

A Celebration of  
Life Service  
Mildred Twenhafel

1-9-26  
IMMANUEL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH



Missouri Synod

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Texas 78570

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Rev. Ed Weber,

eweber10@aol.com  
956-463-1305

*Sunday*  
9:00 AM  
Worship Service

10:30 am  
Adult Bible Class  
Sunday School

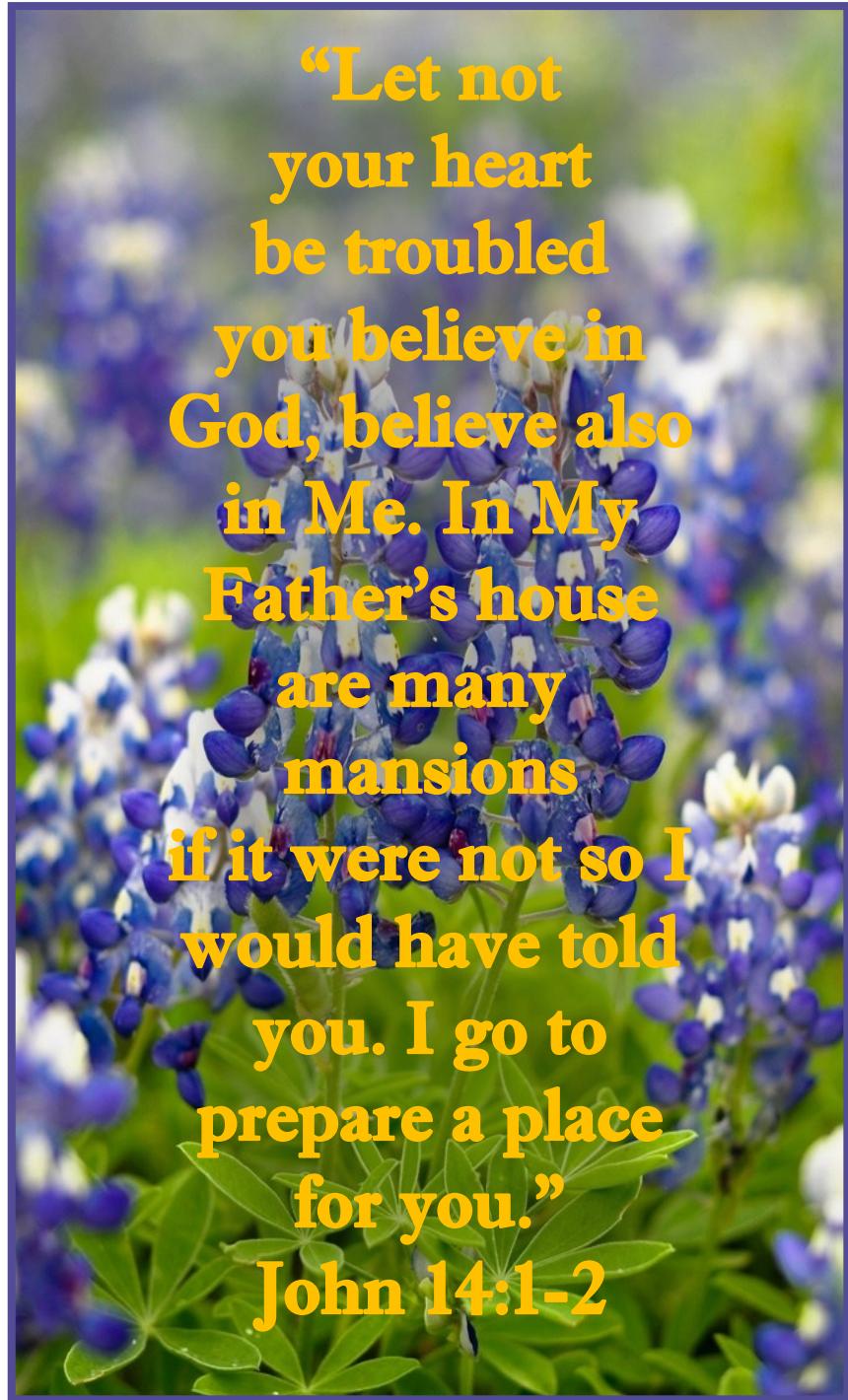
Holy Communion:  
1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
Website

[lutheranmercedes.com](http://lutheranmercedes.com)

Office Hrs, M-F  
8am to noon

“Let not  
your heart  
be troubled  
you believe in  
God, believe also  
in Me. In My  
Father’s house  
are many  
mansions  
if it were not so I  
would have told  
you. I go to  
prepare a place  
for you.”

