

**The Celebration of the
Life and Resurrection of
Gertrude (Trudy) Elizabeth Eichelsdoerfer
October 18, 2025**



First Lutheran Church
BOTHELL

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

STATEMENT OF WELCOME

We, the community of First Lutheran Church of Bothell, proclaim the message that the grace of our Lord is infinitely inclusive and that everyone is welcome. We believe that Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness in a world of alienation and brokenness.

As a Reconciling in Christ congregation and as disciples of Christ seeking justice and reconciliation among all peoples, we at First Lutheran Church welcome all into the fullness of God's love. **We welcome everyone, without exception and regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical and mental ability, age, or station in life.** We recognize that each person is a unique creation of God, and through grace, a child of God.

All are welcome at First Lutheran.

All are welcome to worship, to hear the Good News, to receive the sacraments, and to share in fellowship and service. As members of First Lutheran Church, we pledge ourselves and our congregation to exercise our faith in Christ, treasuring one another's similarities while embracing our God-given differences. We pledge that we will strive to live as a reconciling people, in our life together and in our outreach to the world.

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GATHERING

The Holy Spirit, the comforter, gathers us in worship.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION

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 sister Trudy, to give thanks for her life, to commend her to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

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.

GATHERING HYMN: *He Leadeth Me* (TFF 151)



- 1 He lead - eth me: oh, bless-ed thought! Oh, words with heav'n-ly com-fort fraught!
- 2 Some-times mid scenes of deep-est gloom, some-times where E - den's bow-ers bloom,
- 3 Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ev - er mur - mur nor re - pine;
- 4 And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the vic-t'ry's won,



What-e'er I do, wher-e'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.
by wa - ters calm, o'er trou-bled sea, still 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.
con - tent, what-ev - er lot I see, since 'tis my God that lead - eth me.
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jor - dan lead - eth me.



He lead-eth me, he lead-eth me, by his own hand he lead-eth me.



His faith-ful fol-l'wer I would be, for by his hand he lead-eth me.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ. In her baptism, Marlys was clothed with Christ. In the day of Christ's coming, she 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,
Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life,
Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope,

We glorify you.

We praise you.

We worship you.

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

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister Trudy. We thank you for giving her 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.

TIME OF REMEMBRANCE: *We take time to tell Trudy's story, a story of faith and love for her family. Take time today, tomorrow and in the future to tell her story.*

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Psalm 100

¹ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

² Serve the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.

³ Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him; bless his name.

⁵ For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever
and his faithfulness to all generations.

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 forevermore.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:31;13:1-13

³¹ But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

¹ If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

GOSPEL READING: John 14:1-6

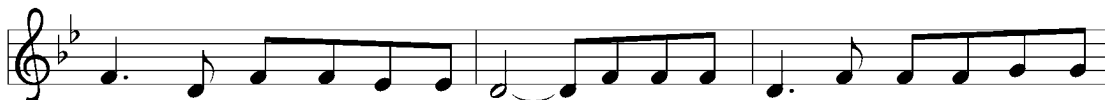
[Jesus said,] ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus 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: *How Great Thou Art* (ELW 856)



- 1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
- 2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der, I hear the
- 3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
- 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
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft-y moun-tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly
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;
gran-deur and hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze;
bear-ing he bled and died to take a-way my sin;
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!

APOSTLES' CREED

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

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us out in peace.

COMMENDATION

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

Silence for reflection.

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

Amen.

BLESSING

May the silence of the hills,
the joy of the winds,
the peace of the fields,
the music of the birds,
the fire of the sun,
the strength of the trees,
and the faith of a little child,
in all of which is God,
go with you and be with you today and always. Amen

SENDING HYMN: *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* (ELW 543)



- 1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.
- 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
- 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for-ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com-fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

POSTLUDE:

GERTRUDE (TRUDY) ELIZABETH EICHELSDOERFER

April 1, 1921 - August 15, 2025

Gertrude was born April 1, 1921, in Schwenksville, PA to Pharus Jacob Schock and Alice Neidig Schock. Born one month after the inauguration of President Warren Harding as the world recovered from World War I and the Spanish influenza, she would live an extraordinary life that spanned 18 Presidents and over forty percent of American history.

Born into a Pennsylvania-Dutch family, Trudy was a precocious child. As radio entertained children across the nation, she preferred the vast world of literature. She treasured her close friends, including some she remained friends with for over nine decades. Her academic gifts served her well in school, as she graduated from high school at the age of 17. She enrolled at local Kutztown State Teachers College. Overcoming the tragic death of her mother at 18, she completed her first degree in 1942.

