



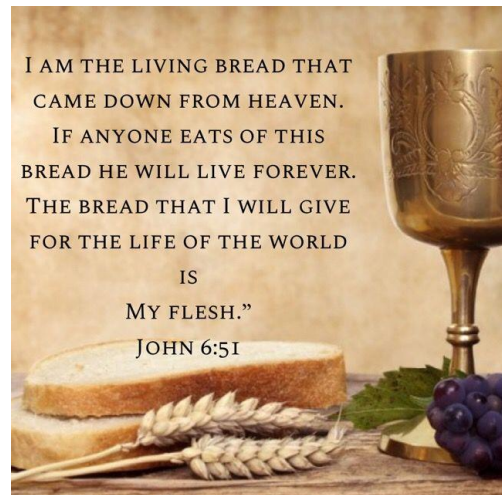
## Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost August 8, 2021

*“Jesus said, “For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do what I want. And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them to eternal life at the last day. For it is my Father’s will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life . . . that I should raise them at the last day..” (John 6:38-40)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Have you ever noticed the food left on a McDonald’s tray ... Big Macs, French fries, half-eaten fish sandwiches? We Americans are obsessed with food. Put us at a buffet and they have to put up signs to make sure we don’t stock up for the week. Along with our obsession with food is our obsession with losing weight. We eat too much of the wrong thing, then have to spend thousands of dollars on special diets to take off the excess pounds.

Oh, that we were this obsessed with spiritual food! You’d think many of us are on a spiritual diet the way we seem to take in just enough nourishment to survive. But most of us would not say we are spiritually filled. Jesus Christ promises to give us bread and drink, and ties it into our observances of the sacrament of holy communion ... the most notable place in our corporate worship life where we focus on the power of Christ to satisfy our hungering and thirsting.



- **Join us this Sunday, Worship Service . . . . 9:30 A.M. Ben Black**
- **Scripture Readings**  
I King 19:1-8  
Ephesians 4:17-5:2  
John 6:35-51
- **Happening Around St. James**  
**Children’s Sunday School is recessed til September 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**Adult Forum resumes this week. We will continue Joining Jesus on His mission. All are welcome.**
- **Vacation Bible School was a wonderful experience for all.** The kids were excited and enthusiastic and very responsive to whatever we were doing. And the crew leaders were engaging and with the kids on every level. Jesus Power did pull us through. Thank you to one and all. And give glory and praise to the Spirit’s presence with us.
- **Pew Bibles are in the works.** We are hoping to place Bibles in the pews for worshippers to use before or during the services. Because this expense is not in

the worship budget we are asking for special donations to make this happen. I believe we need about \$500. So far we have \$100. The Bibles are about \$10 a piece. Maybe you can give one. Maybe 10. Whatever you do will be a blessing.

- **September is St James turn to take responsibility for filling the Community Blessing Box.** The Blessing Box is located at the Greenfield Police Dept. and is sponsored by different churches each month. We are collecting shelf stable products (like cocktail franks, canned meats, cracker filled with cheese or peanut butter. Cereal bars, and Raman noodles. There will be a more detailed list in the August newsletter). Ahead of time let me express personal appreciation for your generosity and support.
- **Sunday School Volunteers are Needed this fall.** It looks like we will have a preschool through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class, a 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade class and a confirmation class. We are now looking for someone(s) to teach the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **St James Website is Up and Running.** Hope you have been checking it out regularly. We are proud of our efforts. We are keeping it current and fresh and there will be links added for the bulletin, newsletter and this weekend update.
- **Greetings from the HMD Council** for the month of August 2021. Include in your prayers
  - Continue to pray for all NALC churches that are in the call process and especially the HMD's churches of Antioch, Living Faith and St. James who are awaiting pastoral candidates. Pray that these congregations have patience as they wait for the Holy Spirit to send them the right match for their ministries.
  - Pray for all of the students and teachers that are returning to school. Ask for blessings for those who learn that they may grow in the knowledge of their Maker and Redeemer and bless those who teach, that they may share the wisdom they have received from above and that they do their work with patience and love that reflects God's mercy that endures forever.
  - Pray for blessings for Pastor Jarrod Ball who will be installed this month at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Uniondale, Indiana.
  - Pray for blessings for the HMD congregation and Pastor Gaptor of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church - Thiele Road in Fort Wayne, Indiana.
  - 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](mailto:pastorstjamesnalc@gmail.com), or by phone 317 727-0612, or calling the St James office.

**Yours in Christ,**

**Pastor Doug**