

A Celebration of Life



Alex Hohenstein

August 31, 1937 – March 2, 2023

Alex Hohenstein

A Celebration of Life

*We encourage you to sing the hymns selected by Alex himself, as well as to speak the **bold print** in the bulletin. The portions of the worship marked with an * are times when we invite you to stand, as you are able. As Alex desired, we will celebrate holy Communion this morning. You will be invited up the center aisle to the pastor, who will have the bread (gluten-free wafers available upon request from the pastor). You are invited to consume the bread before moving over to the Communion assistant, who will have a tray of individual cups: red being wine and yellow being grape juice. After drinking, you are invited to drop your cup in the basket in front of the first pew. We believe this meal is meant for everyone to enjoy, regardless of church affiliation or lack thereof, so we encourage you to partake in the Lord's Supper that Alex always looked forward to "tasting and seeing the goodness of the Lord."*

Greeting

Prelude

*Thanksgiving for Baptism

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 husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and brother in Christ, Alex: to give thanks for his life, to commend him to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ. In his baptism, Alex was clothed with Christ. In the day of Christ's coming, he shall be clothed with glory.

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you. **We glorify you.**

Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death to show love for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you. **We praise you.**

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you. **We worship you.**

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever. **Amen.**

*Gathering Hymn *This Is My Father's World*

ELW #824

* Prayer of the Day

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our beloved Alex. We thank you for giving him 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.**

Eulogy

Hymn *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

ELW #815

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

¹ For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³ a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵ a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills—

from where will my help come?

² **My help comes from the Lord,**

who made heaven and earth.

³ He will not let your foot be moved;

he who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴ **He who keeps Israel**

will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ The Lord is your keeper;

the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

⁶ **The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

⁸ **The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore.**

Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³⁷ Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; ³⁸for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

This is the holy Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Homily

Hymn of the Day *The Church's One Foundation* (vs. 1 & 3) ELW #654

*Prayers of Intercession

Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your precious children together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your sustaining light and peace. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give courage and faith to all who mourn, including Paula, Ruth, David, Mike, Sheri, Joshua, Michael, Alex, Zachary, Liam and all of Alex's extended family and friends. Bless them with the 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, you, as the Holy Spirit, may lead us to bear witness to your joyous 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 your precious children. 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.**

*Thanksgiving at the Table

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

*Lord's Prayer

**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.**

*Invitation to Communion

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy.
Taste the banquet of everlasting life! **Thanks be to God!**

Communion

| | | |
|------------------------|--|----------|
| Hymns during Communion | <i>Children of the Heavenly Father</i> | ELW #781 |
| | <i>Here I Am, Lord</i> | ELW #574 |

*Post-Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Commendation

Let us commend Alex to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Alex. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

Let us go forth in peace, **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Sending Hymn *Christ, Be Our Light*

ELW #715

Postlude

Paula and the entire Hohenstein family extend their deepest appreciation for you being with them this day. You are invited to join them in the procession to Crown Hill Cemetery. Following the committal, you are invited to join them for a luncheon at Ferfolia Funeral Home (356 W. Aurora Rd., Sagamore Hills). God's Resurrection blessings of hope and new life be with you this day and always!

Committal

Crown Hill Cemetery

Prayer

Holy God, holy and powerful, by the death and burial of Jesus your anointed, you have destroyed the power of death and made holy the resting places of all your people. Keep our beloved Alex, whom we now lay to rest, in the company of all your saints. And at the last, O God, raise him up to share with all the faithful the endless joy and peace won through the glorious resurrection of Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Reading

1 Corinthians 1:51-57

⁵¹Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’

⁵⁵ ‘Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?’

⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessing

The Lord bless Alex and keep him
The Lord's face shine on him with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon him with favor and † give him peace. **Amen.**

Prayer

Merciful God, you heal the broken in heart and bind up the wounds of the afflicted. Strengthen us in our weakness, calm our troubled spirits, and dispel our doubts and fears. In Christ's rising from the dead, you conquered death and opened the gates to everlasting life. Renew our trust in you that by the power of your love we shall one day be brought together again with our precious Alex. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace, for our Lord of the Resurrection and the Life is with you always. **Amen.**

Our Worship Leaders

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Presiding Minister | The Rev. Bradley Ross |
| Organist | Aaron Carter-Enyi |
| Eulogist | The Rev. Abraham Allende |
| | Bishop Emeritus of the Northeastern Ohio Synod (ELCA) |
| Crucifer & Communion Assistant | The Rev. Harry Werner |
| Lectors | Joshua Hohenstein |
| | David Hohenstein |
| | Michael Stanik |
| Pallbearers | Joshua Hohenstein |
| | Michael Stanik |
| | Alex Stanik |
| | Zachary Stanik |
| | Mike Downing |
| | Keary Knerem |
| Usher | Bert Zahn |
| Altar Guild | Claudia Senderak |
| | Marie Zahn |

*Memorial contributions may be made to the Lutheran Church of the
Covenant or a charity of your choice.*

*The Lutheran Church of the Covenant
19000 Libby Rd.*

Maple Heights, OH 44137

Phone: 216-662-0370; E-mail: covenantlc@sbcglobal.net

Website: covenantmaplehts.org.

Obituary



ALEXANDER "ALEX" HOHENSTEIN age 85. Beloved husband of Paula; loving father of Ruth Stanik (Mike) and David Hohenstein (Sheri); cherished grandfather of Joshua Hohenstein (Laura), Michael (Chelsea), Alex (fiancée Amy) and Zach Stanik; treasured great-grandfather of Liam Stanik; dear son of the late William and Emma; adored brother of the late Richard. Friends may call at THE FERFOLIA FUNERAL HOME, 356 W. AURORA RD. (OH RTE 82), SAGAMORE HILLS FOR VISITATION MONDAY 4-8 P.M. Family and friends are invited to gather at Lutheran Church of the Covenant, 19000 Libby Rd. Maple Hts., OH. 44137 where visitation will be

held Tuesday 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. immediately followed by funeral services at 11:00 a.m. Interment Crown Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made in his name to The Lutheran Church of the Covenant or a charity of your choice.



To Those I Love and Those Who Love Me

*When I am gone, release me, let me go.
I have so many things to see and do.
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears,
Be happy that we had so many years.*

*I gave you my love, you can only guess
How much you gave to me in happiness.
I thank you for the love you each have shown
But now it's time I traveled on alone.*

*So grieve a while for me if grieve you must
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It's only for a while that we must part,
So bless those memories within your hearts.*

*I won't be far away for life goes on
So if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near.
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear
All of my love around you soft and clear.*

*And then, when you must come this way, alone,
I'll greet you with a smile and "Welcome Home."*

Alex requested this poem be shared with all of us upon his death

Alex and Paula had a loving marriage and created a wonderful family.



Wedding Day August 20, 1961

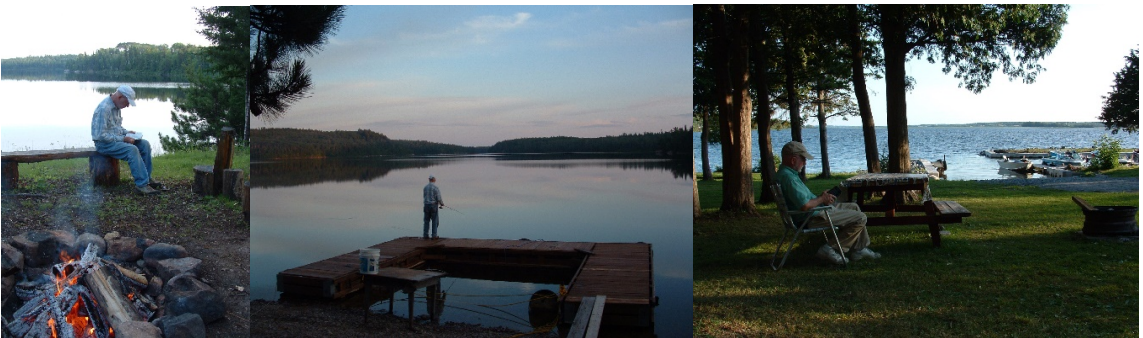


25th Wedding Anniversary 1986



50th Wedding Anniversary 2011

Alex enjoyed both the serenity and excitement of being near water.



We should all take a lesson from Alex that it is important to enjoy life to its fullest, find a passion and peace will find you.