

AUGUST

"Sharing Food"

by Deaconess Jean Wildgrube

Hymn Suggestion

"Take My Life, that I May Be" (ELW #583, LSB #784)

Scripture

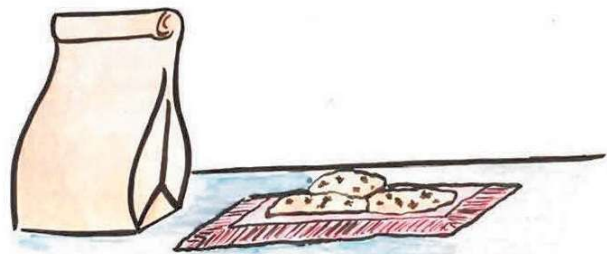
Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Matthew 14:19-21

Devotion

About two years ago our congregation began partnering with "The Street Soldiers" to serve Sunday afternoon meals to people in need. About 120 gather in our parking lot for food each week. I love to bake, and began thinking how I might help supply something for those meals. I began contributing 10 dozen cookies weekly.

Once a month, our Deacon of Outreach purchases ingredients for sandwiches. I decided that here was another way I could help The Street Soldiers feed the hungry. Living in a retirement community, I now collect food from our residents as a monthly food donation for several communities providing food for the hungry.

We marvel at the story of Jesus taking two fish and five loaves of bread to provide "lunch" for 5,000 people. It is a story that seems miraculous, yet it tells us that Jesus reaches out to give the blessings of home, clothing and food – and he does that through us. He calls on us to share with those in need by giving food, money, resources, time and help to humankind. Jesus reminds us that in-as-much as we serve others, we do it for him. Let us all "soldier on" with outstretched hands of service.



Question for Reflection & Discussion

- What can you give to others? Your time? A visit? Some food?

Prayer

Lord, you give us our daily bread. Help us to share with others what you have abundantly given us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

About the Author

Deaconess Jean Wildgrube is the Deacon of Stewardship and the co-chair of the 150th Anniversary celebration at Zion Lutheran Church in Schenectady, NY. Jean also leads a Bible class at Coburg Village.