



THE PILGRIM HERALD

June 2017

PILGRIM EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

462 Meadowbrook Dr.,
West Bend, WI 53090

(262) 334-0375

Rev. Joseph M. Fisher, Pastor
(262) 335-6736

Rev. Christopher Raffa, Pastor
(262) 388-8287

www.pilgrimlutheran-westbend

The Pilgrim Herald

Pilgrim Ev. Lutheran Church LC-MS
462 Meadowbrook Drive, West Bend, WI 53090
June 2017

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR FISHER

2 Timothy 4:1-5(ESV) ¹I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ²preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. ⁵As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Greeting in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, I pray that this Newsletter reaches you and yours doing well and I pray that June will be a start to a great summer for us all. This June twelfth marks my Twenty-third year here at Pilgrim and this continues to be truly and privilege and honor for which I give God thanks each day. As some of you know this June also finds me preparing to attend the Apologetics Conference in Strasburg, France, my attendance has been made possible by your prayers, generous donations, and a couple of scholarships. I can't possibly thank all of you enough for your prayers and gifts that make this once in a life time educational opportunity possible. During the two weeks there, there will be forty-five hours of class time covering the topics: "The Apologetic Task Today, Biblical Authority, Philosophical Apologetics, Apologetics and the Reformation, Historical Apologetics, Scientific Apologetics, Legal Apologetics and Human Rights, Cults, Sects, and the World's Religions"

So, I thought I would take some time this month and explain what is Apologetics. For many today when you hear the word "apology" it simply means to say I'm sorry. While this is one use of the word it also means, a reasoned argument or writing in defense of the faith, and "apologetics" has received some negative connotations. As the apologist is often viewed as an overly aggressive person who thinks he's smart enough to argue someone into the faith. Which we as Lutherans know is not possible, as we know no one come to faith apart from the work of the Holy Spirit, through the Means of Grace (God's Word and Sacraments).

The Bible is filled with examples of Apologetics taking place, St. Peter exhorts us **1 Peter 3:15(ESV)** ¹⁵but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense (ἀπολογία apologia where we get the English word apology) to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you... and who could forget St. Paul in Acts Chapter seventeen standing in the midst of the Areopagus telling the very religious about the unknown God, just to mention a few. So, simply put Apologetics is that practice of making a defense of the Christian faith in a clear and reasoned way.

Apologetics seeks a proper use of reason, to tear down false attacks on the Christian faith, seeking always the opportunity to confess the good news of Jesus the Christ our Risen and Ascended Lord and Savior. As Lutherans, we have always attempted to balance the use of reason, by putting our God given reason into submission to the Word of God (the ministerial use), because as Luther rightly taught reason in the magisterial use (that is where the Word of God submits to our reason) can be the "devil's whore".

Therefore, Lutheran Apologetics is the ministerial use of reason to apply all that God has

given us to confess the hope that is within us and to correct and rebuke false teaching. This is how our Lutheran Confession are laid out, one only need to look at the Augsburg Confession and its Apology you see the apologetic task at hand in the first article which states:

¹ Our churches teach with common consent that the decree of the Council of Nicaea about the unity of the divine essence and the three persons is true. ² It is to be believed without any doubt. God is one divine essence who is eternal, without a body, without parts, of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness. He is the maker and preserver of all things, visible and invisible [Nehemiah 9:6]. ³ Yet there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit [Matthew 28:19]. These three persons are of the same essence and power. ⁴ Our churches use the term *person* as the Fathers have used it. We use it to signify, not a part or quality in another, but that which subsists of itself.

⁵ Our churches condemn all heresies [Titus 3:10–11] that arose against this article, such as the Manichaeans, who assumed that there are two “principles,” one Good and the other Evil. They also condemn the Valentinians, Arians, Eunomians, Muslims, and all heresies such as these. ⁶ Our churches also condemn the Samosatenes, old and new, who contend that God is but one person. Through sophistry they impiously argue that the Word and the Holy Spirit are not distinct persons. They say that *Word* signifies a spoken word, and *Spirit* signifies motion created in things.”