John 14:1-2



## Celebration of Life Service - Mildred Twenhafel

March 14, 1928 — December 31, 2025

### WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

**A Prayer Upon Entering Church**— O Lord, our saving light and our shelter in the day of trouble, turn us not away in anger because of our sins. Calm our hearts, strengthen our faith, and lead us in Your straight paths until we see your surpassing goodness in heaven with all those who live in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**PRELUDE**

**“Beautiful Savior”**

**LSB 537**

**OPENING HYMN**

**I'm But a Stranger Here**

**LSB 748**



1 I'm but a strang - er here, Heav'n is my home;  
3 There - fore I mur - mur not, Heav'n is my home;



Earth is a des - ert drear, Heav'n is my home.  
What - e'er my earth - ly lot, Heav'n is my home;



Dan - ger and sor - row stand Round me on ev - 'ry hand;  
And I shall sure - ly stand There at my Lord's right hand;



Heav'n is my fa - ther - land, Heav'n is my home.  
Heav'n is my fa - ther - land, Heav'n is my home.

Text and tune: Public domain

## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

## REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

Pastor: In Holy Baptism our dear sister Mildred was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all her sin. St. Paul says, "*Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?*"

People: **We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of 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.**



**C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.**

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you all.

People: **And with your spirit. Amen.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God of grace and mercy, we give thanks for Your loving-kindness shown to Mildred and to all Your servants who, having finished their course in faith, now rest from their labors. Grant that we also may be faithful unto death and receive the crown of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

## *Psalm 23*

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS:

### *Revelation 21:1-4*

"Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **1 Corinthians 15:50-58**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

55 "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"

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

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God**

## HOLY GOSPEL

### *John 14:1-6*

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And where I go you know, and the way you know." 5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**4      People:** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er  
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me

all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y  
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad - o-

thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;  
ra - tion And there pro - claim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

*Refrain*

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee, How great Thou

art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to

Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

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## SERMON "This Child...is destined for the rising of many!" Luke 2:34

### PRAYERS

Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord, our God and Father, who raised Jesus from the dead: Almighty God, You have knit Your chosen people together into one communion in the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Give to Your whole Church in heaven and on earth Your light and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life and so pass with Him through the gate of death and the grave to our joyful resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Through the Holy Spirit, give us comfort in our sadness and a sure confidence of Your loving care that, casting all our sorrow on You, we may know the consolation of Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Give courage and faith to the bereaved, that within the communion of Your Church they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the assurance of a holy and certain hope and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love who have departed in the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and find comfort in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Receive our thanks for Mildred and for all the blessings You bestowed on her in this earthly life. Bring us at last to our heavenly home that with her we may see You face to face in the joys of paradise. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Pastor: Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

People: **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.

### **Nunc Dimitis**

Pastor: "I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord. "He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."

People: **Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Let us pray: Lord God, our Shepherd, You gather the lambs of Your flock into the arms of Your mercy and bring them home. Comfort us with the certain hope of the resurrection to everlasting life and a joyful reunion with those we love who have died in the faith; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

