

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Today is Mother's Day! Thinking about this, I was reminded of a church that I visited years ago that celebrated Mother's Day in a special way. At a set time during the worship service, the Sunday School children delivered a single flower to **every** woman in the sanctuary. I was struck by the fact that it was Mother's Day, yet **all** of the women were honored. Then I wondered, "Why?"

While I am not trying to take anything away from mother's on this day, I wondered if all women were honored in this church to recognize their contributions for the welfare of the children. Perhaps in their own unique way, each of the women nurtured, taught, and cared for the children of the church. Perhaps those who had children, and those who never had children of their own, possessed these special qualities. Whatever the reason, it seemed to be a loving response to give all the women a flower, rather than to alienate or exclude anyone.

For those of you who are mothers, I hope you will be able to connect with your children in-person, on the telephone, or via Skype. For those who are not mothers, I hope you will recall ways in which **you** have nurtured, taught, and cared for other people's children. For those who have lost a child, may you remember that God loves them. Together, let us hold all mothers in our prayers, whether biological, step, adoptive or some other type. Let us also remember all of the women who nurture, teach and care for children in the schools, 4-H and FFA organizations, at the libraries, at church, and in many other places.

As the African proverb states, "It takes a village to raise a child." In other words, it takes an entire community to help children grow and flourish. As the body of Christ and the family of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, we are to care for God's children. We are women and men who seek to contribute in positive ways to the health and welfare of children here and throughout the world. May all the mothers celebrate this special day with those they love. May all the women of St. Paul's Lutheran Church celebrate their special contributions to children on this Mother's Day. May all of us, women and men, strive to create a loving, caring "village" for the children in our midst.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Cathy