

# FOR IN HIM WE LIVE AND MOVE AND HAVE OUR BEING

Acts 17:28a

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church LCMS 605 South Center Street Bremen, Indiana 46506 574.546.2332 stpaulsbremen.church As surely as we "live and move and have our being" in "the God who made the world and everything in it" (Acts 17:28, 24), the apostles and the early church were surely moved by the resurrection of that God. Again, this Sixth Sunday of Easter we see the propers, especially the *First Reading* from Acts, keyed by the fact that Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

<u>The Lord's Supper</u> is a very special privilege God gives to His people. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because the Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive this sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder. If you are not partaking of the Lord's Supper but would like to receive a blessing, please come up to the communion rail when sent by an elder, kneel, and cross your arms over your chest. The Pastor will then know that you desire a blessing.

## OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD FROM HIS BLESSINGS TO US.

Offerings remind us of the blessings God has given us and are an opportunity to thank Him for what He has done in our lives. Please place your offerings in our Offering Box located in front of the water fountains in the narthex of the church. You may also choose "e-tithing" by having a weekly deposit to St Paul's from your bank account. If you have questions on e-tithing, please contact the Church Office.

Children Leaving the Sanctuary: This is a matter of caring concern for your child, or the young child that you are responsible for, age 13 or younger. The Board of Lay Ministry asks that if your child needs to leave the sanctuary during the worship service, you as a parent or responsible adult will need to escort them to and from the sanctuary. Thank you

In Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." We welcome children and all the joy and little chatter that comes with them. If for any reason you want to take your little one out, there is a Nursery (Cry Room) available for use during our worship service. It is located just outside the sanctuary.

## + CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

- In the name of the Father and of the 

  → Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19b)
- **G** Amen.
- Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

(Hebrews 10:22)

- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- who made heaven and earth.

(Psalm 1124:8)

- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.** (Psalm 32:5)
- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ⅓ Son and of the Holy Spirit. (John 20:19-23)
- **G** Amen.

## + SERVICE OF THE WORD +

#### Introit

Psalm 119:89-93; antiphon: v. 105

- P Your word is a lamp to my feet
- and a light to my path.
- P Forever, O LORD, Your word
- **G** is firmly fixed in the heavens.

- P Your faithfulness endures to all generations;
- **Q** You have established the earth, and it stands fast.
- By Your appointment they stand this day,
- **G** for all things are Your servants.
- P If Your law had not been my delight,
- I would have perished in my affliction.
- P I will never forget Your precepts,
- for by them You have given me life.
- All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- P Your word is a lamp to my feet
- and a light to my path.

O Lord,





the only begotten Son,

O

Christ;

10

Je - sus



# Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** Let us pray.

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



First Reading Acts 17:16–31

<sup>16</sup>While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup>So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup>Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"— because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup>And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? <sup>20</sup>For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." <sup>21</sup>Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

<sup>22</sup>So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup>For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup>nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup>And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup>that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward Him and find Him. Yet He is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup>for

"In Him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

"For we are indeed His offspring."

<sup>29</sup>Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the Divine Being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. <sup>30</sup>The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a Man whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead."

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

**Gradual** Adapted from: Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

- P Christ has risen from the dead.
- **G** God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.
- P He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;
- He has put all things under His feet.

**Epistle** 1 Peter 3:13–22

<sup>13</sup>Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

<sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which He went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. <sup>21</sup>Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to Him.

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.



# **Holy Gospel**

John 14:15–21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.



<sup>15</sup>Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup>even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup>Yet a little while and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>Whoever has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



#### **Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

# **Hymn 725** "Children of the Heavenly Father"

## Sermon Text Acts 17:16-31

**Sermon** "Identity: God's and Yours"

1. Knowing God's identity is necessary for us to know



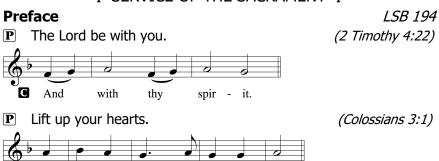
# **Prayers**

We

lift them

up

## → SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT →



un - to

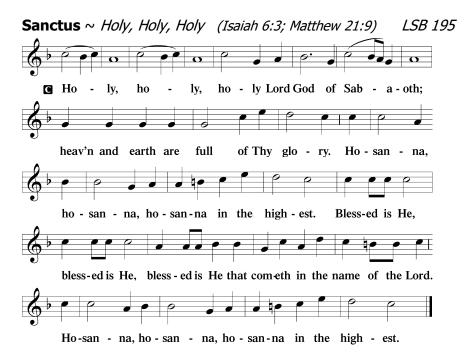
the

Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God. (Psalm 136)



