I picked a flower, a small dahlia; peach, yellow and rose in color. Looking at it, my mind journeyed to another bloom, a rose, in my father's hand. He had brought it into the house, freshly picked from his rose garden. He wanted each of us to share his joy over its beauty. With my flower in hand and his flower in mind, a part of my life came into focus.

I've been sharing flowers, cutting dahlias and taking the bouquets to the neighbors. I felt sort of foolish in this, but it gave me joy to share the beauty which is blooming in my back yard. I also decided that the neighbors would get used to having a man at the door, flowers in hand.

As I picked my special flower this week, however, I realized why this was so important to me. I was being about my father's business. Sharing flowers with my neighbors, wanting my children to see the beauty that God has granted, I am doing the very things my father did.

People ask, "Why go to church?" I would like to offer my experience with the flowers as an answer.

Week after week we gather to hear about our heavenly Father, to witness what he has done, to see his joy, his sorrow. Were someone to ask us each week, "What did you get out of church today?" we might have no answer. But over time our Lord and his deeds are planted deep within our hearts. We begin to imitate our God, to be about our Father's business even when we may not know it. Like a son who finds delight in a bloom, just as his father did, so we find our joy in the same sort of caring and giving and loving we have witnessed in our God.

Peace be with you.

Pastor Lynn Schlessman

Join the Group

The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program seeks to ensure quality care for consumers of long term care in nursing homes, rest homes, adult care homes and in their own homes.

Barbara Schubert, an associate with Long Term Care Ombudsman will be at Christ Lutheran Church on Sunday, November 18, during the Adult Bible Class at 9:00 A.M. You are cordially invited to attend and learn more about their free and confidential service.