

Dec. 31/Jan. 1  
take home

# LIVECHRIST

LORD OF LIFE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*These are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah,  
the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in His name. ~ John 20:31*

## DEBATE OVER JESUS' IDENTITY

**Text:** John 7:1-53

**Key Verse:** *"Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment." John 7:24*

**Biblical Background:** After being welcomed by the crowds for miracles and other acts of wonder, the Jewish leaders are suspect of Jesus' motives to the point they are plotting to kill him. Jesus begins to talk more freely about being the Messiah.

### Sermon Reflections

### Text Messages

for personal and small group reflection

What do you think happened between feeding 5000 people and people wanting to kill Jesus?

What was it about what Jesus said that infuriated the Jewish leaders?

Did Jesus care about being popular—why/why not?

What did Jesus care about in this chapter?

What can we learn from Jesus about how we live our lives in this chapter?

### Faith Spark

Watch the movie *Stand by Me*. Afterwards discuss times in your life when you had to choose between doing the right thing and being popular. How can the example of Jesus help us when making decisions throughout our lives?

### To read for Jan. 7/8—John 8:1-11

Read the text. As you read, jot down any questions or comments you have.

What do you wonder about? What catches your eye?  
What effect do these words have on you personally?