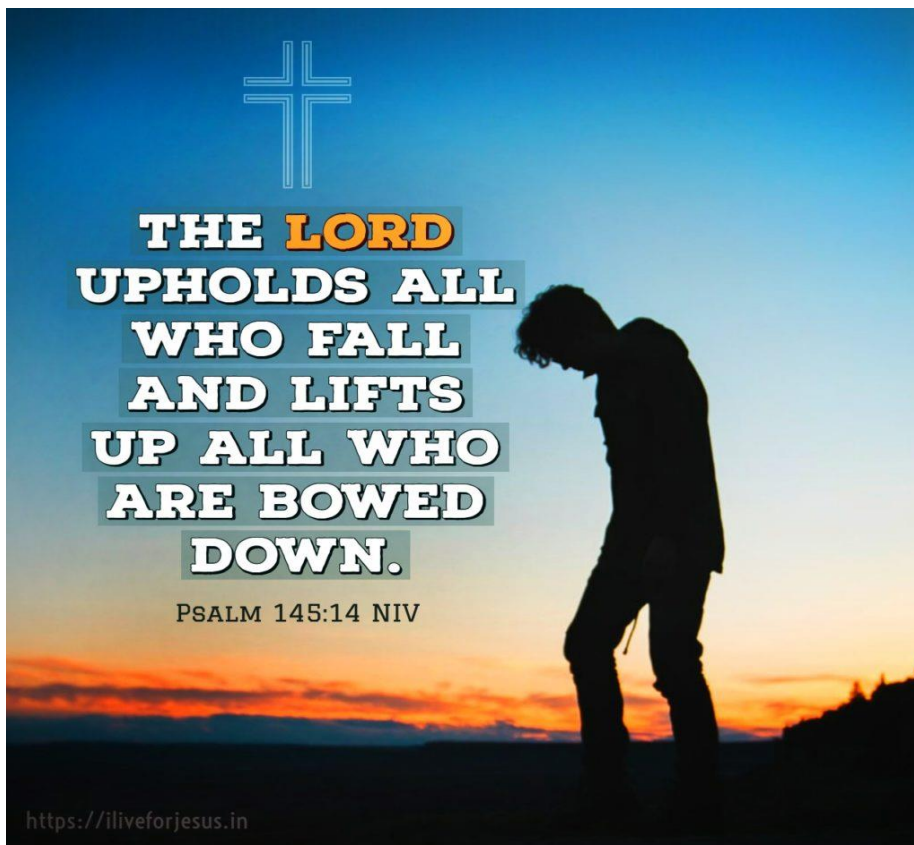


***The Lutheran Church of the Covenant***  
***“Reaching Out, Reflecting Christ, Renewing Lives”***



*Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*  
*July 25, 2021*



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



We welcome you to worship here at the Lutheran Church of the Covenant! As long as the weather cooperates, we gather outside in God's Creation so that we may more safely come together and worship with singing and loud shouts of praise.

- Bulletins and Communion (wheat or gluten-free wafers, wine or grape juice options) are available to be picked up at the side driveway. Please keep in mind potential wind that may affect your Communion cups.
- You may stay in your vehicle or setup a chair anywhere you like. Speakers will be set up front by the worship leaders so that everyone can hear and participate from their respective spots.
- It is your choice whether you wear a mask or not, as well as how much distance you wish to keep from others. We are mindful of everyone's varying comfort levels with what we hope to be improving circumstances with COVID-19.
- We encourage you to participate throughout the worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns!
- You will not be asked to stand during the worship, so feel free to remain seated throughout.
- An offering basket is placed up-front by the podium.

### ***Our Worship Leaders & Staff***

Ministers  
Presiding Minister  
Pianist  
Lector  
Parish Administrator  
Custodian

All People  
The Rev. Jimmy Madsen  
Robin Crawford  
Bert Zahn  
Jennifer Lasher-Dobush  
Vince Besednjak

*The Lutheran Church of the Covenant  
19000 Libby Rd.  
Maple Heights, OH 44137*

*Phone: 216-662-0370*

*Email: [covenantlc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:covenantlc@sbcglobal.net)*

## **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

*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.*

Prelude *Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult* (PETHEL)

Confession & Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at our baptism, remembering our everlasting bond with our Risen Lord.*

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.**

**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 Hymn *Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal*

#464



- 1 Bread of life, our host and meal, Je - sus, feed us.
- 2 Bread now break and wine now pour, Je - sus, feed us.
- 3 Grant for - give - ness in the feast— Je - sus, feed us—
- 4 Thank you for this gift we share. Je - sus, feed us.



Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.  
 Make us one, our hope re - store; feed us with your love.  
 for the great - est and the least; feed us with your love.  
 Save God's chil - dren ev - 'ry - where; feed us with your love.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943; Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: JESUS, FEED US, Ray Makeever

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Prayer of the Day

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!**

*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.*

<sup>42</sup>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."<sup>43</sup> 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.'"<sup>44</sup> 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

<sup>10</sup>All your works shall praise you, O Lord,  
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

<sup>11</sup>**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your power,**

<sup>12</sup>that all people may know of your power  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup>**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout  
all ages.**

**You, Lord, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

<sup>14</sup>The Lord upholds all those who fall  
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

<sup>15</sup>**The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,  
and you give them their food in due season.**

<sup>16</sup>You open wide your hand  
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

<sup>17</sup>**You are righteous in all your ways  
and loving in all your works.**

<sup>18</sup>You are near to all who call upon you,  
to all who call upon you faithfully.

## Second Lesson

Ephesians 3:14-21

*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.*

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

<sup>20</sup>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, <sup>21</sup>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

John 6:1-21

*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.*

The Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

<sup>1</sup>Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. <sup>2</sup>A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. <sup>3</sup>Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. <sup>4</sup>Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. <sup>5</sup>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?" <sup>6</sup>He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. <sup>7</sup>Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." <sup>8</sup>One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup>"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” <sup>13</sup>So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. <sup>14</sup>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.”

<sup>15</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, <sup>17</sup>got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. <sup>18</sup>The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>But he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” <sup>21</sup>Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

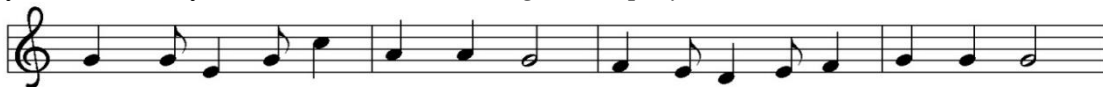
This is the holy Gospel of our Lord!

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

#674



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!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980

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## Prayers of Intercession

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Universal God, watch over your whole church, including for the ministries of our neighboring congregations. Empower communities of faith throughout the world and encourage missionaries who accompany global neighbors. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration, that all people may know your loving works. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Caring God, continue to nourish your creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and come to the aid of those enduring sweltering heat. Nurture wheat and barley crops grown for the nourishment of your people and conserve aquatic habitats and fish populations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of justice, give wisdom to those who govern. Cast out arrogance, selfishness, and corruption and instruct those who lead to practice compassion and humility. Inspire them with a vision of the common good and a commitment to ensure that all who hunger are fed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Healing God, strengthen those bowed down by heavy burdens: those who are unemployed or underemployed, those unable to find affordable housing, and those without access to medical care. Console those who grieve and hear the cries of those who call to you for compassion. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We lift up our entire Covenant family. Deepen our resolve to use what we have to serve those in need. When we worry that we do not have enough resources for ministry, assure us of your abundance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for those who have died. As you sustained them through all their days, so dwell in our hearts, that we may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen!**



## Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God,  
our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,  
in the harmonious world of your creation,  
the plants and animals, the seas and stars  
were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,  
you sent your Son to heal our ills  
and to form us again into one.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up,  
and his victory over death,  
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth  
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Holy Spirit, bless us through this meal:  
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,  
so let your church be gathered from the ends of the earth,  
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
both now and forever. **Amen!**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

Communion

Music Interlude *Rest in the Lord* (TURNER)

Prayer after Communion

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!**

Blessing

The blessing of God,  
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
✠ be upon you now and forever!  
**Amen!**

Sending Hymn *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

#533



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,  
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;  
3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;  
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;  
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.  
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.  
let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,  
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine  
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!  
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!  
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.  
as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.  
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

Dismissal

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

Postlude *All You Works of God, Bless the Lord!* (ORE)

## Praying Together

**... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating:** Gayle Agg, Bob Buettner, Donny Cheatwood, Joan Clarke, John Crawford, Nicole Crawford, Barbara Fossa, Carolyn Frajter, Ken Frajter, Donna Franz, Nealie Gage, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Clare Hanusz, Judy Jones, Matt Jones, Dylan King, Jason Lanese, Andrea Lanzalaca, Heather Lasher, Sara Mendes, Phyllis Nemeth, Bernice Novak, Don Rusher Jr, Arlene Stoltz, Marie Storms, Tom Susanek, Phyllis Treichel, Phyllis Welker, Linda Wright, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Kim (Novak) Leonhardt, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Bill Wilkens, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family

### **LAST WEEK**

General Fund receipts for week ending 7/18/2021: \$1727.



For our latest video recordings of worship, bulletins, newsletters, as well as links to daily devotions and other resources, please visit: [covenantmaplehts.org](http://covenantmaplehts.org).

Check us out on Facebook for the latest updates for community activities and a dose of Good News on your news feed!



