



...GIVEN FOR YOU

EXPERIENCE THE BREAD OF LIFE THIS AUGUST IN WORSHIP

August 4th and 5th
August 11th and 12th
August 18th and 19th
August 25th and 26th
September 1st and 2nd

Bread of Life- A Sign
Bread of Life- A Necessity
Bread of Life- A Connection
Bread of Life- A Sacrifice
Bread of Life- A Tomorrow

We often sing the words in worship: "As the grains of wheat once gathered from the field were gathered into one to become our bread so may all your people from all the ends of earth be gathered into one in you." Join us in Worship as we explore this bread both literally and figuratively and explore this symbol of our faith. Each week you will not only see a different images of this bread and taste a different bread, but we will also see how we as the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America are living out being bread for the world through a series of videos sharing our greater church in action.

Bread of Life Household Devotions August 5-September 2, 2018

Memory Verse: John 6:27

“Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of God will give you.” *Spend the second part of the summer learning this verse by memory. Practice it at home, on car rides, at a meal or whenever you gather for devotions.*

Mealtime Prayer: Common table prayer:

Come Lord Jesus
Be our guest
And let these gifts to us be blest.
Blest be our God who is our bread
May all the world be clothed and fed.
Amen

Service: ELCA WORLD HUNGER: Global Farm Challenge

The ELCA advocates, teaches, gives, and sends relief to places all over the world that need assistance. They accompany communities and individuals in ways that not only fill bellies, but help to sustain and provide food for all.

ELCA World Hunger Global Farm Challenge is a year-long, youth-driven fundraising challenge to support the agriculture-related programs of ELCA World Hunger, our church’s ministry to end hunger and poverty. Many youth and youth groups will raise funds in advance of the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in June, and many will bring their offerings to the Gathering. Our Saviour’s sent \$1000 with our youth to contribute! Now, thanks to generous friends of the ELCA, your gifts will go even further: All gifts toward the Global Farm Challenge will be matched – dollar for dollar – up to \$515,000, so together we can raise more than \$1 million this year to create healthier families, stronger economies and a future filled with hope. **Learn more and donate at:**

<https://www.elca.org/globalfarmchallenge>



Rituals & Traditions: Sharing Meals together! The ritual of eating together with family, friends, loved ones, even strangers is one that opens us up to community, connection, and feeding one another. When we embrace and engage in food and conversation together we feed our bodies, our spirits, our minds, and our connections to others. Practice eating together! If you don't have a regular meal time together try to start one once a week or once a day. Invite someone new over or gather with old friends you haven't seen in awhile. As a family, cook a meal together or bake the bread of the week together. Each time you eat, cook, or talk together over food remember your connection to Jesus, the bread of life.

Devotions: We have set up devotions to be a combination of weekly format with daily readings for you to use throughout the Bread of Life Series. Each week provides a scripture for each day, a prayer, questions to talk or journal about, and a blessing to give one another or read to yourself. We encourage you to use these resources how it best fits you or your family and consider having either one time a week that you talk together or read scripture each day and talk about it or the questions provided. This can also be done in conversation with friends or as a journaling exercise. We hope these scriptures and prompts help you to engage more deeply in spiritual growth and connection this summer!

Videos: In worship each week we will see a video by the ELCA as a way to share stories of ministry happening around the world. The videos can be viewed online and are found at <http://elca.org/Resources/ELCA-World-Hunger#Stories>



Week of August 5, 2018

***Bread of Life: A Sign--**When we hear “I am the Bread of life” spoken by Jesus we might first hear that as a symbol. Symbols are ways that we try to connect, integrate, and be with God in our everyday life. This week let’s consider all the ways that bread as a symbol speaks to us. On Sunday we will enjoy flat bread at communion as a reminder of the bread of life Jesus presented at his last supper.*

Daily Readings:

Sunday: Philippians 4:10-20

Monday: Genesis 18:1-15

Tuesday: Romans 15:22-23

Wednesday: Psalm 37:12-22

Thursday: Exodus 12:33-42

Friday: Joshua 23:1-16

Saturday: Matthew 16:5-12

Prayer for the Week: Bread of Life. Cup of Love. May we be filled with your presence. You are there without us asking it. We pray that you may be known unto us. Amen.

Caring Conversations & Connections:

How can the church be like Bread for the World?

How is Jesus like Bread for our daily lives?

In the video we watched on Sunday, we heard the story of Kenneth who is an ex-convict- how was faith like a sign and symbol of bread for him? Where did he find life?

What other signs and symbols of Jesus’ connection are in your home? Church?

Neighborhood? Favorite park? Other?