So who are these groups we reject:

1. McCain, P. T. (Ed.). (2005). *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions* (p. 31). St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House.

Manichaeans - They taught that there are two substances in the universe, one intrinsically good, the other intrinsically evil. The material is the evil, the spiritual is the good. Since Christ was perfect, they reasoned that Christ could not have had a physical body, but was just a phantom.

Valentinians - Valentinus (died 150 AD), said that Christ had a *heavenly, spiritual body*, which alone was worthy of Him. Christ passed through Mary as water passes through a canal, without assuming from Mary a human nature.

Arians - Arius taught that the Son of God is of *similar substance (Heteroousios)* to the Father, rather than of the *same substance (Homoousios)* as the Father. The Nicene Creed is the Church's direct response to Arius' heresy.

Eunomians - Taught that the Son of God was of a *different substance* (this is an extreme form of Arianism) than the Father.

Mohammedans - Also called the Turks, today we refer to them as the Muslims. They are anti-Trinitarian and believe that Christ was merely a man who was chosen by God to be a prophet.

Samosatenes - They believed that Christ was just a man, chosen by God, and specially endowed by the Holy Spirit. (*This is the view of much of modern liberal theology today.*)

As you can see by this First Article we Lutheran reject the belief that God is God by any name. The last paragraph of the Article specifically rejects views held today by groups like the Unitarians, Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, United Church of Christ, the animal lodges, and Masons.

I hope this encourages all of you to continue studying the Word of God, hopefully you'll find time to join one or more of the Bible Studies taught hear at Pilgrim each week.

God bless,
Rev. Joseph M. Fisher (Heb.

12:1-2) Church Council May 8, 2017 Minutes

The Church Council May 8, 2017 meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President, Jerome Sommers, who began with a prayer provided by Pastor Raffa. Those attending were Jerome Sommers, Fred Leffin. Tanner Schmidt, Jim Behrens, Ron Virchow, Jr., Mary Lehtimaki, and Judy Frank. Pastor Fisher and Pastor Raffa were unable to attend.

Minutes from the April meeting were approved as printed.

Elders Report

The Elders are looking into framing the Luther Seal cloth that Pastor Wildauer of Togo, West Africa, presented to Pilgrim Church. It was locally made in Togo, West Africa.

Trustee Report

Accident and incident report forms are available now and a camera for taking any necessary incident photos has been purchased.

The elevator has been inspected and passed. Work on the kitchen hood fire suspension system has been completed and it is up to date now.

October Elections

Jerry Sommers discussed the list of positions up for election at the October 2017

Voters Meeting.

Chairman

Treasurer

Elder (5 positions)

Trustee

Board of Education

Church Council Representative

Endowment Fund Committee (5 positions)

Motion passed to end the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Behrens



Mark Your Calendar for the Spring Voter's Meeting on June 25, 2017 at 1:00 pm. All confirmed members of Pilgrim 18 and older are welcome to attend the Spring Voter's Meeting. Hope to see you there.



Summer Quilting

For June will be on the 4th Tuesday, June 27, from 9:00 am—3:00 pm.



New Class: Rooted in Christ—Begins June 4 at 12:30 in the Old Fellowship Hall. New members of the congregation, perspective members, and for those who simply want to learn more about what we believe and why we worship the way that we do.

Board of Elders Meeting Minutes, Pilgrim Ev.
Lutheran Church
5/1/2017

The meeting began with prayer by Pr. Fisher at 6:26. Present at the meeting were Pr. Fisher, Brian, Tanner, Ron, Howie, Dennis, Gary, and John. Absent were Pr. Raffa and Dave. Ron Virchow visited to explain the new incident report form as developed by the trustees. Completed forms are to go to the safe for confidentiality's sake.

Schedules were made through 6/11.

The gifted Luther Rose from Pr. Wildauer was presented. The elders hope to see it appropriately framed and displayed.

The elders wish to thank Mr. Jeff Barger for his wonderful work in restoring the Luther picture frame!

The elders continue to hope for a processional cross to be acquired. We will encourage the voters to consider the historic and liturgical merit of such.