A BIG  
*thank  
you*  
♥

*We greatly appreciate Pastor Madsen for leading us in worship this morning! Thank you, Pastor Madsen!*

### ***Lectionary Blog: A Feast for All***



In the southern evangelical churches of my youth, we didn't really have "festival" Sundays in the liturgical calendar sense, just Christmas and Easter really. But we had festivals anyway. We found many opportunities to celebrate with a feast. Homecoming with "dinner on the grounds;" the first Sunday night of a revival, the last night of vacation Bible school, numerous family reunions held at the church after service and everyone invited. The invitation was given but unnecessary—everyone would have come

anyway, since we were all related somehow, by birth, marriage or friendship.

We knew intuitively that eating together in that way was something the church was supposed to do. And we knew that it was about more than food, about more than good fellowship, camaraderie and community spirit. Deep in an unarticulated part of our souls we knew it was about God, and about growing in God's grace, and about growing as the body of Christ. It was about remembering that we were more than just folk who liked to get together to sing hymns, listen to sermons and pray; we were God's children gathered around God's table. We knew we were a people of the feast.

This connection between God and community and feasting is reflected in several of our Scripture lessons. In 2 Kings we read a story about Elisha and the feeding of a hundred men with a limited amount of food. It is a parallel story to the feeding of the 5,000, even down to there being a collection of leftovers.

Psalm 145:15-16 reminds us that God provides for our earthly needs:

*The eyes of all look to you,  
and you give them their food in due season.  
You open your hand,  
satisfying the desire of every living thing.*

There are many things going on in the Gospel lesson, but one of the most important is a reminder that God is a god of abundance and blessing, a god who calls upon God's people to be a community of abundance and blessing as well. The disciples looked at the crowd and then looked at their resources—one little boy with five loaves and two fish—and decided there was nothing they could do. Jesus looked at the crowd and looked at the same resources and, trusting God to provide, did what he could. Then a feast happened.

For years I traveled as a church consultant, first in the Southeast and then around the country. I worked with churches of small membership from Seattle, Wash., to Savannah, Ga., from Western New York to Southern California and all points in between. The congregations represented the spectrum denominationally, from high-church Episcopalians to low-church Baptists. There was one thing all those congregations had in common: They liked to eat. And they liked to brag about how much they liked to eat and about the special regional dishes they liked to eat.

In truth, the real differences between these congregations were not matters of geography or liturgy or theology. Their differences had to do with who was invited to eat with them. The congregations that vigorously pursued opening the feast to everyone, especially those congregations that took the feast outside the walls into the community, were healthy congregations. They looked at the “crowd” and at what they had and decided to do something, trusting God to provide.

Other congregations looked at the needs of the crowd and at what they had and decided they could only feed themselves. These congregations seldom allowed others a seat at the table and kept the feast very much inside the walls. These congregations were dying a very slow but certain death.

Our calling today is to be like the boy who opened his bag and shared his lunch. We are invited to open our hearts, our doors, our lives and our tables to the world. We are encouraged to welcome one and all to the feast celebrating God’s goodness and generosity. After all, we are one family—bound together by much more than birth, marriage or friendship. As Ephesians says, “*For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family on earth takes its name*” (Ephesians 3:14-15).

And when we are afraid that what we have is too little, we will remember the little boy in our story and offer up what we have, trusting God’s abundance and blessing to make it enough.

Amen and amen.

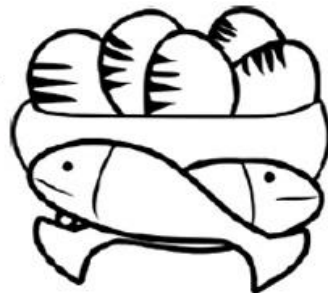
*Originally published July 23, 2018, on LivingLutheran.org.*

*Delmer Chilton is originally from North Carolina and received his education at the University of North Carolina, Duke Divinity School and the Graduate Theological Foundation. He received his Lutheran training at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, S.C. Ordained in 1977, Delmer has served parishes in North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee.*

# Jesus Feeds the 5000

Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. John 6:11 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 6:1-14



H J F W W W H F J S S X N N V  
 V B B O A T T B K X A Y C D D  
 X P T J M F L N A M T H Q P J  
 C D Q F E A A C K K I E N T R  
 T H C L O H V R E U S G K W Z  
 O E U U T L G I T Z F C P E V  
 W A X T J R L P X Z I L A L V  
 N L H T X E Z O L S E P M V B  
 S E I C Y H S V W P D B V E I  
 L D C R G S C U L E E S F S K  
 J O T A E M I M S J D O D K C  
 F B A S K E T F U L S W P S K  
 P I B V T T A K B D O H S L W  
 P S S L E B D U I R K M X M E  
 Q D J H K S F K C L M E H A O

JESUS	BASKETFULS	SATISFIED	CROWDS	LOAVES
THANKS	LEFT	FOLLOWED	PEOPLE	TOWNS
TWELVE	HEALED	FISH	BOAT	SICK