

Sunday, August 2, 2020
Pentecost 9
Grace Lutheran Church
Somers Point, NJ 08244
Interim Pastor: Rev. Kevin Hilgendorf
“So Few for So Many”



I remember the story "Stone Soup" watching it on a program before school "Captain Kangaroo." I have not read it recently but will share what I recollect. Soldiers coming to a village all closed up on their journey home. They were hungry. No one welcomed them. In a loud voice one soldier said, "We have to make stone soup!" They searched and found

several stones and cleaned them. Some villagers peeking through windows were curious. "All we need now is a big pot and water." One brave villager came out of hiding and offered to provide a big pot and a bucket to fetch water. As they got the fire started, pot in position with water, they placed the stones. One soldier commented salt and pepper would bring flavor to the soup. Another curious villager heard the request bringing salt and pepper. Again carrots would be good to add to this fine stone soup. Another brought carrots. Then another potatoes. Soon cabbage and other garden produce were brought. More villagers appeared to see about this stone soup and were eager to taste something they have never had before. Soon all villagers and soldiers were together and all were invited to eat the stone soup. When all had finished they were amazed to find the pot empty. So few for so many. Everyone brought something to share at the table. All were full!

Five loaves and two fish so few blessed by Jesus in prayer and broken to feed so many 5,000 men besides women and children with 12 baskets of leftovers.

I did a children's talk on a Lenten prayer. I handed out to each child a folded pretzel and began to teach the style of praying with hands and arms crossed over ones chest...without hesitation a very young child broke his pretzel in half and gave it to me.

Sharing with those without food. So few for so many is an act of compassion that Jesus demonstrated in the feeding of 5,000.

We were all sitting in a circle to share our experiences of summer camp in a Sunday School session. Some attendees ages ranged from seven to fifteen to thirty and seventy. Souvonn Oeur, fifteen, shared his refugee camp experience. He learned about Jesus by his guardians. He was Cambodian leaving his village with his family. During the conflict surrounding his village, at age five, his mother asked him to beg for food. He found food guarded by a soldier and managed to steal some, but he got caught. He explained he had no food to eat and the guard had pity on him and let him go with food in hand. He and his mom were so happy and grateful. As they ate, mom set aside a portion. After eating mom instructed Souvonn to give the portion to the elderly woman in their village. He did not want to. But his mom insisted this is the right thing to do. To share. Following her instructions the elderly woman gave thanks to Souvonn and ate. So few for so many.

Compassion motivated Jesus not only to heal the sick but to feed the hungry. Jesus instructed the disciples who earlier said we have nothing to feed so many but 5 loaves and 2 fish so few, to take the broken blessed pieces to the many. We are instructed to show compassion and share what is so few for so many. Mother Theresa prayed to God to provide for the hungry and then changed her prayer to ask God to change her so she could provide for the hungry. "Knowing what to do must be translated into doing what you know." With God all things are possible.

Now the peace which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ.
Amen