Pr. Fisher has searched for a rubric for Matins with the Sacrament of the Altar. So far the search has been unsuccessful, though a contact will send anything he finds to Pr. Fisher. He hopes to have this in time for the June meeting. Pr. Fisher will be contacting some lapsed members.

Dennis shared some contact he had recently made with members. Pr. Fisher will follow up on this.

Concerning the candles for candlelight services (Christmas Eve, Easter Vigil): the elders ask all to be mindful of spilling wax, as this is not particularly easy to clean! We thank those who were able to clean the wax after the vigil!

On 5/13 at 10:30 a meeting regarding the website will be held.

The elders offer their congratulations to Pr. Vierkant of St. Andrew's! The elders wish him a faithful ministry.

We all pray for wisdom for Pr. Fisher as he continues in his role as circuit visitor.

Pr. Raffa hopes to begin his 9:15 catechetical lessons soon between Sunday services.

Pr. Fisher spoke regarding some matters of a few struggling members.

The NERF war was a success. The elders thank Brittany Virchow, Jonathan Hokana, and Cheryl Thill for their work in making it so.

Our book study was postponed owing to the time.

The meeting concluded with prayer by Pastor Raffa at 8:07.

Respectfully submitted,
Tanner Schmidt



Thank you to all who came and helped out with the Spring Clean up!

FOUND: A pair of Reading glasses out by the north door to the fellowship hall. Please contact the Church office if they are yours or you know who they belong to. Found 5-24-2017.

Thank you.



Sunday School News

At the time of this writing, we have one more week in the 2016-2017 Sunday School year. It has been a great year with several new teachers, several new students, and our faithful students who attend nearly every week.

The last several weeks have been very busy with some of the students taking home some very interesting gifts for their mothers.

Part of our time on the last day of the year will be spent celebrating summer birthdays. We normally celebrate birthdays weekly by having the birthday person add one penny for each year of their age to our birthday bank. We accumulate the money. On May 14th our 2011-2016 Sunday School birthday money was added to the freewill offering to help support Rev. & Mrs. Sorensen and their infant son Obadiah. Our collection totaled \$32.00.

We thank the dedicated volunteer teachers and assistants who served this year: Paul Grosskreuz (7th & 8th grade), Julie Raffa (Early Childhood 3 & 4 year olds), Nancy Rosenthal (3rd & 4th grade), Ginny Schober (1st & 2nd grade), Brittany Virchow and Jonathan Hokana (5th & 6th grade). We also thank Samuel Grosskreuz, Ian Janssen, and Ben Grosskreuz who served as our accompanists. It is important to note the following:

Paul Grosskreuz has been teaching for 15 years, Nancy Rosenthal for approximately 30 years, and Brittany Virchow for 5 years.

We are in need of at least one teacher for the 2017-2018 Sunday School year. Also, it would be great to have several volunteers to serve as substitute teachers. Sunday School will resume on September 10th. We welcome all children age 3 through those attending eighth grade to join us for Sunday School. Questions? Please contact Sunday School Superintendent Diane Swanson.

Dear Pilgrim Lutheran, May 15th
2017
Thank you so much for your support as well as your gift to help me pay for school! it helped me immensely as I journey through the deaconess program here at the Fort Wayne Seminary. it means so much that I have wonderful people like you in my life! I am blessed to be able to call pilgrim my home church.

I hope all is well in Wisconsin and I look forward to being home in the next couple weeks. you all continue to be in my prayers!

God bless, Taylor Brown

"for I am not ashamed of the Gospel for it is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes" Romans 1:16

IN OUR COMMUNAL PRAYERS

All servicemen at home and deployed, especially Isaac Wirtz (son of Rev. Nick Wirtz) who is stationed in Baghdad.

