

WEEKLY NEVSLEJ JULY 27, 2023 PARTI

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Sharing Our Lunch

My first year as your pastor, we began a Loaves and Fishes offering as a way to fund special blessings for those in need. You may remember the Bible story. A multitude, nearly 5000, had followed Jesus to hear him speak. It was getting late in the day, and the people were hungry. Jesus' disciples began to worry about how the people would find food. A little boy offered Jesus five small barley loaves and two



small fish, the lunch his mother had packed for him. Jesus asked God's blessing on it and then broke it into pieces, which were shared with the crowd. Miraculously, all were satisfied, and the disciples collected 12 baskets left over. In his hand, five small barley loaves and two small fish became a banquet to feed the multitude.

For many years, I would find a ziplock sandwich bag of change on the communion railing at church. I thought of this little bag of coins as someone's loaves and fishes. Others have made a donation to honor or remember someone dear to them. A few years ago, two youth offered a tithe on their lemonade stand to the church for our Loaves and Fishes fund. With these gifts, our church has provided funding for a multitude of needs that have been brought to our doorstep.

• We have helped Angela--who had grabbed her four children and fled from their abusive father--with a tank of gas, food, a night in a motel, and a referral to a Domestic Abuse Shelter.

• Then there was Dzemal, who was expecting his first child, and had just lost his job when the company he worked for closed. He had a fist full of bills that were overdue. Loaves and Fishes helped him keep his electricity on.

• Grace was caring for her disabled daughter and 3 grandkids in a local motel, while waiting for her own disability check to arrive after the weekend. We helped with one more night in the motel, and funded the cost of one of her prescriptions.

• Most recently, we helped Mr. Johnson, struggling to get back to his home in Alabama, with a tank of gas and a meal.

• Roughly 1/2 of our funding has been to help tide members of our own church family over a financial rough spot until they could get their feet back under them.

If you feel prompted to share some of your own lunch with Christ, the church will distribute it with care and a blessing. Make your check to the church, and mark it as "Loaves and Fishes". We will get it where it can best serve.

To make a contribution in any amount in honor or memory of someone special, contact the Church Office at secretary@websterum.org. The next Sunday, a special candle on the altar will be burning in honor of your loved one or friend, with a note in our bulletin.



Carolyn Redmore; Joyce Simpson; Robin Wedekind Rudd; Carolyn Keller (Julie Puckett); Linda Kincaid and Pat Delf (Marcia Kennon); Lou Stuart, Abbey, Natalie, & Burt (Traci Stuart); Jennifer Outlaw Guyer (Beth Anderson); Randy Turman (Lettie Morse); The people of Ukraine and Sudan; Summer travelers; and for meaningful gun control.

YOUTH 20 MISSION 23 TRIP MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN











PLEASE CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO VIEW PART 2 OF THE NEWSLETTER.

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NEWSLETTER 7/27/23 PART 2