It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



**Lord's Prayer** (Matthew 6:9-13)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

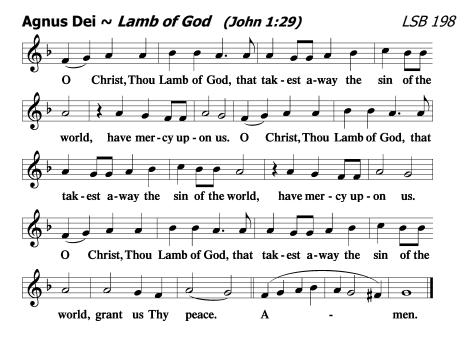
**The Words of Our Lord** (1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

LSB 197

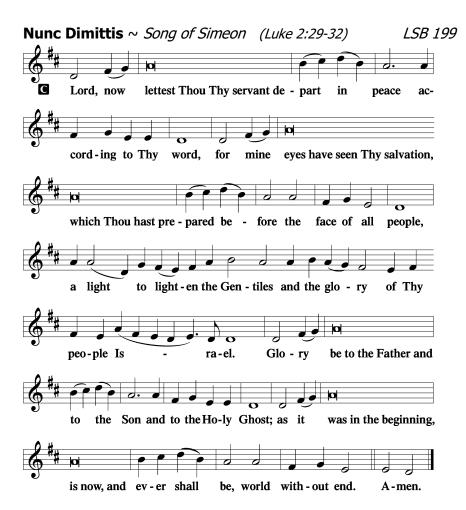
Pax Domini ~ The Peace of the Lord (John 20:19) LSB 197

■ The peace of the Lord be with you always.





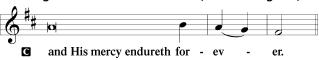
- **Hymn 633** "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"
- **Hymn 834** "O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth"
- **Hymn 629** "What Is This Bread"
- **Hymn 594** "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"



# **Thanksgiving** (Psalm 107:1)

LSB 200

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



P The Lord be with you.

(2 Timothy 4:22)



**Benedicamus** ~ *Let Us Bless* (*Psalm 103:1*)

LSB 202

P Bless we the Lord.



# **Benediction** (Numbers 6:24-26)

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.



**Hymn 556** "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice" vs. 5–10

#### **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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**Altar flowers** are given today by Cliff & Sandie Schooler in celebration and thanksgiving for their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. To our One Triune God be all the glory!

**Be sure to check out the missions board for updates** on Haiti and our missionaries Micah Wildauer & Jamielynn Flores. Please continue to lift them all up in prayer and thanksgiving as the Lord is working in all things. To Christ be all the glory!

### Calendar of Events

TODAY – Mother's Day	
Sunday School & Bible Classes	8:30 am
Worship Service with Communion	
MON:	
Day School Track & Field Day at Jane's Park	All Day
Board Meetings	7:00 pm
TUES:	-
Board of Lay Ministry Meeting	6:30 pm
WED:	•
Men's Bible Study Breakfast	6:30 am
Day School Chapel	
Ascension Eve Service	
THURS:	•
Ladies Thursday Morning Bible Study	9:30 am
"Connect to Disciple" Bible Study	
FRI:	-
Preschool Chapel	9:30 am
SAT:	
Women Reading GOD'S Word in Community11:0	00 am-12:30 pm
NEXT SUNDAY - Confirmation Sunday	
Sunday School & Bible Classes	
Worship Service	
8th Grade Confirmation Luncheon Reception	
Adult Basketball2:	

#### **CHRISTIAN MEN - AWAKE!**

If you're at least 18 years of age, wake up on Wednesday morning every other week and join in a Bible Study at the Bremen Hospital cafeteria conference room at 6:30 A.M.. Enter the cafeteria area entrance on the south side patio to the left of the main entrance portico (presently the covid testing drive-thru). The cafeteria has an excellent breakfast menu and we enjoy our study with discussion and fellowship until 7:30 A.M. Bible study is a means of strengthening our understanding of God's plan for us and strengthening our faith, which we all can use in the daily challenges we face. Bring your Bible and join us as we study, eat and fellowship! The dates we will meet in 2023 are as follows: 5/17, 5/31, 6/14, 6/28, 7/12, 7/26, 8/9, 8/23, 9/6, 9/20, 10/4, 10/18, 11/1, 11/15, 11/29, 12/13, 12/27

If you have questions, please contact Dave Burcham or Tom Coxey.