Trudy spent the years of World War II and immediately afterward working in her home state of Pennsylvania and spending time in New Jersey. She was witnessing a region and country undergoing a significant cultural shift. She saw Frank Sinatra perform in a local venue at the time, where she described his performances as “needing a little work.” (She later noted that he sounded “much better” as his career took off). Dreaming of a new profession, she applied to the Master’s in Library Science Program at Columbia University in New York City. She was accepted as one of the first women in the program, and thanks to a loan she secured from her grandfather, she moved to New York to attend Columbia.

Trudy enjoyed her time in post-World War II New York. She appreciated the convenience of city life and noted the deep connections in the university. Her time at Columbia overlapped with the time that future President Dwight Eisenhower was the president of the university. She met him on more than one occasion and described him as a “kind and humble man.” Despite these connections and the appeal of the “big city,” she yearned for a different lifestyle and more natural beauty in her daily life.

Having never been to the West Coast and now equipped with a degree from Columbia, Trudy applied for a job with the Sno-Isle Regional Library System in Everett, Washington. Floored by her resume, they immediately offered her the job by letter, and she accepted. With one trunk of belongings and having

never driven a car in her life, she boarded the train across the country and arrived in Everett in 1951.

Gertrude embraced her new life. She worked on the library system's Bookmobile, making stops throughout Snohomish County. Drawn by the natural beauty of the area, she joined the Mountaineers; hiking and climbing while also serving as the Everett Chapter Editor for years. She remained engaged in her professional life, volunteering and advocating for the American Library Association. Thanks to her work on the Bookmobile, she met her husband, Ted. One of the stops on the Bookmobile was outside his business, Jack's Radio, and TV, in Bothell. Ted affectionately referred to her as Trudy, a nickname that she admitted "just stuck with everyone." Ted and Trudy were immediately smitten, marrying each other in 1956 within 1 year of meeting. They built their forever home in Bothell and welcomed their son, Robert, in 1960.



Trudy treasured motherhood and her life in Bothell. She provided a caring and safe home for others over the years including her stepson Bruce as he attended college, Ted's mother Florence, and two German exchange students. She continued her other passions as well, including continuing years of service in the Washington Chapter of the League of Women Voters and the Mountaineers. She also found home in her church, where she enjoyed worshipping and teaching church history to the youths of the congregation.

After thirty years of service to Snohomish County, Trudy retired and began the next phase of her life. She embraced her love of travel, crisscrossing the United States, North America, and the globe with her husband Ted. She poured more time into her church: establishing a church library, running supper clubs, and going with travel groups. She also cherished her grandchildren, caring for them and being an ever-steady presence in their lives.

After the passing of her husband Ted in 2005, Trudy's love of life and dedication to service continued. She spent time with her church family, continuing to run the library and serving on the church council. She welcomed



her first great-grandchild in 2006, then two more by 2011. She continued to travel and hike in the mountains into her nineties. She meticulously tended to her park-like yard and took pride in her home and family.

In 2020 as the world shrank during the COVID-19 pandemic, Trudy recalled how even though she had witnessed the Depression, World War II, and polio epidemics, she had faith that things would get better. She welcomed another great-grandchild and celebrated her 100th birthday. Sure enough, just as Trudy predicted, the world slowly returned to normal.

In her last years, she found joy in the “simpler” things in life. Spending time with her loved ones, including three more great-grandchildren. Enjoying pictures of family. Reading an enjoyable book. As was true throughout her life, Trudy’s presence was felt

everywhere she went. Her joy, brilliance, and kindness emanated from her as she shared her love of reading, travel, and nature with friends and family. Her love, wisdom, and compassion will continue to be treasured by all those who knew her.

Trudy was preceded in death by her husband Ted; her stepson Bruce and his wife Karen; her brother Charles and his wife Jane. She is survived by her son Robert and his wife Petra of Bothell; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and close friends.



Assisting with Today's Service:

Presiding Pastor:

Rev. Tor K. Berg

Organ / Piano:

Lucy Kay Osborne

Funeral Coordinator:

Donna Hillard

Sound Tech:

Linda Chapman

Camera Tech:

David Osborne

Usher:

Tom Larsen

Reception Coordinator:

Roger Steinke

Memorials can be made in her honor to the First Lutheran Church Endowment Fund, to the League of Women Voters (LWVWA, 1511 3rd Ave, Suite 900, Seattle, WA 98101), and to Books Unbanned (Seattle Public Library, P.O. Box 3951, Seattle, WA 98124).



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America