Lord God of hosts, stretch forth Your almighty arm to strengthen and protect those who serve in the armed forces of our country. Support them in times of war, and in times of peace keep them from all evil, giving them courage and loyalty. Grant that in all things they may serve with integrity and with honor; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Father of all mercy, You never fail to help those who call on You for help. Give strength and confidence to Your [son/daughter] in [his/her] time of great need that [he/she] may know that You are near and that You uphold [him/her] with Your everlasting arms. Grant that, resting on Your protection, [he/she] may fear no evil, for You are with [him/her] to comfort and deliver [him/her]; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

For our Seminaries, especially the Ethiopian Lutheran Church and Seminary

O God, through Your Holy Spirit You illuminate the minds and sanctify the lives of those whom You call to the work of pastors and teachers. Look with favor upon this seminary for the instruction and formation of those who are to serve in the sacred ministry of Your Church. Bless those who teach and those who learn that they may apply themselves with ready diligence to the knowledge of Your Word, which alone is able to make us wise unto salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and

reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Note: After much consideration, we have decided to add a page in the newsletter that lists all of those struggling with health issues. (Not published on the website). Each month we will also have various petitions that you can pray at home for various needs all people in Christ, and especially those within our immediate church family here at Pilgrim. In the bulletin we will list those sick and infirm on the basis of need and emergency. In the event that you would like to have your name or your loved one's name removed from the prayer list, please let us know.

THIS MONTH PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Also those struggling with health issues:

Cathy Pollow, Don Scherer, Glenn & Pam Zenda, Rev. Peter Kelm, Audrey Vandlik (mother of Carol Heger), Merlin Waechter, Natalie Ruppier, Eric Heuser, Laura Susnik, Chris Held, Paul Grosskreuz, Mark Rosenthal, Joyce Talajkowski, Brooke Steiner, Deborah Sumner, David Olson, Jeanette Guillaume, Diane Behrens, Karen Haufmann, Olivemae Olson, Donald & Annetta Teske, Nancy Nicholas, Don Meisenheimer, Donna Tessar, Jennifer Jensen, Scot Meisenheimer, Dorothy Young, Don Brockhaus, Wilma Wilson (Mother of Linda Stahl), June Fry, Ruth Mertz, Carolyn Bren, Judy Clark, Dorothy Miller, Marge Mehleis, Mark Selzler, Linda Lukas, Marissa Flanders, Linda Schmidt, George Witt, Tom Jahn, Jenny Vickerman, Donna Sommer, Scott Biskobing, Dave Carey, Laverne Gierach, Travis Winkler, Linda Borneman, Rachel Davis, Brian Vonlender, Glenn Schnabel, Inez Schwoch, Richard Reich, Margene Leffin, Judith Belling, Vanessa Kuehne, Jody Meisenheimer



- 1- Warren Haeberle
Hailey Gatzow
- 2- Kristy Smith
Matthew Phelps
Adrian Castro
- 3- Stephen Torre
Makayla Schneeweis
- 4- Stephen Spalda, Jr.
Patricia Engmann
- 6- Ranee Guyant
Dan Farrington
Amanda Voelzke
- 7- Karen Chard
Lucas Gatzow
Cody Wiedmeyer
- 10- Ronald Kabitzke
Carol Heger
- 11- Janet Meisenheimer
Karen Haufmann
- 12- Tom Clark, Sr.
Adam Mayer
Makayla Kabitzke
Bryanna Herdt
- 13- Kathryn Otten
Janice Voelzke
- 14- Rebecca Loomans
- 16- Breanna Szatkiewicz
Scott Donohue
Ashley Zenda
- 17- Kathleen Kabitzke
- 18- Paul Grosskreuz
Becky Steiner
- 19- Diane Clark
Deborah Sumner
- 20- Chris Fisher
- 23- Jessica Neumann
Kayla Thames
- 24- Dustin Brodzeller
- 25- Courtney Krueger

- David Brehm
- 26- Meghan Jensen
Trisha Daley
Kathy Greve
Nicole Schnabel
 - 27- Russell Guillaume
 - 28- Chad Schellinger
 - 29- Megan Merkel
Franklin Schroeter
Jane Rockrohr
 - 30- Kristy Markeland
Sarah Lotz
Melissa Oppermann
Amber Milis



