

**The Celebration of the Life
and Resurrection of
Robert Lee Ahlstedt, Jr.
October 23, 2021**



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.

Memorials may be made in Robert's name to:
First Lutheran Church Endowment Fund or The American Heart Association

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GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

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 Brother Rob, to give thanks for his life, to commend him 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.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ. In his baptism, Rob 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.

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, 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 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 Brother Rob. 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.

TIME OF REMEMBRANCE: *We take time to tell Rob's story as we know it. Storytelling is one of the most important things we do, it helps us share what is important to us.*

Courtney Ahlstedt (Sister-in-law), Dave Morgan (friend), Mark Ahlstedt (Brother)

ANTHEM:

WORD

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

1 CORINTHIANS 9:22-27

What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings. Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.

Word of God,
Word of life.

ROMANS 8:31-39

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Word of God,
Word of life.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *On Eagle's Wings* (ELW 787)



1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a-bide in this shad-ow for life,



say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"



And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,



make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.



2 The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and fam-ine will bring you no



fear; un-der God's wings your ref-uge, with faith-ful-ness your shield.



3 You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by



day; though thou-sands fall a - bout you, near you it shall not come.



4 For to the an-gels God's giv-en a com-mand to



guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will



bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

Final refrain

All



And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,



make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.



And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

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 Rob to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Silence for reflection.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Rob.

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.

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: *Amazing Grace* (ELW 779)



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

POSTLUDE

Assisting with Today's Service:

Presiding Pastor:

Organ / Piano:

Altar Guild:

Usher:

Sound Tech:

Rev. Tor K. Berg

Lucy Kay Osborne

Donna Hillard

Dan Bormann

Ann Bormann

Robert Lee Ahlstedt, Jr, February 16, 1964–August 13, 2021

Robert L. Ahlstedt, Jr. age 57, passed away Friday, August 13, 2021, at his recently purchased home in Kerrville, Texas. Rob was born in Kansas City, Kansas. Loved and forever missed by former wife, Shelley, daughter Kylee; father and mother, Robert L. Ahlstedt, Sr. and Bonnie M. Ahlstedt; brother Mark (wife Courtney), niece, Jordan and nephew, Cole; Aunt Betty (husband William) Herron; cousins, William Herron, Gregory (wife Kristin) Herron; Lauren and Chad Herron; along with dozens of friends and co-workers.

Rob was a star with friends and coaches. As his family moved across the country for his dad's employer, the moves and family vacations became a history lesson. His family moved to the Bothell area where he attended Kenmore Jr. High and Inglemoor High School, starring in basketball, baseball, and football as a gifted 6'5" athlete. He continued in football as a tight end at Spokane Community College where he caught the winning touchdown pass in the championship game his freshman year in front of friends & family. Wanting to get his bachelor's degree, Rob decided to devote his attention to his studies at WSU and work to earn money for expenses. Rob was a dedicated employee even before his professional career in outside sales, including local restaurants in Bothell and Kenmore. Working at a French restaurant in Bothell, the chef helped him discover his love to cook along with a taste for fine foods.

Rob and Shelley married in 1997. In 1999, their beautiful daughter Kylee was born. Rob's unconditional love and support for Kylee was evident to all who knew him. He cheered her athletic and academic ventures and they bonded over shared music interests, traveling adventures in the Pacific Northwest, and trading stories while picking wildflowers on walks. His last days included seeing her graduate from the University of Texas at Austin. He was hoping to be a grandfather someday like his grandpa Southerland.

After 23 years with Milgard Windows in WA, AZ, and TX, a former client, Guido Construction Co, hired Rob to expand his construction sales career and set up a showroom for them in Fredericksburg, TX.

After the memorial service at First Lutheran Church, a Celebration of Life will continue at McMenamin's Anderson School, 18607 Bothell Way, Bothell, WA 98011 (425) 398-0122.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to the American Heart Association can be made in Rob's memory.

Arrangements were made under the direction and personal care of the Kerrville Funeral Home, (830) 695-5111, Kerrville, TX. You may also plant a tree in memory of Rob through their website @ kerrvillefuneralhome.com/obituary/Robert-Ahlstedt, Jr.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.