



**The Celebration of the  
Life and Resurrection of  
Susan Elizabeth (McCollough) Cook  
February 28, 2026**

**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:**

<b>Presiding Pastor:</b>	<b>Rev. Tor K. Berg</b>
<b>FLC Intern</b>	<b>Pastor Liz Colver</b>
<b>Organ / Piano:</b>	<b>Lucy Kay Osborne</b>
<b>Funeral Coordinator:</b>	<b>Donna Hillard</b>
<b>Sound Tech:</b>	<b>Ann Bormann</b>
<b>Usher:</b>	<b>Dan Bormann</b>
<b>Reception Coordinator:</b>	<b>Susan Berg</b>

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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 Susan, to give thanks for her, 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 SONG: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* (ELW 858)



- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
- 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!  
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.  
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.  
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,  
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been  
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do  
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
if with his love he be - friend you.  
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ. In her baptism, Susan 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.

Almighty God, source of all mercy and giver of comfort, graciously tend those who mourn, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## TIME OF REMEMBRANCE: *We take time to honor and hear Susan's story.*

Husband Ross Cook, Son-in-law Jeff Rafuse, a poem by grandson Beck Rafuse, a letter for Susan by friend Patti Lane, nephew Morgan McCullough and sister-in-law Jane McCollough.

## WORD

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

## EPISTLE READING: Philippians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## **PSALM: Psalm 23**

<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.

## **GOSPEL READING: John 11:21-27**

<sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him."

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

## **SERMON**

## HYMN OF THE DAY: *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus* (ELW 802)



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,  
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - ti - ence bear our cross.  
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.  
Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.  
he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,  
Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:  
Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.  
all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.  
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.  
Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.  
Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.

## 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 Susan to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

*Silence for reflection.*

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Susan. 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 SONG: *God Be with You Till We Meet Again* (ELW 536)



- 1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
- 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
- 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con-found you,



with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;  
dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
put un-fail - ing arms a - round you;

### *Refrain*



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828–1904

Music: GOD BE WITH YOU, William G. Tomer, 1833–1896

## POSTLUDE

Memorial donations may be made in Susan's name to the First Lutheran Church Endowment Fund, The American Brain Tumor Association (website) or the Evergreen Health Foundation Cancer Care Fund (website).

## **Susan Elizabeth (McCullough) Cook**

### **February 16, 1951 – December 12, 2025**

Susan Elizabeth Cook, 74, passed away peacefully at her family home in Bothell, Washington, on Friday, December 12th, 2025, after facing glioblastoma with extraordinary courage and grace. From the moment of her diagnosis, Susan chose to fight quietly, fiercely, and with resilience that surprised no one who knew her. She outlasted the odds, giving her family treasured extra months of memories, laughter, and love.

Born on February 16, 1951, in Ogden, Utah, Susan was the eldest of five children of Tacoma natives Walter and Beverly McCullough. As the big sister, she naturally took on the roles of helper, protector, and leader - roles she carried into every stage of her life. She graduated from Sammamish High School in Bellevue in 1969, and even before completing school, she began working at Frederick & Nelson, beginning a lifetime pattern of dedication, responsibility, and hard work.

Susan met Everett native Ross Cook in March 1971, and the two were married that December, beginning more than fifty years of unwavering partnership. Surrounded by extended family, children and grandchildren, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary over Thanksgiving in 2021 at Seabrook, Washington - an occasion filled with joy, gratitude, and deep love.

Susan had an adventurous spirit and embraced life's experiences with enthusiasm. She loved traveling, especially to Europe and the California wine country. She reveled in checking items off her bucket list: soaring in a hot-air balloon, fly-fishing in Idaho, skeet shooting with her son and son-in-law, and participating in a glass-blowing class with family to celebrate her 74th birthday in February 2025. For Susan, joy was found not just in the adventure itself, but in sharing it with those she loved most.



Family, volunteering, and friendship were the centerpieces of Susan's life, and she excelled in all three beyond measure. She poured her heart into her children's activities, serving in Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and the Moorlands Elementary PTA, where she was honored with the prestigious Golden Acorn Award for outstanding

volunteer service. Her years working in the food service department of the Northshore School District brought her lasting friendships. Susan had a rare ability to connect with others deeply and sincerely, and those friendships remained some of the great joys of her life. She was also a proud and active member of the First Lutheran Church of Bothell, where her kindness and generosity made an impact on everyone she met.

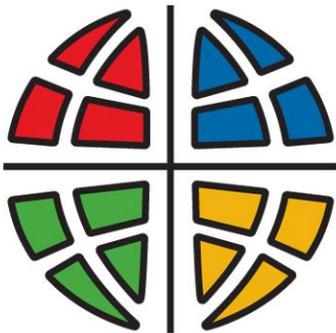
Susan is survived by her loving husband, Ross Cook; her children Scott Cook (Vikki) of Lake Stevens and Sarah Rafuse (Jeff) of Redmond; her sisters Debi Medley (Warren) of Mill Creek and Nancy McCullough-McCoy (Michael) of Marana, Arizona; and her grandchildren, Carter Cook, Katie Cook, and Beck Rafuse, who were the light of her life. She is also survived by her sister-in-law Jane McCullough Muxen of West Seattle; her brother-in-law Scott Hamilton of Gold Bar; and her nieces and nephews Marc Medley, Bri Medley, Elise Hamilton, Keely Hamilton, Morgan McCullough, and Riely McCullough.



She was preceded in death by her parents; her brother Michael McCullough; and her sister Marion McCullough Hamilton.

Susan has been cremated, and her ashes will be scattered in a place that held deep meaning to her and her family. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to American Brain Tumor Association or the Evergreen Health Foundation Cancer Care Fund, in honor of Susan's generous heart and lifelong commitment to helping others.

Susan will be deeply missed by her family, by her friends, and by all who were fortunate enough to know her. Her strength, her warmth, and her unwavering love leave a legacy that will endure in the lives of those she touched.



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America