

BLESSINGS ALWAYS

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Association Minister Message

Rev. Daniel L. Busch

LOOKING. "So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum LOOKING for Jesus" (John 6:24).

My cousins and I had so much fun playing "Hide 'n Seek" when we were at my aunt's and uncle's farm. We could hide far from the one who was to search for us. It got to the point that boundaries had to be established for hiding places because a cousin once hid out in a field and did not hear he could come home so we could start another game. I also remember one cousin who knelt down next to home and was quickly safe.

The "LOOKING for Jesus" story from John's gospel is more of a "Seek 'n Found" moment. The crowd knew where Jesus was and "found him on the other side of the sea..." (v. 25) When they met Jesus, He tells them that they were LOOKING for Him because of the signs and miracles He did, including feeding them, rather than understanding the message He had for them: "food that perishes" (v. 27) versus "food that endures for eternal life." (v. 27). The crowd was LOOKING for Jesus to be entertained by Him.

Yes, God provides food for the journey and much more! "The bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." (vs. 33). Food is necessary to sustain life and living. The body needs nourishment to survive. We also need nourishment (sustenance) for our minds and spirits and should remember that we are life-long faith learners. When Jesus declares "I am the bread of life," He reminds us that life is sacred and holy created by God. Our lives are blessed with gifts and graces to be cared for and loved in relationship to one another along with the whole creation.

What are we LOOKING for in these trying times of fear, intolerance, hatreds and violence? LOOKING for Jesus takes us to "the other side" of comfortableness, beyond "We've never done that before" and opens us to faith of living life with resurrection hope and love. We hear Jesus call us to ministry that changes hearts and spirits to new beginnings and offers second chances over and over again. LOOKING to Jesus you will find in Him the sacrament of divinity and humanity. BLESSINGS ALWAYS.