

MEDITATION

When it was evening, the disciples came to [Jesus] and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." 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.



Josh Tucker
Pastor
St. Matthew's
Lutheran Church

Matthew 14: 15-20

Grace to you and peace from God our Father,

our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We've all been there – those moments of terror when we feel like we do not have enough. It's those times when we feel lost and helpless as we realize we do not have enough food to feed a big family; enough time to finish an important task; or enough money to pay bills. It's been my experience that in those times when I have been without what I've needed; when I've felt lost and so helpless, God in his grace and mercy provided exactly what I needed. And I hope you've had that same experience, too.

To have a similar experience we must change our mindset, our worldview from a model of scarcity to a model of abundance. The disciples had to make this type of change in their focus in this text from the feeding of the five thousand in Matthew's gospel. We see their worldview of scarcity, "we have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." We see how their focus is on the logistical nightmare that they are a part of as they stand before the poor and needy crowd. It has gotten late; this devoted crowd has followed Jesus all day, soaking in his every word and

watching as he has healed their people; and now these people are hungry and the disciples know that the little amount of food they have will not be enough to feed these more than 5,000 people.

But Jesus does something miraculous, perhaps much more miraculous than multiplying the bread and fish – Jesus brings the focus of his closest friends from scarcity to abundance. Jesus commands the disciples to bring what food they had to him, he blesses it and breaks the bread and gives it to the disciples to distribute to the crowd. Immediately, the disciples saw the mindset of abundance that Jesus had and immediately, the disciples were a part of the miracle as they saw that all ate and all were filled and there were leftovers. The disciples lost their focus of scarcity, "we have nothing here but five loaves and two fish," and gained their focus of abundance, "thank you God for feeding your people."

This day and always, may we view all that God has bless us with as abundance rather than scarcity. May we always feel God's presence with us, providing for us that which we need. Amen.

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH, located at 1009 Linwood Rd., Kings Mountain, will be conducting a "Back to School Camp" on Friday, Aug. 15, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and on Saturday, Aug. 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The theme this year is "Gangway to Galilee – Amazing Grace Adventures," where participants will take a trip to the "seaside."

Classes will be held for ages 2-4, 5-8 and 9-12. Join us as we have a bible study, crafts, music, recreation, worship and snacks.

For more information, contact Sandra B. Wilson at (704) 739-6515.

PEOPLES BAPTIST CHURCH, 1010 Groves St., will sponsor a free car, truck and bike show Saturday, Aug. 16, from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Entertainment, food, and prizes will be featured. The public is invited.

Fellowship & Faith

Church Service Directory

KINGS MOUNTAIN

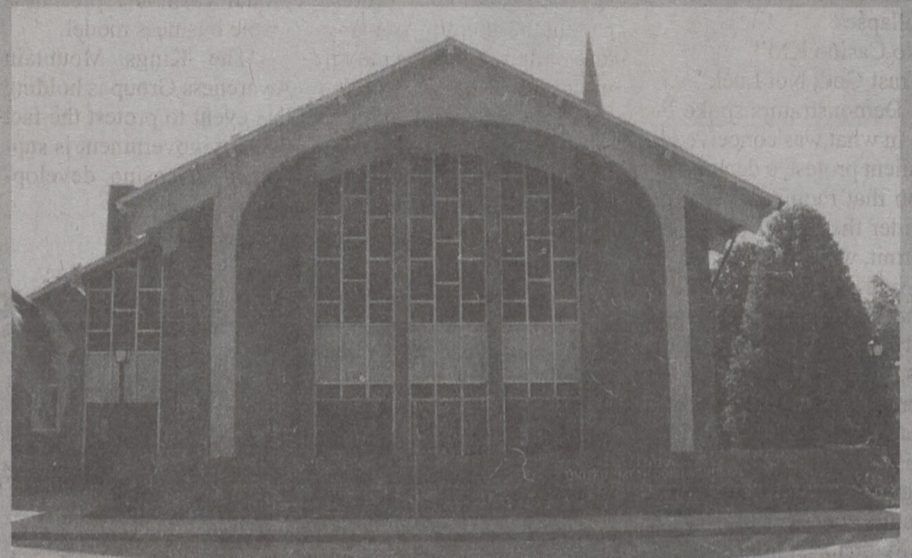
- Long Creek Presbyterian Church**
701 Long Creek Road
704-629-4406
- Love Valley Baptist Church**
2032 Bethlehem Road
704-730-0075
- Macedonia Baptist Church**
1101 S. Battleground Avenue
704-739-6811
- Midview Baptist Church**
703 Margrace Road
704-739-6711
- Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church**
220 N. Watterson Street
704-739-8354
- Mountain View Agape Church**
506 Sparrow Springs Road
704-739-0160
- Mt. Olive Baptist Church**
Compact School Road
704-739-4516
- Mt. Zion Baptist Church**
220 N. Watterson Street
704-739-8354
- New Beginnings Church of Jesus Christ**
541 Crocker Road
704-730-9507
- New Bynum Chapel AME Zion Church**
N. Cansler Street
704-739-2606
- New Camp Creek Baptist Church**
863 New Camp Creek Ch. Road
704-487-7128

New Life Family Worship Center

- 428 Oak Grove Road
704-739-9371
- New Way Missionary Baptist Church**
105 Waco Road
704-724-0414
- Oak Grove Baptist Church**
1022 Oak Grove Road
704-739-4833
- Oak View Baptist Church**
1517 York Road
704-739-7831
- Pathway Baptist Church**
3100 Parkdale Circle
704-734-0852
- Patterson Grove Baptist Church**
301 Oak Grove Road
704-739-5826
- Peoples Baptist Church**
1010 Groves Street
704-739-0398
- Proclaiming the Word Ministries**
7011 Cleveland Avenue
- Progressive Church of Our Lord**
1001 Cleveland Avenue
704-734-1070
- Resurrection Lutheran Church**
600 Crescent Circle
704-739-5580
- Royal Praise Ministries**
2055 Shelby Rd.

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

- 201 N. Piedmont Avenue
704-739-7466
- Second Baptist Church**
120 Linwood Road
704-739-4216
- Shady Grove Baptist Church**
339 Shady Grove Road
704-739-8920
- St. Paul United Methodist Church**
N. Cansler Street
704-739-1256
- Sunrise Baptist Church**
208 Mail Road
704-692-3007
- Temple Baptist Church**
612 N. Cansler Street
704-739-4716
- The Favor Center Church**
602 Slater Street



Featured Church of the Week: Central United Methodist Church

True Gospel Holiness Church

- 1608 Shelby Road
704-739-6764
- Unity AME Zion Church**
948 Unity Church Road
704-228-0328
- Vestibule AME Zion Church**
2175 Vestibule Church Road
704-739-7961
- Westover Baptist Church**
114 Westover Drive

GASTONIA

- Bethesda United Methodist Church**
3714 S. New Hope Rd
- Grace Community Advent Christian Church**
206 West 3rd Avenue
704-739-9230

GROVER

- Bethany Baptist Church**
423 Cleveland Avenue
704-937-3010
- Carolina Praise and Worship Center**
201 N. Main Street
704-937-7541
- First Apostolic Church of Blacksburg**
205 E. Cherokee St.
Blacksburg, SC704-937-7390864-839-1873

WACO

- New Testament Missionary Baptist Church**

Notice: In order to accommodate the number of churches in our communities, we will print two alternating lists of churches each week. If you don't see the church you're looking for, be sure to check next week.

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