



LWML CNH CHRISTIAN LIFE LINE

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LaVada Terrell - VP, Christian Life

GOD'S FAMILY

Children of the heavenly Father Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in Heaven Such a refuge e'er was given.

God, His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish,
From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms He bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord, His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.

Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His, the loving purpose solely To preserve them, pure and holy.

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See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. 1 John 3:1a (ESV)

"I love you." Those three little words have the power to change a life. A parent speaks them to a child and nurtures the soul. A man and woman speak them to each other as they take the vow of marriage and begin a new life as one. Most importantly, God speaks them to us in His Word and makes us His children and heirs to His kingdom through Holy Baptism.

... for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. Galatians 3:26 (ESV)

When we are baptized, through water together with God's Word, we become God's children. No longer are we under His wrath. Instead, God honors us by making us members of His own family. He says, "I love you" as He gives us faith and places us in an intimate relationship with Him. God becomes our Father. We are welcomed into His family of believers.

You have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Colossians 3:10 (ESV)

In the beginning, God created man in His image. After the Fall of Adam, that perfect image was lost, but not forgotten by God. God sent His Son to this world to be our Savior and Redeemer. Through Jesus' loving sacrifice on the cross He made it possible for the image of man to be restored. Through faith Christ Himself transforms us.

Jesus said, For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother. Mark 3:35 (ESV)

Look around your local LWML group. You are surrounded by your sisters in Christ. Now think of the members of your congregation as you worship together on Sunday. They, too, are your family in Christ. Each Sunday across the country and around the globe the waters of Holy Baptism splash upon another soul and we welcome the newest member into God's growing family.

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" Romans 8:15 (ESV)

Because of God's great love for us we now belong to Him! God invites us to come to Him daily with our prayers and petitions. He longs to hear those three little words, "I love you," spoken to Him in prayer. Our Heavenly Father also assures us in His Word that He will always hear us when we pray to Him.

... and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with him. Romans 8:17 (ESV)

As God's children, we are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. Because of God's great love for us, we are forever changed. We cling to all of God's promises knowing that one day each of God's children will receive the crown of eternal life. Then our fallen image will be fully restored to perfection and we will live with God and with all of our brothers and sisters in Christ forever.

*Adapted from the originally written devotion
God's Family Written by Kristin Kaldahl, Spencer, Iowa
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Let's honor our heavenly Father today by honoring our earthly dads.

Love, respect, pray, and forgive them when needed.

And Dads — Happy Father's Day!