

Special Memorial Service at American Lutheran Church
Remembering our Loved ones who died during the height of the
Covid-19 pandemic

Aug 21, 2021

Prelude

Gathering

Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world. We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our sisters and brothers in Christ who died during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic and were unable to have a normal funeral. At this service, we give thanks for their lives, to commend them to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation, who comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

The assembly stands.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

OPENING HYMN-- ELW 812 Faith of our Fathers

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

Remembrances

When each name is read, we will share some memories, and then light a candle in their memory.

Ron Bushkofsky

Wilbur (Bud) Marsh

Mary Jo Sullivan

Marilyn Schulz

Mike Peters

Lavon Lux

Mary Ann Shatzer Staples

Darlene Bronner

Julie Truog

Doris LeBahn

Prayer of the Day

O God of grace and glory,

we remember before you today Ron, Bud, Mary Jo, Marilyn, Mike, Lavon, Mary Ann, Darlene, Julie, and Doris.

We thank you for giving them to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth.

In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn.

Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ,

so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call,

we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC: "The Lord is My Shepherd", by Jimmy Owens sung by Kraig Emick

Scripture Readings:

Psalm 139:1-18

1 O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

3 You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

4 Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.

5 You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

7 Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?

8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

9 If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

10 even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"

12 even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

13For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
14I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.
15My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
16Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.
17How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
18I try to count them — they are more than the sand;
I come to the end — I am still with you.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

John 14:1-6

1Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. 2In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4And you know the way to the place where I am going." 5Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" 6Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW 638 Blessed Assurance

Creed

Please stand if you are able.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together

into one communion of saints in the body of Christ.

Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace.

God of mercy,

hear our prayer.

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ.

God of mercy,

hear our prayer.

Give courage and faith to all who mourn,
and a sure and certain hope in your loving care,
that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may have strength for the days ahead.

God of mercy,

hear our prayer.

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith,
that, where this world groans in grief and pain,
your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life.

God of mercy,

hear our prayer.

Help us, in the midst of things we cannot understand,
to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
and the resurrection to life everlasting.

God of mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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 assembly is seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC: "It is Well with My Soul", Phillip Bliss arranged by Anna Laura Page, sung by Jessica Saunders

Sending Scripture-- Psalm 23

1The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

2He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;

3he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths

for his name's sake.

4Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff —
they comfort me.
5You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

6Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

Sending Prayer

O God, we remember with thanksgiving
those who have loved and served you on earth,
who now rest from their labors, especially Ron, Bud, Mary Jo, Marilyn, Mike,
Lavon, Mary Ann, Darlene, Julie, and Doris.
Keep us in union with all your saints,
and bring us with them to the joyous feast of heaven;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen. Rest eternal grant them, O Lord;
and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows
lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life
is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and
a holy rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sending Blessing: “The Blessing”, by Elevation Worship, sung by Alyssa and Kristin Hoey

Blessing

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep,
by the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will,
working in you that which is well-pleasing in God's sight;
through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.
Almighty God,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal:

Let us go in peace.

Amen.

Postlude

Pastor: Kristen Corr Rod

Organist: Shirley Bergman

Usher: Chris Waring

Lector: Mike Waring

Memories: Barb Hayek

Candle lighter: Mary Adams

Camera: Mike and Chris Waring

Remembrances for memorial service

Ron Bushkofsky

Family and friends were everything to Ron. He came from a large family, lived in northeastern Iowa his entire life, and was well-known and well-loved throughout the region. If there was a sparkle in Ron's eyes, some good-natured teasing followed. He was the rare sort who could dish it out and receive it equally.

He loved music, played the guitar for many years, and led family sing-alongs while his two sons grew up. Ron's love for Christian music was instilled as he grew up in the Lutheran congregations of Clayton County. He sang his whole life and was part of the choir at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Independence for nearly 50 years.

Ron loved the land and its natural beauty. He farmed as a young adult, enjoyed hunting and fishing, and grew to be an avid player of "pasture pool," or what most people simply know as golf.