- 1- Tom & Norma Benz
Russell & Jeanette Guillaume
- 2- Paul & Susan Grosskreuz
- 4- Orville & Anne-Marie Gierach
David & Bonnie Zenda
- 5- David & Kristy Markeland
- 11- Tom & Diane Zell
Dan & Jennifer Teeters
- 14- Peter & Amy Heinen
- 17- Paul & Jodi Henckel
- 18- Gary & Pat Knuth
- 19- David & Tammy Fellenz
Randy & Edith Frank
- 20- Ryan & Kristin Thimmig
- 21- Brad & Tracy Eifert
- 23- Jim & Yvonne Rosenthal
Jeffrey & Rita Dahl
- 25- Austin & Elizabeth Meier
- 26- David & Katie Jakubowski
- 27- Jerome & Donna Sommer
- 28- Craig & Cindy Schreiner
Bob & Diane Swanson
Rob & Jodi Selzler

**This is from the Concordia Bible Institute
May Newsletter:**

Ask Dr. Saleska

To ask Dr. Saleska a question, please visit the "[Ask Dr. Saleska](#)" page on CBI's website and he will get back to you.

Question:

I have been attending an Inter-faith Bible class with a friend who invited me. I have enjoyed most of the studies, but one thing that I did not agree with was in our study of Matthew 26:26-28, which is about communion. The instructor said that the bread and wine were just symbols of Christ's body and blood. Most of the people agreed with him. I wasn't sure exactly how to explain what we believe. I tried, but some of the people sort of laughed at what I was saying. Can you help me explain our teaching?

Answer:

Following are a few thoughts which might prove useful in answering questions which inevitably arise in connection with the Lord's Supper.

First of all, what Scripture says is, of course, of paramount importance. Here are Christ's words in the [Matthew 26:26-28](#) account which you mention in your question: "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread and broke it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this IS my body.' And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink ye all of it; for this IS my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.'"

You will notice that I have capitalized the little word "is." The meaning of that little word is central in understanding what is present and what we receive in the Lord's Supper. If the bread and wine are only symbols of Christ's

body and blood, the true meaning of the word "is" is denied. To suggest that "is" means "signify" is really to commit linguistic suicide. It always, everywhere means "that which is, that which exists."

St. Paul is very explicit in establishing what it is that we receive in Holy Communion when he writes in I Corinthians 10:16: "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion (participation, sharing, Gr. *koinonia*) in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? Keep in mind that this passage says that the bread is still bread, and the wine is still wine, but IN, WITH, and UNDER the bread and wine the communicant receives the true (real) body and blood of Christ. This is called the REAL PRESENCE of Christ's body and blood. I realize this is difficult to understand. Actually it is supernatural and incomprehensible, but still real.

In discussing the "Real Presence" with your Bible class friends who substitute words like "symbolize" or "represent" for IS in Christ's words of the Institution of The Lord's Supper, assuming they believe in Christ's deity, you might ask them if they are willing to do the same thing in I John 5:20b: "This (he, i.e., Christ) IS the true God and eternal life." Would they be willing to translate that passage: He, Christ, only "represents" or "symbolizes" the true God and eternal life? My guess is they would not if they believe in the deity of Christ. If not, why would they be willing in the one instance, but not the other?

In I Corinthians 11:27 St. Paul, speaking of the Lord's Supper, says: "Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord." He continues in v.29: "For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drin-

keth damnation (judgment) to himself, not discerning the Lord's body." If Christ is speaking only symbolically, those words have absolutely no meaning. That is, how could a person discern the body of Christ or be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord if it is not "really" present?

In order to present the seriousness of changing the word from "is" to "symbolizes," I sometimes use the following scenario to make a very important point for the people who "sort of laughed" at your explanation of what you believe.

