

**A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
FOR THE LIFE OF**

Birthe Sams Moe
December 7, 1933 ~ September 10, 2026



A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF

Birthe Sams Moe
December 7, 1933 ~ September 10, 2026

GATHERING

PRELUDE

NWI NURSING HONOR GUARD

INTRODUCTION

The assembly stands and faces the entrance of the church.

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

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

As a sign of being clothed with Christ in baptism, a pall is placed on the coffin.

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new 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.

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.

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.

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 worship you.

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

Amen.

HYMN ELW #838 *Beautiful Savior*

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister, Birthe. 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.

The assembly is seated.

FAMILY SONG *Children of the Heavenly Father*

FAMILY REMEMBRANCE

WORD

READINGS:

After the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

FIRST READING: 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

Psalm 23

Read in unison

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
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.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
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: Hebrews 12: 1-2

HOLY GOSPEL: John 14: 1-6

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean

My Bonnie lies over the ocean,
my Bonnie lies over the sea,
My Bonnie lies over the ocean,
O bring back my Bonnie to me.

Chorus:

Bring back, bring back, O bring back my Bonnie to me, to me:
Bring back, bring back, O bring back my Bonnie to me.

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN***Jesus Lover of My Soul***

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

Jesus, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high;
hide me, O my Savior, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none;
hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah! leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed,
all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenseless head
with the shadow of thy wing.

Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound;
make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art;
freely let me take of thee;
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.

Psalter Hymnal, 1987

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.

**Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a handshake as a sign of Christ's peace and may say **Peace be with you** or similar words. When all have returned to their places, the assembly is seated as the altar is prepared. The assembly stands when invited by the presiding minister.*

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

TABLE PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER (sung by Eric Moe)

The assembly is seated.

COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW #272 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ELW #271 *I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve*
(FIRST VERSE SUNG IN NORWEGIAN)

ELW #301 *Bright and Glorious Is The Sky*

DISTRIBUTION

Holy Communion is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

DISTRIBUTION: When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. **WINE** is received either by Common Cup or from individual glasses in trays. For those requiring it for health reasons, **GRAPE JUICE** is dark and in the center of each tray. **USED GLASSES** are to be placed in the basket located near the ramp. **GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE**, please indicate to the server that you require this option.

When all have returned to their places, the assembly stands.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

COMMENDATION

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

Silence is kept.

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

The assembly stands.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Let us go in peace,
In the Name of Christ. Amen.

SENDING HYMN: ELW #785 *When Peace like a River*

A procession may form and leave the church, the ministers leading.

We continue to Angel Crest Cemetery for the committal.

After the committal, all are invited to the church hall for a meal.

Birthe Sams Moe

Birthe was born December 7, 1933, in Fredericia, Denmark to Tage and Rigmor (Skivesen) Sams. Birthe emigrated to the U.S. at age 15 and graduated from Bay Ridge High School in Brooklyn before earning her R.N. at Norwegian Lutheran Hospital in Brooklyn. Birthe made her career as an obstetrics nurse for 38 years, most of which were at Iroquois Memorial Hospital in Watseka, IL and Porter Memorial Hospital in Valparaiso.

She was an avid reader enjoying mystery novels and had even authored a book, "My Two Flags". Cooking traditional Danish holiday dishes, exhibiting her knitting expertise, telling stories, and writing songs for her family brought her a special joy. Her strong faith was practiced daily with devotions and at Christ Lutheran Church. She became a collector of clocks primarily due to her grandfather's vocation as a clock smith in Denmark, and she never passed up a chance to travel back to Denmark or brag about its attributes to friends and family.

On July 10, 1954, she married Rev. Jerry E. Moe at Salem Danish Lutheran Church in Brooklyn. He preceded her in death in 2015, having been married for 61 years. Survivors include their children: Ingrid (David) Miller of Anchorage, AK, Astrid (Rock) Richwine of Van Buren, IN, Kirsten (Oliver) Bouthier of Columbus, IN & Eric (Christy) Moe of Winnebago, IL, grandchildren: Sonja (Mike), Paul (Emily), Kara, Ben (Joanna), Philip (Michelle), Molly (Eric), Bente and Nina; great-grandchildren: Madison, Jack, Aidan, Claire, Logan, Callen, Owen, Casey, Colton and Beckett, and dear friends, Maria & Nick Kouknas & family. She was also preceded in death by her parents, and one sister, Vilma Jorgensen.

Memorial donations may be made to Christ Lutheran Church.

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
VALPARAISO, INDIANA
PASTOR TIMOTHY KNAUFF, JR.
PASTOR ERICA GIBSON-EVEN**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

2:00 P.M.