

Funeral Service of
Ethelyn “Pete” Moeller

1928-2025



Saturday, March 7, 2026
2:00 p.m.

*St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Fairmont, Minnesota*

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Stand

ENTRANCE HYMN: “Drawn to the Cross”

LSB 560

INVOCATION & REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P In Holy Baptism Ethelyn was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all her sin. St. Paul says, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?"

C **We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of 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.** *Romans 6:3-5*

KYRIE, SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

C Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. O God of grace and mercy, we give thanks for Your loving-kindness shown to “Pete” and to all Your servants who, having finished their course in faith, now rest from their labors. Grant that we also may be faithful unto death and receive the crown of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (ESV)

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: Philippians 3:8-16 (ESV)

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

VERSE (Lent) 2 Timothy 2:11b-12a

P If we have died with Christ, we shall also live with Him;

C if we are faithful to the end, we shall reign with Him.

HOLY GOSPEL: St. Matthew 11:25-30 (ESV)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES’ CREED

P God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Sit

SOLO: “The Lord’s My Shepherd”

SERMON: “To Live Is Christ, to Die Is Gain” (Philippians 1:20-26)

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray to the Lord, our God and Father, who raised Jesus from the dead.

P Almighty God, You have knit Your chosen people together into one communion in the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Give to Your whole Church in heaven and on earth Your light and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life and so pass with Him through the gate of death and the grave to our joyful resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant that all who have been nourished by the holy body and blood of Your Son may be raised to immortality and incorruption to be seated with Him at Your heavenly banquet. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Give to the family of "Pete" and to all who mourn comfort in their grief and a sure confidence in Your loving care that, casting all their sorrow on You, they may know the consolation of Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Give courage and faith to the bereaved, that within the communion of Your Church they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the assurance of a holy and certain hope and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love who have departed in the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and find comfort in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Receive our thanks for "Pete" and for all the blessings You bestowed on her in this earthly life. Bring us at last to our heavenly home that with her we may see You face to face in the joys of paradise. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O God of all grace, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give You thanks that by His death He destroyed the power of death and by His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Strengthen us in the confidence 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, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
- C** **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

NUNC DIMITTIS

- P** "I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord. "He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."
- C** **Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;
Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which You have prepared in the sight of every people:
a light to reveal You to the nations
and the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P** "I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord. "He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."

CONCLUDING COLLECT

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray. Lord God, our shepherd, You gather the lambs of Your flock into the arms of Your mercy and bring them home. Comfort us with the certain hope of the resurrection to everlasting life and a joyful reunion with those we love who have died in the faith; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**
- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

- P** Let us go forth in peace,
C in the name of the Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “My Course is Run” TLH 599

- 1 My course is run. Praise God, my course is run. My Jesus welcomes me.
Farewell, my friends, my work on earth is done. The heav'nly goal I
see. My dear Redeemer's praises voicing, I leave this world rejoicing.
My course is run. My course is run.
- 2 My course is run. My Jesus took for me Upon Himself my guilt
Upon the cross, the bitter, shameful tree, For me His blood He spilt,
Thus by His death and grace abounding For me a refuge surely found-
ing, My course is run. My course is run.
- 3 My course is run. Now I am free from need, From dangers, fear, and
dread. With heaven's bread the Lord will now me feed, High honors on
the shed. Now I will hear the angels singing, Sweek songs of seraphim
are ringing. My course is run. My course is run.
- 4 My course is run. Praise God, my course is run, My Jesus welcomes me.
Farewell, my friends, my work on earth is done. The heav'nly goal I
see. Freed from all trouble and repining, I see the open heaven shining.
My course is run. My course is run.



A cake and coffee LUNCH is served after the Service.

We leave at 3:30 PM for COMMITTAL at Fairview Memorial Park.



- Pastor:** Rev. Anthony Bertram
Pianist: Mrs. Elaine Lieder
Organist: Mr. Richard Eyerly
Soloist: Mrs. Paula Kohagen
Honorary Pallbearers (Grandsons): Andrew Moeller; Nathan Moeller;
Peter Moeller; Benjamin Moeller; Joshua Moeller; Luke Watt

Obituary

Ethelyn Moeller passed away peacefully on Dec. 27th, 2025. Pete was born April 5, 1928, in Owatonna, MN. She was baptized and confirmed at Grace Lutheran Church, Dodge Center, MN. Pete attended Concordia College-River Forest to become a grade school educator. She toured Europe on a bike before taking her first teaching position in Chicago. She later found her way to the school at Zion Lutheran, Fraser Township, where she met the love of her life, her farmer, Gordon Moeller. In 1952, she married Gordon Moeller. They farmed for 30 years in Fraser Township, MN, attending Zion Lutheran Church subsequently moving to Fairmont, MN where they attended St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Pete and Gordy were married 51 years, raised 5 children and took in many foster children including twins Mark and Terry whom they cared for over fourteen years. Her family blessed her with many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Pete lived a full life where church, family and education were central to her life. After leaving parochial school teaching, she directed a men's choir and taught piano lessons to many, many students in the Fairmont area. She was known for her frequent garage sales, gardening, and her amazing raspberry jam. Pete was a baker, and her grandchildren remember her fondly for her fondue dinners, her homemade bread and especially her jams.

Pete is survived by her five children: David, Daniel, Duane (Barb), Peter (Jane), and Mary (Dorian); 19 grandchildren, many great-grandchildren (with one on the way); and four sisters-in-law and one brother-in-law.

She was preceded in death by an infant son, her husband Gordy, her parents, and all seven of her siblings.

Memorial services for Ethelyn "Pete" Moeller will be held at 2:00 PM, Saturday, March 7, 2026, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Fairmont, followed by a light lunch. Visitation with the family will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will be held after the lunch at Fairview Memorial Park, Fairmont.

The family thanks the Franciscan Health Center and the Essentia Hospice for their loving care through this end-of-life journey, and requests memorials to be sent to your church or favorite charity.

Her special Bible verse was Philippians 1:21, "For me to live is Christ, to die is gain." Through the Grace of our loving God, Pete now rejoices in Heaven.