**Ascension Eve Service** is this Wednesday, May 17th at 7:00 pm. Please plan to come worship and celebrate the ascension of our resurrected Lord and what that means for His church on earth.

ALL MEMBERS of St. Paul's are invited and strongly encouraged to attend the "Connect to Disciple" Bible study. The same study is held either Sunday morning at 8:30 or Thursday evening at 6:30 (2 weeks). This is the first congregational Bible study for the revitalization program. Prayerfully consider this opportunity to grow together in God's Word.

GOD's Word & All Women ~ Join us on Saturdays at 11:00 am in the Jerusalem room. We will pray and then read God's Word out loud in community. Don't worry, you don't have to read out loud if you only want to listen. There is no Bible study booklet, just bring your favorite Bible. If you don't have one, we have extras available. If you need a Bible we will get you one. God's Word is powerful and able to change our lives, thoughts, words, and actions. For more information call Kelly Sienicki 574-361-7728 or email Kelly at kellysienicki@gmail.com.

The Board of Evangelism will be delivering Welcome Bags in Bremen on Monday, May 22nd starting at 5:00 PM with bag assembly in the Bethany Room. Once all bags are assembled we will divide the addresses and bags and split into 2 person teams to go deliver! Our Board is requesting donations of bottled water, single water drink mixes, microwave popcorn, cheese and cracker packets, sticky notes, mechanical pencils, knit/crocheted dish clothes or 100% cotton yarn to make the dishcloths. We need approximately 40 of each item each time we deliver. There is a table in the Narthex for your donations. Thank you!! Please join us to pack/deliver these bags on May 22.....meet new people, tell about Jesus, minister to a neighbor! Thank you for your prayers for this project and all other help! Questions? Contact Deb Burcham or Angie Hughes.

Altar guild will meet Monday, May 22, 6:30 pm, at the church.

**Do you know about Lutheran Hour Ministries?** They do Christian outreach like The Lutheran Hour for TV, printed Christian Material, internet and music in association with LCMS and LWML. You can listen to The Lutheran hour! Find your local station at <a href="https://lhm.org/lutheranhour">hhm.org/lutheranhour</a>. National outlets include SiriusXM Sundays at 10 AM ET(Family Talk Channel 131), iHeartRadio/Spotify/Apple/Google (Podcast on demand) and Classic Broadcasts at <a href="https://lhm.org/sentradio">hhm.org/sentradio</a>. Share this info with all your family, friends and neighbors.

# **Things to Remember in Prayer This Week**

<u>Thanksgiving:</u> God's identity is revealed in Jesus Christ and our identity is in Jesus Christ.

For godly mothers who shared Jesus with their children.

**Special Concerns: That we believe** God's identity is revealed in Christ and that we receive our identity as children of God in and through Him. **For Jamielynn (Tinkey) Flores** and **Pastor Micah Wildauer** and their

work in foreign missions. **For our country** and her leaders.

For the Lord's guidance in calling a new Administrative Pastor.

That the Lord would bless our offerings that we give today.

**That Jesus would offer grace and healing** to all Christians throughout the world who face the struggles of natural disasters, war, and persecution as they shine the light of their risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

Confirmation Sunday is May 21<sup>st</sup>. We are blessed to have three eighth graders to be confirmed: *Benjamin Todd Andrews* – baptized on November 9, 2008; his confirmation verse is Psalm 55:22. *Molly Grace Harman* - baptized on September 27, 2009; her confirmation verse is Psalm 23:1. *Isabelle (Izzy) Ann Wildauer* - baptized on July 5, 2009; her confirmation verse is John 10:27-28. Please pray that our confirmands will continue to grow in faith and be disciples of Jesus for life!

The congregation is invited to celebrate the Confirmation of Ben Andrews, Molly Harman, and Izzy Wildauer next Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, with a luncheon and cake following the church service. Thank you for the support these children have received both in the church and school. We are excited to see their faith continue to grow and mature!

# **YOUTH NEWS**

**Jr. High Youth Rally**: Camp Lutherhaven is offering an early registration discount for those Youth (entering Grades 6-8 in the 2023-24 school year) interested in attending the Jr. High Youth Rally on September 16-17th. If your son / daughter is interested, please have them sign up on the Youth bulletin board at church before May 25th. **No funds are due at this time**. More information will be provided in the months ahead as we approach the dates of the Rally.

