details on donations.
- If you are interested in receiving a daily bible reading by email, visit the following website and click the subscribe button: [Daily Bible Reading - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America \(elca.org\)](http://www.elca.org).
- St. Peter's Community Pantry is one of our ministry partners in the Gloucester County Faith in Prevention initiative. They are here to help serve those facing food insecurity in Gloucester County. If you (or someone you know) are having a difficult time buying food for yourself, or your family, please let St. Peter's try to make a small difference for you. The Pantry is located behind St. Peter's Episcopal

Church at 304 Kings Highway in Clarksboro. They are open every 4th Saturday of the Month from 9 AM to 1 PM. The next distribution date is July 28.

- Coffee hour between services is scheduled for the first Sunday of each month, hosted by the 8:30 service. Come and join us for the next coffee and fellowship on Sunday, August 4.
- Save the following dates:
 - * Tuesday July 30—5:30-7:00 pm Church Picnic; Burgers, hot dogs, sides, etc.
 - * Sunday, September 8—God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday—Fall clean-up at church
- GROWING IN FAITH: THE DIAKONIA PROGRAM Growing in Faith is a ministry within the ELCA committed to fostering learning environments for followers of Jesus to grow in faith. Lay members of congregations are integral to healthy discipleship in the church and community. If you would be interested in this program, check out the website www.njdiakonia.com for more information.
- The church now has two Planet Aid clothing bins in the parking lot. The following clean items may be placed in the yellow bins: clothing, shoes, bedding, towels, curtains, sleeping bags, socks, underwear, bras. They cannot accept items that are tattered beyond repair, dirty, wet or moldy. They do not accept yarn, thread-bare items, spools of thread or similar cast-offs. They also do not accept toys, stuffed animals, furniture or electronics.
- If you have someone that you would like on the prayer list, please fill out a form in the narthex and place it in the offering plate or contact the church office email: hnlc.secretary@hotmail.com.
- Choir rehearses on Sunday mornings @ 9:40 from September to June. Anyone is welcome to join us. Although the choir is currently on hiatus until the fall, watch for announcements as to when choir will resume.
- Sunday School sessions are on hiatus for the summer. Church school resources continue to be available on our website on a weekly basis. Watch for an announcement for when sessions will resume in September.
- At this time, the food pantry needs boxed cereal, pancake mix, syrup, grape jelly, loaves of bread and toilet paper. Other needed items include canned goods, non-perishable items, toiletries, laundry soap, etc.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune

Robert Lau

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GOSPEL MESSAGE (Will There Be Enough?)

“Will there be enough?” This is perhaps a question as old as humanity itself. Will there be enough money? Enough food? Enough time? It’s a question that threatens to consume our faith communities. Will there be enough volunteers? Enough preachers? Enough money in the offering plate? Enough people in the pews? Will there be enough donations or energy or creativity to carry us through?

We aren’t alone in these fears. The disciples asked the same of Jesus. “Will there be enough to eat?” Surely, a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish could never feed this crowd. Better to send the people away to fend for themselves.

Perhaps like the disciples, we tend to panic and turn inward when resources start to dwindle. And yet, again and again, God calls us together, taking our fears and transforming them into gifts of abundance. A few crumbs become a feast. A hungry crowd becomes a community bearing witness to God’s grace.

This story is an antidote to our anxious times, when we are tempted to cling, to hoard, to squander away resources for an uncertain future. Miraculous things happen when we open our fists and trust that with God, all things are possible.

This is not an easy mindset to hold, so together, we practice! We practice a theology of “enoughness” each week when we share communion with one another. We witness the tremendous power of a little bread and a little wine to sustain us on our journey. We practice generosity when we pass the offering plate, turning our meager offerings into a gift for the greater good. We witness how the gifts and talents of a community come together to create something that on our own would never have been possible. Because, in Christ, there is always more than enough.

HOLY NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor: Andy Gordon Music Director: Chris Robinson

Guest Organist: Mary Johnson

5:00—Harriet Vico; 8:30—Lori Kershaw; 10:30—Diane Yandach

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

April Montana—Council Person/President/Christian Education

Joyce Bradbury—Council Person/Secretary

Caryl Carthew—Council Person/Worship and Music/Financial Secretary

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Karen Cusack—Council Person/Co-Treasurer

Brett Montana—Youth Representative