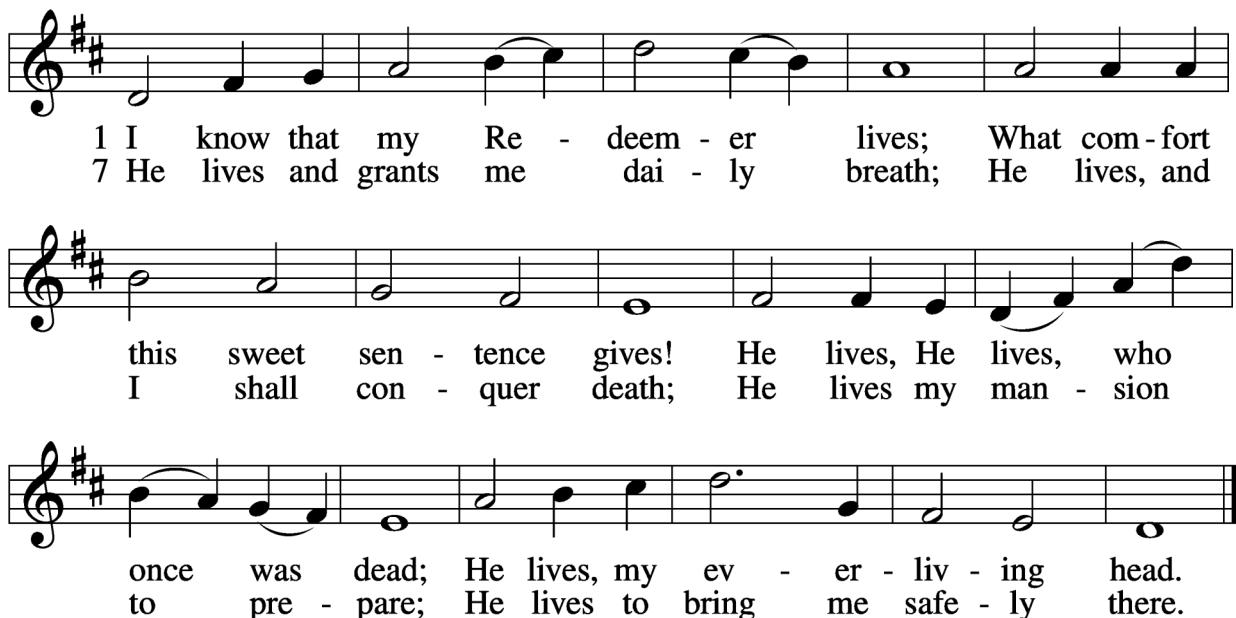
Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**

**I Know My Redeemer Lives**

**LSB 461**



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort  
7 He lives and grants me dai - ly breath; He lives, and

this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who  
I shall con - quer death; He lives my man - sion

once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.  
to pre - pare; He lives to bring me safe - ly there.

Text and tune: Public domain

Pastor: Let us go forth in peace in the name of the risen Lord Jesus,

People: **Amen**

### Serving in Today's Service

Officiating minister: Rev. Ed Weber

Organist: Doris Pickering

## †Mildred Twenhafel†



Mildred Rebecca Twenhafel, 97, passed away peacefully December 31, 2025, at her residence at The Gardens at Brookridge, Pharr, Texas.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Erwin A. Twenhafel, her daughter, Sally Kay Tankersley, her parents, James and Sally Jennings, two brothers, George and Sid Jennings, and three sisters, Sarah Moon, Lula Josephine Elliott and Francis Stimpson.

She is survived by her son, Mark (Tracey) Twenhafel, of McAllen, granddaughters Lauren Tankersley of Dallas, Caresse Tankersley (Rich Anderson), and two great-grandchildren, Sloane and Sutton Anderson, of Richardson, and numerous nieces, nephews and grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

Mildred was born in Centre, Alabama, on March 14, 1928, at her family's rural home. After graduating valedictorian of her high school class, Mildred moved to Weslaco, Texas, and made her home with her cousins, Judson and Mildred Friday. She attended and graduated from Edinburg Junior College and worked for the Texas Department of Transportation and the Texsun Corporation.

Mildred met Erwin Twenhafel after his return from serving in the Pacific with the Navy in World War II, and they married on November 13, 1949, in Weslaco, Texas. They moved to Mile 1 East, Mercedes, Texas, where Mildred "kept the books" for Erwin's farming operations and saw that their children, Sally and Mark, did not get into too much trouble. She participated in Beta Sigma Phi for many years and played an active role as a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church and School in Mercedes.

Although not a native, Mildred loved the Rio Grande Valley and proudly called it home. She especially appreciated the local wildlife and anticipated the annual migrations of hummingbirds through the area. She was always looking for another "good spot" to hang a hummingbird feeder.

In lieu of flowers, please honor Mildred's memory with a memorial to Immanuel Lutheran Church, 703 W. 3rd Street, Mercedes, Texas 78570

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*"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Revelation 2:10)*