Blessing for the week:

You are a symbol of God’s love in the world +



Week of August 12, 2018

***Bread of Life: A Necessity--Could we live without Bread?**
In our world of allergies and food alternatives we can, but to the first century mind it was as basic of a staple of life as any food. This week we ponder the gift of Christ Jesus and how important of a gift this is to us and to our world. On Sunday we will enjoy sampling baguettes as a reminder of the gifts of the goodness of God!*

Daily Readings:

Sunday: Psalm 50:16-23

Monday: Numbers 11:16-23

Tuesday: Deuteronomy 8:1-20

Wednesday: Mark 8:1-10

Thursday: Romans 15:1-6

Friday: Psalm 130

Saturday: Matthew 7:7-11

Prayer for the Week: Gracious God sustain us and strengthen us along our journey. May we be a blessing for those we encounter. May we reflect your love and light. Amen.

Caring Conversations & Connections:

What are 5 things you would hate to give up, but would not stop your survival?

What food do you eat most often? And why?

How is bread a necessity? How is God a necessity?

In our video on Sunday we heard the story of a family who was given the gift of animals to sustain them and their community. What did you learn from this story? What are ways that families in our own community need help sustaining?

Blessing for the week:

Your gifts and blessings are a blessing to the world.+

Week of August 19, 2018



Bread of Life: A Connection-- Consider the table you eat at in your home. How often it is a connecting point for the family. Today we consider the bread itself as this place we connect through Jesus Christ. Each week we reconnect around the table coming with our burdens and our gifts to once again give thanks for the gifts that we have been given. On Sunday we will enjoy pretzels as a symbol of our connection to God in prayer (the pretzel is the shape of prayer with arms folded!)

Daily Readings:

Sunday: Ephesians 5:1-14

Monday: 2 Peter 3:14-18

Tuesday: Ruth 2:1-23

Wednesday: John 6:35-40

Thursday: Psalm 111

Friday: Job 12:1-25

Saturday: Job 13:1-19

Prayer for the Week: We give you thanks God for your Spirit that encounters us each and every day. Help us to see how your Spirit moves through our neighbors and their lives. Sanctify our relationships of love and grace. Amen.

Caring Conversations & Connections:

What can you do to figuratively or literally build bridges and tables with your neighbors?

How many people can you share your deepest struggles with?

Who makes you laugh in your life?

How does food connect us together in our homes, communities, across the world?

In our video on Sunday we learned about food education and support for children in India. How does hearing about other places around the world connect you to the bread of life?

Blessing for the week:

The Holy Spirit has called you to be a blessing to others. +

Week of August 26, 2018



***Bread of Life: A Sacrifice--** This is my body given to you. This week we consider the sacrifice of Jesus. Sacrifice in the first century was a ritual regularly used in worship. Animals would be sacrificed on altars to God not only by the ancient Hebrews, but by many different religions. In Christ Jesus the altar of sacrifice became a table of thanksgiving. The bread was not our sacrifice to God, but God's gift to us through God's love. On Sunday we will try out Challah bread as a reminder of our connections to the ancient Hebrews and the story of life in God we share.*

Daily Readings:

Sunday: Psalm 101

Monday: Genesis 43:1-15

Tuesday: Genesis 45:1-15

Wednesday: Genesis 47:13-26

Thursday: Joshua 22:1-9

Friday: Joshua 22:10-20

Saturday: Joshua 22:21-34

Prayer for the Week: Open our hearts to new ways to see and hear you in our world. Keep us focused on grace and mercy in all of our relationships this week and draw our spirits near to you. Amen.

Caring Conversations & Connections:

What do you do regularly to focus on your faith?

How could you carve out 1 hour this week to talk to God? Or a few minutes each day?

On Sunday we saw the video of how smokeless cooking stoves changed life for those in India, what practical things in our lives come from the gifts of others? How do we see God in them?

Blessing for the week:

God has opened arms wide and far to hold you in love +



Week of September 2, 2018

***Bread of Life: A Tomorrow--** Words like “Hope for tomorrow” can bring about all sorts of different images, but for someone who doesn’t know where their next meal is a simple food staple such as bread can represent hope. This week we explore how our faith can give us hope and how we can respond to a world in need. On Sunday we will enjoy Naan bread, a flat bread of the middle east as a reminder of our hope in a united world of peace.*

Daily Readings:

Sunday: Psalm 11

Monday: Nehemiah 9:1-15

Tuesday: Nehemiah 9:16-31

Wednesday: Isaiah 33:10-16

Thursday: James 1:1-8

Friday: James 1:9-16

Saturday: Exodus 34:8-28

Prayer for the Week: May our cup overflow with your love that those who encounter us will be touched by your presence. Make us channels of your peace. Amen.

Caring Conversations & Connections:

How do you picture Jesus?

What is the best part of love? What is the hardest part?

Where do you see your cup overflowing?

What are ways you can help others cups be full or help them see them as full?

In worship we saw a video about a youth in global mission. How do you see us connected with others across the globe? What does this mean for our future as a church? A society?

Blessing for the week:

May God work through your voice and actions +