Wilbur (Bud) Marsh

Bud was a very easygoing and kind person. He was very generous and never complained about anything. A gentle giant who loved golfing and animals, he especially loved his family. He loved them, so much that even when they had just gone shopping for the day, he'd be waiting for them at the door when they got home.

Mary Jo Sullivan

Mary Jo was the person who held everything together. She liked to be in control and was good at family organizing, especially for the meals of the family fishing trips. She loved to play basketball, softball, and bowling, and she and Tom joined their three boys in their athletic adventures. Mary had a strong faith. She was active with the ALC women in Bible study and in the kitchen and was a long-time choir member.

Marilyn Schulz

Marilyn, friendly, outgoing, and kind, loved to visit. She was very devoted to her family, and babysat her grandchildren in Jesup for many years. She and Marvin loved to watch her grandchildren and loved to travel to family members in other states. Marilyn had a very strong faith and was very active in the church, instilling that faith in her family members, as well.

Mike Peters

Those who knew Mike know he had an incredible memory. In a conversation several years ago the date of an event was in question. "What car were you driving at the time?", Mike asked. "The brown Volvo," was the response. "Well then, that would have been in 1982!"

Mike also had a marvelous ability to make friends, including the Amish around Harmony, MN. He treated his family to a tour of their homes; a tour of a cabinet shop with modern power tools powered by a gasoline engine; a tour of a cashmere goat farm; and a tour of a shop that made woven crafts. Those fond memories include souvenirs of a woven basket for the stairsteps and warm cashmere socks.

Lavon Lux

Lavon worked at Jesup schools for many years in many different capacities. She was a friendly person, spent a lot of time on her porch, and waved to everyone who passed by. She loved the many members of her extended family and took the time to see her grandchildren in sporting events. Lavon liked to read, crochet, and bake. She had quite a sweet tooth and loved Diet Pepsi. She shared her strong faith and participated in community Bible studies.

Mary Ann Shatzer Staples

Mary Ann grew up on her family's farm outside of Jesup. She went on to have a successful career as a businesswoman. She loved animals and was very generous. In the balcony of American Lutheran Church is beautiful stained glass window of Jesus and the children which she donated in memory of her parents. As you depart today I hope you take the opportunity to view the window in the balcony.

Darlene Bronner

Darlene was a homemaker. She and her family lived in Jesup for many years and in addition to their children, she and Earl raised their granddaughter, Amy. As an active member of the American Lutheran Church Darlene participated in Bible study and helped in the kitchen.

Julie Truog

Julie was very devoted to her family, and she was an incredibly loving sister, aunt, and great aunt. Julie was always full of life and felt fulfilled by creating joy for the kids as often as she could by playing cards, sledding, walking through "Sherwood Forest," or having a picnic at one of many local parks. She was an amazing cook and loved to prepare meals for the family.

Doris LeBahn

Doris was a gem - warm, friendly, and kind. She had a wonderful sense of humor and a very giving heart. She was a gifted conversationalist and confidant, keeping you the center of her attention. A faithful, active, member of American Lutheran where she was baptized and confirmed, Doris served on the church council, taught Sunday School, arranged altar flowers, attended Bible studies, and sang in the adult choir for 50 years. She was an expert at rubbing little ones' backs in the balcony to keep them quiet.

As a meticulous seamstress, she assisted the quilters and Cradle Roll, and was an unofficial leader in the Prayer Shawl group. She taught knitting and crocheting skills even to youth, and especially for the left-handed. Her family were recipients of countless gift boxes of thoughtful projects.

Doris was very creative: she designed special occasion cakes and many hand-crafted cards; provided countless cookies and bars, and always brought the deviled eggs.

Doris was a cheerleader to all, giving compliments and encouragement, sending notes and cards, especially to those who shared their musical gifts. Even though Doris suffered with much pain, she never complained. A mint chocolate chip shake was her final request. How great would it be to share just one more with our dear friend.