

# FaithBIT



## Immanuel Feeds Me

Reflection by Phil Weber

During a recent summer outdoor service at Immanuel Pastor Angela spoke about a Christian Lebanese couple who had found their way to our church one morning. Noticing how they were sitting enjoying the peaceful surroundings of the courtyard, Pastor Angela walked over to welcome them and struck up a conversation. At one point the Lebanese gentleman in his broken English said with great passion, "you give me bread!" Some moments passed and it became clear that the gentleman was asking for communion. So, together the three of them then proceeded to share the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper amid the trees, birds, and light summer breeze.

As I reflected on this profound experience of connection surrounded by the people of Immanuel amid a sea of blankets and lawn chairs - absorbing the music, collective prayer, singing, and Holy Sacrament of Communion - I was struck by the power of this gathering around me and in the collective sharing of this Bread of Life. It was at that moment I realized how Immanuel, feeds me. This past year of forced disconnectedness has interrupted our routines, rituals, and our quest for regeneration - all that is derived from our sharing together in the births, baptisms, confirmations, and in the blessing of the Lord's Supper with our Immanuel community.

This particular day reminded me of how the Bread of Life - in all its sacramental parts, not only connects me to my Savior's love and grace, but to the promise of God's salvation that is reflected in the gathering spaces of Immanuel amid the smiles, warmth, and love shared together.