



Eighth Sunday After Pentecost July 18, 2021

Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and asked God's blessing on the food. Breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread and fish to the disciples to give to the people. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they picked up twelve baskets of leftover bread and fish. Five thousand men had eaten from those five loaves." (Mark 6:41-44)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In this miraculous feeding of 5000 men (plus women and children) we see the abundance of his sacrifice, compassion and provision for us. The disciples (like us) do not understand how great Jesus is in these respects. The crowd gets fed, the disciples are amazed and Jesus surpasses our understanding. Jesus is different and more than we ever imagined. His provision is physical, but that points to the spiritual, emotional satisfaction and fullness that he is for us.

Jesus withholds no good thing from His people. And from this event we learn that even though following Him at times may lead us into desolate places, as our Shepherd, He will prepare a table in the wilderness for us. We learn that in our great insufficiency to obtain satisfaction for ourselves, He will restore our souls. Today, if you will come to Him hungry, unsatisfied with your hope in all other things, He will fill you. He will fill you with an abundance of righteousness and grace. He will satisfy you with the riches of His mercy



- **Join us this Sunday, Worship Service . . . 9:30 A.M.** Pastor Doug Gast
- **Scripture Readings**
Jeremiah 23:1-6
Ephesians 2:11-22
Mark 6:30-44
- **Happening Around St. James**
Children's Sunday School is recessed til August
No Adult Forum this week or next. Resume in August
- **Blood Drive This Sunday** July 18th 9:30 AM -2:00 PM Registration Available now on line or on the sign up sheet in the narthex. Help share the gift of life.
- **Vacation Bible School is Coming at the End of July. . . The title is Rocky Railway . . .** Jesus Power Pulls us through. July 25th-July 27th 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Sign up in the narthex or also register online [here](#). I need someone(s) to come up to Bethel to help me load and bring decorations and scenery for our VBS. If you can help please contact me.
- **School Supplies Needed.** Hard to believe, but school start up is just around the corner. As we have in the past we will be helping students in need with what they need to get off to a great start. We hope to have the supplies in by July 19th. Here are some of the things they need:

Earbuds & headphones with straight jack composition	Kleenex	dry erase markers	wide ruled
Plastic pencil boxes	notebooks	highlighters	3x5 note
cards			
Regular #2 pencils	sticky notes	crayons	plastic sheet
protectors			
Colored pencils	erasers	1/2 or 1 inch binders	pens
Zipper binders with handles	calculators	hand sanitizer	face maske
Canvas zipper pencil pouches	spiral notebooks		water color
paint sets			
Broad tip washable markers	college ruled notebooks		
Heavy duty plastic folders (without brads)	-red, blue, yellow, green		
Scissors –both for young and older students.			

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Terry Miller. Thanks ahead of time for the help. **EVERYTHING IS DUE JULY 19**

- **Request** I have been asked by several people if they could have a copy of my funeral message from Jeff Stearns celebration of life service. I have made copies and placed them in the office by the copier. Please feel free to take one. Thank you.
- **Coffee with Council** will be next Sunday following worship. Come listen to the goals and things our council are working on now. We hope this is an open line of communications to keep everyone abreast with the workings and ministry of our church.
- **Sunday School Volunteers are Needed this fall.** It looks like we will have a preschool through 2nd grade class, a 3rd through 6th grade class and a confirmation class. We are now looking for someone(s) to teach the 3rd through 6th grade class and someone to help me lead the confirmation group. If interested contact me for more information. What an opportunity to help make a difference in the spiritual formation of our young disciples.
- **Mission Opportunity. Thank you! Thank you!** Because of your generosity we have received \$850. With matching funds from our BMO account, we will be sending \$1,450 to our brothers and sisters in Ethiopia. They will be able to purchase the computer that will be used for the seminary now and in the future. This comes at a particularly critical time, in that there is a great deal of conflict throughout the country as well as a devastating famine
- **Bible Studies**
 - **Women's Bible Study** Mondays at 11 A.M.
 - **Men's Bible Study Gathers . . .**at 9 A.M. on Tuesdays.
 - **Additional Bible Study Opportunity.** . . included with this weekly update is a bible study for you to use in the comfort of your home.
- **St James Website is Up and Running.** Let me encourage everyone to visit our new and updated website. We think it is attractive and informative and we hope it will be used fully. We are keeping it current and fresh and there will be links added for the bulletin, newsletter and this weekend update. Please check it out.
- **Continue to Hold our Church in Prayer** as we await someone who can be a pastoral candidate. May the Holy Spirit move strong in our midst & in the heart of the person who will take the reins of pastoral leadership of St James. In the near future we will be sharing in a Bible Study on the Biblical understanding on the blessing and use of times of waiting.
- **Greetings from the HMD Council** for the month of July 2021. Include in your prayers
 - There is so much pain and conflict across the Middle East. We pray for leaders throughout the region to turn their hearts towards peace.
 - Pray for blessings for the Heartland Mission District (HMD) congregation of Antioch Lutheran Church in Hoagland Indiana and Pastor David Taylor.

- Pray for the Life-to-Life Discipleship Team's effort in developing disciple-making congregations and cultures as part of the NALC's 2020 Vision.
- Continue to pray for guidance, support and strength from the Holy Spirit for HMD seminarian Ben Black.

Thank you all for your prayers.

I can be contacted at pastorstjamesnalc@gmail.com, or by phone 317 727-0612, or calling the St James office.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Doug