

The Celebration of the  
Life and Resurrection of  
Connie Paulson (Agnus Constance Rholl)  
June 22, 2024



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.

### Assisting with Today's Service:

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Presiding Pastor:      | Rev. Tor K. Berg |
| Organ / Piano:         | Lucy Kay Osborne |
| Soloist:               | Craig Jensen     |
| Funeral Coordinator:   | Donna Hillard    |
| Sound Tech:            | David Osborne    |
| Camera Tech:           | Linda Chapman    |
| Usher:                 | Tom Larsen       |
| Reception Coordinator: | Susan Berg       |

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**GATHERING**

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

**PRELUDE: *Abide With Me*, R. Hobby**

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

**GATHERING HYMN: *Abide with Me* (ELW 629)**



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?



help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.  
O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.

## **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.**

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

In her baptism, Connie 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 Connie.  
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 remember Connie, to tell her  
story. Storytelling is how we take on what is important to us of the  
people we love.*

*Tom Paulson, Solveig Miller, Steven Gabrielson and others*

**ANTHEM: Super Market Flowers (Ed Sheeran)**

**Vocalist: Craig Jensen**

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:6-9**

<sup>6</sup>On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

<sup>7</sup>And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

<sup>8</sup>he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup>It will be said on that day,  
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.  
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

**PSALM 23: (We read together)**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters; <sup>3</sup>he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil; for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff –  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup>Surely 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.

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 13:4-11**

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup>It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup>but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>For now we see in a mirror, dimly, 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. <sup>13</sup>And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

## **GOSPEL READING: John 6:37-40**

<sup>37</sup>Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; <sup>38</sup>for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup>And 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. <sup>40</sup>This 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."

## **SERMON**

## HYMN OF THE DAY: *Morning Has Broken* (ELW 556)



1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;  
2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en,  
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing,



black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.  
like the first dew - fall on the first grass.  
born of the one light E - den saw play!



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!  
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,  
Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry morn - ing,



Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.  
God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

## 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.

## **COMMENDATION**

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

*Silence is kept.*

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Connie. 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.**

## **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us out in peace.*

## **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: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (ELW 504)



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.

## POSTLUDE: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*, W. Held

Memorial donations may be made in Connie's name to the First Lutheran Church Endowment Fund.

**CONNIE PAULSON (AGNES CONSTANCE RHOLL)  
1926-2024**



Agnes Constance Rholl, aka Connie Paulson and in her second marriage Connie Wagoner, passed away quietly and comfortably March 18, 2024, at home with family in Stanwood, Washington at age 97. Much loved with a smile for everyone she met, Connie was born September 18, 1926, in Sioux City, Iowa, where her father Arthur Rholl served as Lutheran pastor to that community. Her mother Oline (Korsmo) had five children. Connie was fourth, preceded by sister Borghild, twins Arnold and Arthur and followed by brother Gordon.

The young Rholl family moved around a lot to accommodate the church's shifting tasks for Connie's father. Rev. Rholl served as pastor in various communities throughout the Midwest and also as president of a struggling junior college and seminary. When World War II came, Rev. Rholl enlisted as a chaplain in the army, Art Jr. and Arnie went into the navy, Borg went into the nurse cadet corps while Connie and Gordie continued their studies in high school and college. Connie was always very active in sports, especially basketball, until a physical exam in 1948 indicated she had tuberculosis. Based on that exam, Connie was sent to a TB sanatorium in North Dakota where she remained for 18 months. There was no effective treatment for TB at the time; bedrest and isolation was the rule. Asked about this experience recently, because of the Covid pandemic, she characteristically replied, "Oh, we had a lot of fun!" Connie always claimed to be having fun.



After being released from isolation, Connie returned to college at Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis and then Augsburg College. On a trip to Grand Forks, Connie ran into Paul S. Paulson, whom she had briefly dated at Augsburg. Paulson was teaching in Climax, Minnesota (yes, there are lots of jokes about the town's name). Connie got a job at the Minneapolis Star Tribune to be closer to Paul and resume their courtship. Then, a follow-up chest X-ray showed some changes and Connie was sent back to the sanitarium. Paul was in medical school in Grand Forks at the time. After more than a year in the 'san,' Connie was cleared and released. Paul and Connie married in 1954, honeymooning (with Paul's mother in tow) in the luxurious resort town of Fargo, ND.



Paul continued his medical school studies at the University of Minnesota while Connie worked for the dean of the business school. In April 1957, Paul and Connie had their first child, Thomas, which forced them out of the apartment due to a prohibition on children there. Connie's brother Arnie and his wife Lois let the young family come live with them for the last few months of Paul's medical internship.

They then moved to Spokane, where Paul's brother Eric lived and also practiced medicine. Paul was drafted into the army as a physician and first sent to San Antonio, Texas, later ending up at Fort Lewis in Tacoma, WA. Their second child, Kenneth, was born in January 1959. Paul ended his military service and started his residency in Seattle at Virginia Mason Hospital. Their third child, Kristine, was born there June 1961. Life was fun.

In 1964, the Paulson family moved to Bothell where Connie made plenty of friends and pursued (with no mercy to others) her great love of tennis. She played into her 80s. The Paulson family home was, because of Connie's open arms, a respite and recreation haven for many in Bothell. The kids' friends would come over to swim, bum food or just hang out. Life was good, but not without its difficulties. In 1987, Kristine was killed in a car accident. Paul and Connie divorced soon thereafter. In 1988, Connie married Lee Wagoner, someone she had met casually a few years earlier. They honeymooned on a trek in Nepal and later enjoyed a full life of travel and recreation. The Wagoner clan appeared to embrace Connie as a family member.

After many years of a wonderful marriage, Lee developed dementia. Connie and Lee eventually had to separate since she could not care for him on her own and the Wagoner family sought their own path for his care. Connie enjoyed life at an independent living facility in Woodinville until her son Tom mis-kicked a soccer ball, knocked her down and broke her femur. This accident led to her moving to a full-care facility in Seattle. At the Hearthstone, she reconnected with friends from Bothell, Tosh and Fumi Yasutake along with Bob and Annette McGuire. Connie met a number of wonderful new friends at Hearthstone.

When the Covid pandemic hit, Tom and Ken pulled Connie out of Hearthstone due to the isolation planned to reduce disease spread. They all went to the family cabin in Idaho and enjoyed their time alone together. Connie decided she liked living with her sons and so we didn't bring her back to Hearthstone. Instead, Tom sold his place in Seattle and moved to a more appropriate home in Stanwood rented out by close family friends Molly and Evan Holzknacht. This led to regular weekly dinners with the Holzknachts, including brother Chris and his wife Karen, in which we would tell stories (often the same ones over and over) about our childhood. Connie became more fragile over the years, very hard-of-hearing and almost blind from macular degeneration. But she remained sharp and never lost her sense of humor. With the help of Providence Hospice, Connie shuffled off the mortal coil quietly and peacefully, surrounded by those who will love her always. She is survived by her two sons, by Tom's two step-children Benjamin and Carly, and her great-grand girls Damon and Reece.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Connie can be made to Bothell First Lutheran at 10207 NE 183rd Street, Bothell, WA 98011