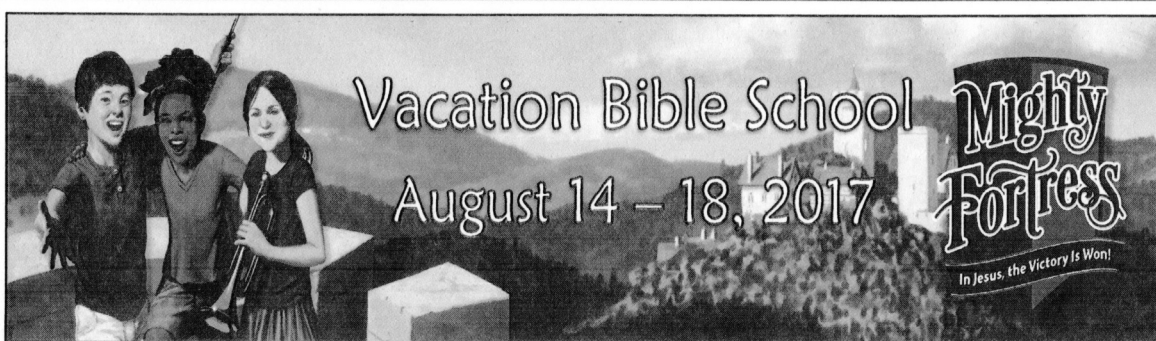
In II Corinthians 5:10 St. Paul says that we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ. What he means is we will all give an account of ourselves to the Lord. In this case, that is, in connection with the words of Institution, I suppose my response to him will be something like this: "I had no idea how this could be possible, but I believed you meant what you said. In spite of how impossible it seemed, I believed you could do it. I believed that with God what seems impossible to us is possible with him."

Now consider the other side. Those who "sort of laughed" will have to respond something like this: "I didn't believe you meant that your body and blood were literally present. I guess I really didn't believe it was possible because you were standing right there when you said it. So naturally I didn't really believe you meant what you said, consequently, I had to find some other way to explain it."

Now consider what that response means. If Christ meant what he said and you didn't believe him, you would be guilty of falsely accusing him of lying. If he did not mean what he said, then how could anyone ever know exactly what he did mean?

In the scenario above, whose shoes would you rather be in? The question is very clear. Does Christ always mean what he says? The answer has huge implications.





VBS 2017 is a victory celebration! In *Mighty Fortress* VBS, your children learn that in Jesus, the victory is won! They'll look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and explore five Bible accounts about God, our Mighty Fortress, and the victory Jesus has won for us.

Registration is open for ages 6-12 who will attend VBS from Monday, August 14 to Friday, August 18, 5:30 pm to 8:00 p.m. Come along with us as we sing fun songs, do crazy crafts, eat yummy snacks, play awesome games, and *more*. Plus, you'll learn in Jesus, the victory is won! Can't wait to see you there! You may register online at <https://vbsmate.com/PilgrimLCMSWestBend>, fill out the registration form in this newsletter, or pick up a registration form in the narthex. If you have any questions, call Julie Raffa at 262-388-8287 or email her at raffafamily@gmail.com.

Help us make VBS a success! We need volunteers to help with decorating, music, crafts, snacks, games, and storytelling skits. We are using Concordia Publishing House's *Mighty Fortress* VBS curriculum this year; they provide everything needed to make VBS fun and easy for volunteers. If you are able to help one day or all five days, please contact Julie Raffa at 262-388-8287 or raffafamily@gmail.com. It will be a lot of fun! Join Us!

HELD IN
YOUR



Make this heartwarming handprint gift to give your dad or another special man on Father's Day.

What you need:

- Tempura paint (any two colors besides white)
- A paper plate
- Two paintbrushes
- Your dad's hand
- White cardstock
- Paper towels
- A pen



What you do:

1. Place paint on the paper plate.
2. Paint your dad's palm and the insides of his fingers with one color of paint. Set his hand in the center of the cardstock and press down. Let dry.
3. Paint your palm and fingers with the other color. Place your hand in the center of your dad's. Let dry.
4. Write a loving message to your dad on the blank sections of the cardstock.
5. Give your dad the gift – and a hug!



Our heavenly Father

Father's Day is the perfect time to remember God, our heavenly Father. What does the psalmist say about him?

Directions: Complete Psalm 89:26 by placing the correct vowels in the blanks.



"H_ w_ll c_ll _ _t t_ m_,"

'Y_ _r_ m_ F_th_r, m_

G_d, th_ R_ck m_ S_v_r."

Ps_lm 89:26, N_V

Answer: "He will call out to me, 'You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Savior.'" Psalm 89:26, NIV