



Covenant News

August 2026

What Are We Holding?

Five loaves. Two fish. Five thousand hungry people sitting in the grass. Whoever counted that crowd knew the math didn't work before anyone even opened their mouth to object.

Sitting with Matthew's account of the feeding of the five thousand (14:13–21, NRSVue), I keep coming back to one detail that's easy to skip past. Jesus doesn't ask the disciples to go find more food first. He takes what they already have, as small as it is, and tells them to start handing it out anyway. The multiplying doesn't happen before the sharing. It happens because of it.

I think that's worth sitting with as we move into August. This is usually the month things quiet down a little before the fall calendar fills back up. It's a good place to take a good, honest pause to ask what we're actually carrying into the new season. Not what we wish we had more of. What we already have in our hands, right now, that we've been counting instead of offering.

Maybe it's a worry you've been managing alone that you haven't said out loud to anyone here yet. Maybe it's an hour of your week you keep meaning to give and haven't. Maybe it's a hope for this congregation's future that feels too fragile to speak plainly. Whatever it is — the invitation this summer isn't to fix it, or to have more of it before you're willing to bring it. It's just to let it move through someone else's hands instead of carrying it by yourself.

That's what happened in the grass that day. Nobody's portion got bigger sitting alone in their own hands. It multiplied in the passing — one loaf, then another, then a whole community fed and filled, with twelve baskets left over.

I don't think we're so different from that crowd. This story also asks us to trust that when what little we have gets shared instead of hoarded, God does something with it we could never have built on our own.

So this month, I'd simply ask: what are you holding onto? And what might it look like to let it pass through someone else's hands for a while?

— *Pastor Andrea*

A recycling station has been set up in the fellowship hall. Look for the three blue bins under the clock, and please recycle here as often as you can!

Waste Less, Give More





2026 Rummage Sale

The church rummage sale will be on Friday, September 11th and Saturday, September 12th, from 10am to 1pm. Donations can be brought from Monday August 17-Thursday September 10 . All donations should be put on the stage in the hall, please do not put them anywhere else. Let Barb Gaglione know if you have any questions or would like to volunteer and Jen in the office if you need to get into building during the day to drop off donations.



Please join us for our joint worship service with Church of the Master on Sunday August 30th at 10:00 am at Lutheran Church of the Master (860 Northfield Rd., Bedford). We will have lunch after: hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided, bring a side dish to share.

Our next FREE community meal will be Thursday, August 27th (5-6PM). We are doing dine-in only in our fellowship hall.

FREE
community
MEAL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

8/11 Ann Droste

8/16 Marie Zahn

8/17 Maggie Hernandez

8/17 Arlene Stoltz

8/17 Chris Constant

8/19 Douglas Pekar

8/21 Jane Skowronski

8/28 Jeff Garvin



8/11 Jane & Jim Gradert - Happy 71st Anniversary!

8/12 Barb & Chuck Gaglione – Happy 55th Anniversary!

8/14 Deena Gaglione-Hernandez & Ben Hernandez –

Happy 17th Anniversary!

8/20 Arlene & Jim Stoltz – Happy 33rd Anniversary!

Christmas in July 2026



Thank you to everyone who took an ornament off the tree, added \$20, and brought it back. Your generosity will make a real difference – final total to come in next week's newsletter, but early signs point to a wonderful response.

Whether you gave once or found extra, thank you for living out God's call to generosity with such joy and creativity. We're grateful for this community and for hearts open to giving.

Lutheran Church of the Covenant

Council Meeting Minutes for Tues, April 21, 2026

Meeting called to order at 7:25pm by President Ted Lockmiller

Present: MaryKaye Bernardo, Vince Besednjak, Mike Davis, Jennifer LasherDobush, Ted Lockmiller, Pastor Andrea, Gwen Susaneck, Charlotte Zaranka

Absent - Chuck Dickey

Devotion and Prayer: Pastor Andrea – Isaiah 61 “The Word from Profit Isiah”.

So, the oppressed can hear good news.”

Pastor Nathan Krause, Director of Evangelical Missions, was with us tonight and spoke on the future of churches. If Covenant went away, who would fill the void? In 1989, the ELCA came together. There were 10,000 churches, Today, there are only 8,400. Need to partner as Covenant/Master has already done. Or, in the future, possibly consolidate. For more info, see the office.

Council business: Minutes approved/amended for meeting Thurs, March 19, 2026. Motion made by MaryKaye. Seconded by Gwen.

Pastors Report: Summary of Council retreat April 17, 2026. Sunday April 26

Pastor will be gone. Pentecost Joint worship with Master and New

Cornerstone at Covenant 10:00am. Will be a blended service

Baptist/Lutheran. Meal afterward catered by NCMBC or potluck. There will be hymn-sing on Sunday, June 14 with favorite songs picked by the congregation.

There will be an intergenerational summer series with the working title “Holy

Curious” that will be based on Confirmation (Martin Luther, the Bible, the Creeds, Justification, the Sacraments, and Vocation) The goal is to learn about

Lutheranism. Thursday nights from 6:30-8:00 starting May 28th. Master will be doing the same thing.

The Prayer Group will start up again on Wed, May 20th. Will be 1st and 3rd Wed of each month at 6:00pm. We are now meeting at Covenant but may meet offsite also. Starting April 23rd Pastor will be in Columbus, Ohio for continuing education at Trinity Seminary. From April 29-May 1st she will be in Archbold, Ohio for the first-call Pastor’s Retreat. For more info, see the office.

Treasurer’s Report: Mike – Expenses were over budgeted by \$3,835 first 3 months of 2026. Some envelopes have not been turned in from the “build back” program. Need another program like that or something similar. Need about \$3200 per month from parishioners for the budget. Water/sewer bills will be bigger now for summer. For more info, see the office.

BOARDS

Finance – Gwen – No report – nothing is new.

Social Ministry – MaryKaye – No report - She talked to the Superintendent of schools about getting a book club together for summer.

Education: Chuck, absent – no report – Bible class and Sunday school ends when we go outside to worship in nice weather. After Sunday, June 14th.

Worship and Music – Jen – written report - Sunday, April 26, no communion.

Synod Assembly this year is election year. We will send 1 person at \$175.

Master is having Picnic and Praise on 2 Wednesdays in June and July again. They are also having a picnic after their Sunday June 14th service. We are invited to attend. Watch for info in bulletins and newsletter. For other info, see the office.

Manager's Report: Vince – no report – March 28th Ted, Vince, and Nancy cleaned the front of the church outside.

Old Business: Shed – March amount received was \$140.30.

New Business: Idea – Will make copies of the shed info sheets for Vince to distribute at St Andrews in Maple Hts at the food pantry. One per box so that side of town knows about our clothing shed program. Make enough info sheets for 200 cars. It is the 3rd Thurs from 9:30-11:30am. Anyone can go to receive food. Get in line, have trunk open and someone will put a box of food in for you. Citadel Church (old St Wenceslaus) distributes food on 1st Saturday of month 10am-noon. For anyone, bring a box and pack your own items.

Jen talked to Shawn, the lawn care person, about the cost for landscaping for 2026. He mentioned \$800 per month for 4 months = \$3200. Last year we paid \$725 per month for 4 months = \$2900.00. She will negotiate.

Next Council Meeting: Tues, May 19, 2026, at 7:15pm. **Devotions:** Gwen

Meeting Adjourned: 9:39pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Zaranka

Council Secretary

Comments: Open dialog about the future not as scary

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The Lutheran Church of the Covenant
19000 Libby Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137
216-662-0370
Martin@covenantmaplehts.org