**Fireman's Festival Table:** Once again our Youth Board will be sponsoring a drink table at the Bremen Fireman's Festival, June 13-16th. We can use the congregation's help in two ways: 1) Youth (incoming

Grades 6 through High School) and Adult volunteers are needed for coverage - we will have a meeting prior to the Festival to coordinate and 2) Donations of soda (preferably Coke, Mtn. Dew, Pepsi, and Dr. Pepper) and bottled water, to be stored in the church narthex for the next few weeks. Alternatively, you are welcome to make a cash donation for ice and/or soda to be purchased by the Youth Board. If you can assist, please contact Andy Wildauer.

## **SCHOOL CORNER**

The school year is rapidly coming to a close! Various grades enjoyed trips to Fort Wayne Zoo and Potato Creek State Park this week. Favorite animals include lions and otters.

It was also Teacher Appreciation Week and we really appreciate our teachers! We also appreciate their families, because teaching involves a big time commitment! Teachers enjoyed lunch at the Mean Bean, courtesy of PTL.

We will participate in Field Day at Jane's Park Monday, with four other Lutheran Schools- Trinity Elkhart, Resurrection Lutheran, Redeemer Kokomo, and St. John's Lutheran LaPorte.

The students will have field events, cross country runs, kickball, and fun with each other.

We will also visit the Bremen Library for their summer reading program, Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade will plant flowers at the Community Center, and 6-8<sup>th</sup> grades will go to Six Flags.

Eighth Grade Confirmation is May 21st during worship, and the Kindergarten and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Service will be May 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm. The congregation is invited to share in the celebration with these students as they proceed in faith and education.

Thank you, St. Paul's congregation, for supporting St. Paul's Preschool and Elementary Schools! Our mission is to provide a Biblically based education, and as we enroll future students and complete our end-of-the-year activities, we are grateful and blessed to continue the work set before us. Now with Choice Scholarships and many other scholarship options, we can make our school more affordable! If you know anyone looking for a Christian-based education for Preschool through 8th Grade, please encourage them to contact us. YOU are our best advertisements! Online enrollment is available through the church website (school side).

Please remember to give to the SGO!

We will continue to use SGO scholarships to assist with tuition, so please continue to give, and remember you will receive a tax credit and deduction for your donations!

You can find several (easy) ways to donate at <a href="https://www.lutheranSGO.org/Donate">www.lutheranSGO.org/Donate</a>. Donations can be given through a check, IRA, stocks, Donor Advised Funds, PayPal, credit card, and **NOW electronic giving!** Benefits to you are a 50% state tax credit for your donation and eligibility for a tax deduction. These scholarships make a big difference for our families.

We also continue to take donations to St. Paul's tuition assistance fund. Checks for tuition assistance can be made out to the church.

**LWML VBS Worknight!** Please join us on Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup> in the Bethany room to help prepare for VBS. This could be cutting, gluing, painting, or helping with any projects the VBS leaders need. All are welcome and encouraged to join us for an evening of fun and service.

God's Living Water VBS is just around the corner. Make plans to join us June 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> from 9-11:30 am. The key theme is Covered in Jesus' Grace. The lessons each day feature how God uses water to shower His Grace on His people. All children age 3 through those who are just completing Grade 5 are encouraged to attend. This is a community event sponsored by our congregation. Pre-register your children today! Ask your grandchildren and neighbors about joining us and pick up a registration form(s) for them to complete and return. Registration forms may be found on the table in the narthex. There is also a sign-up sheet for adult and youth volunteers. If you have already been asked to help, it is not necessary to add your name to the list. We need people to help with registration, decorating, crafts, snacks and serve as group leaders.



# Mothers are a blessing from God and some of our younger Youth would like to share their thoughts about their <u>Moms</u>.



#### What is a favorite activity that just you and your Mom get to do together?

We paint together. - Harmony, 5th Grade

Cleaning. - Josephine, 4th Grade

"Putt Putt" Golf. - Rachel, 4th Grade

We go get food for my family. - Gabi, 7th Grade

Shopping and looking at clothes. - Molly, 8th Grade

## What is some good advice that your Mom has given you?

Do your homework and stay in school. - Gavin, 7th Grade

Study for tests. - Rachel, 4th Grade

Never give up/always finish homework. - Josephine, 4th Grade

To be nice. - Izzy, 8th Grade

## What is one thing you admire most about your Mom?

She is loving. – Rachel, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade
She never gives up and is a hard worker. – Josephine, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade
That she is caring and funny. – Harmony, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
She is kind. – Emiliano, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade
She is caring. – Abby, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
Her compassion. – Izzy, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
Her generosity; the way she sacrifices so many things for other people. – Molly, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade