

St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School

A member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)

320 Moorpark Way - Mountain View, California 94041-1600

A CHRISTIAN MEMORIAL VICTORY SERVICE

November 27, 2017



In Loving Memory of

Donald William Drews

Born: September 23rd, 1923

Baptized into Christ: October 14th, 1923

Departed to be with Christ: November 22nd, 2017

Officiant: Pastor Luke Bernthal

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Mountain View, CA

✠ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 116 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ✠

THE INVOCATION & OPENING PRAYER

(Pastor)

Hymn: "For All the Saints"

LSB 677 v. 1-3, 5, 7-8

- 1** *For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

- 2** *Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

- 3 *Oh, may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
And win with them the victor's crown of gold! Alleluia! Alleluia!*
- 5 *And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!*
- 7 *But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day:
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of Glory passes on His way. Alleluia! Alleluia!*
- 8 *From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!*

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RESPONSIVE READING

From **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NKJV)**

- P** But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.
- C** **For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.**
- P** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.
- C** **For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.**
- P** Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.
- C** **Therefore comfort one another with these words.**

First Readings: **Colossians 3:16-17** – *These verses were very dear to Don's life. Verse 17 was his confirmation verse.*

Colossians 3:16-17 - **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.**

Second Reading: **Revelation 21:1-4** - *John's vision of the heavenly home of all believers—the New Jerusalem.*

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be their God.* ⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Hymn: ***"Jerusalem the Golden"***

- 1** ***Jerusalem the golden, With milk and honey blest,
Beneath thy contemplation Sink heart and voice opprest.
I know not, oh, I know not, What joys await us there,
What radiancy of glory, What bliss beyond compare.***

- 2** ***They stand, those halls of Zion, All jubilant with song
And bright with many an angel And all the martyr throng.
The Prince is ever in them; The daylight is serene;
The pastures of the blessed Are decked in glorious sheen.***

- 3** ***There is the throne of David; And there, from care released,
The shout of them that triumph, The song of them that feast;
And they who with their Leader Have conquered in the fight
Forever and forever Are clad in robes of white.***

4 ***O sweet and blessed country, The home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessed country That eager hearts expect!
Jesus, in mercy bring us To that dear land of rest,
Who art, with God the Father And Spirit, ever blest.***

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THE SERMON

1 Corinthians 15:51-57 (NIV)

⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-- ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵ "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Theme: Thanks be to God!

Hymn: "The Lord's My Shepherd"

LSB 710

- 1 ***The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me The quiet waters by.***
- 2 ***My soul He doth restore again And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, E'en for His own name's sake.***
- 3 ***Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod And staff me comfort still.***
- 4 ***My table Thou hast furnished In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.***
- 5 ***Goodness and mercy all my life Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore My dwelling place shall be.***

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READING OF THE OBITUARY

**Psalm 127:3 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,
The fruit of the womb is a reward.**

Donald William Drews was born on September 23, 1923 in Buffalo, NY, God's special gift to the Rev. William A. and Louise nee Ilse Drews.

Psalm 127:1 Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

The LORD established His unfailing covenant of grace with Donald through the rite of Holy Baptism on October 14, 1923 performed by his father. Also under the spiritual guidance of his father he was built up, and confirmed in the Christian faith on May 16, 1937 at North Park Lutheran Church in Buffalo, NY. His memory verse was **"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." (Col. 3:17).**

Donald received his elementary education at No. 66 Buffalo Public School and his secondary education at Buffalo Technical High School in building design and construction in Buffalo, NY. He obtained his college education at Valparaiso University for mechanical engineering and at Princeton University in the army specialized training program and for electrical engineering, graduating with a B.S. degree with high honors and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Psalm 128:3 Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the very heart of your house, your children like olive plants all around your table.

The LORD gave Donald the blessing of a Christian wife when he married Ida Mae Paska of Windsor, Ontario, Canada on June 13, 1953 at First Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Windsor. Rev. H.F. Storm performed the marriage service. This union was blessed with four children: Barbara Ellen, Janet Louise, John Martin, and Mary Katherine.

Psalm 23:1-3 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Jesus, who is the Good Shepherd, nourished Donald's soul and sustained him in the Christian faith with the green pasturage of the Gospel of Christ in Word and Sacrament at Bethany Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Buffalo, NY, where he served on the church council, at Calvary Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Murrysville, PA, where he used his spiritual gifts on the church council, as president of the congregation, and choir director, at St. Luke Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Sunnyvale, CA, where he ministered to others on the board of elders and as choir director, and at St. Stephen Lutheran Church (CLC) in Mountain View, CA, where he ministered to fellow Christians as an elder, president of the congregation, and choir director.

Psalm 100:2 Serve the LORD with gladness. Psalm 128:2 When you eat the labor of your hands, You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you.

Motivated by the redeeming love of God in Christ Jesus, Donald served the LORD with gladness, making use of his God-given gifts at Niagara Blower Company in Buffalo as a draftsman, at Westinghouse Electric Corporation as an electrical engineer on a graduate student training program, at the Industrial Control Division in Buffalo, specializing in electrical propulsion control for ships and submarines, in the Marine and Transportation Engineering Group at Pittsburgh, PA, in the Marine Division at Sunnyvale, CA, at Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation in Oakland, CA, as senior staff engineer in the corporate electrical engineering department, and at Westinghouse Electrical Corporation in Sunnyvale, CA, as principal engineer in marine heavy machinery and product development, and then in retirement as part-time consultant.

Matthew 22:21 Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's.

Donald carried out his civic duty to the government while serving in the military. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Enlisted Reserve Corps at Gary, IN, while attending Valparaiso University. He was called to active service at Camp Upton, NY. He took basic training with the Army Air Corps at Amarillo, TX. Donald was sent to Signal Corps radio and radar school at Fort Monmouth, NJ, and then to 3190th Signal Service Company, working on electronics technician operating microwave communications equipment. Overseas assignments did not materialize after the war ended in Japan, and so he was sent to the 17th Signal Service Company, operating worldwide teletype systems in the Pentagon. He was discharged from the army at Fort Dix, NJ, on April 2, 1946. In later years, Donald also performed his civic duty as a member of City of Sunnyvale Board of Building Code Appeals, including one year as chairman.

Revelation 2:10 Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Through the grace and mercies of God in Christ Jesus, Donald remained in the Christian faith unto the very end of his earthly pilgrimage of 94 years and received the crown of life in heaven on November 22, 2017. His death was hastened by a fall, resulting in a broken hip and wrist.

Donald was preceded in death by his parents, sister Doris Wennerstrom, and daughter Janet Drews.

Psalm 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

He leaves behind yet in their time of grace:
His wife Ida of Sunnyvale, CA, sister Marlis Schmidt of Mentor, OH, daughter Barbara (Rev. Mark) Gullerud of Bowdle, SD, son John of Newark, CA, daughter Mary (Ronald) Ryan of Eau Claire, WI.

His grandchildren: Kirsten Gullerud of Sunnyvale, CA, Prof. Joel Gullerud of Eau Claire, WI, Aaron (Shannon) Gullerud of Phoenix, AZ, and Daniel (Angela) Gullerud of Sunnyvale, CA, Danielle (Randy) Wittorp of Bloomfield Hills, MI, and Emily (Brian) Schlegelmilch of Eau Claire, WI. His great grandchildren: Evelyn Schlegelmilch, Ezekiel Wittorp, and Nolan Gullerud.

PRAYER

Song: "The Lord's Prayer"

(Music recording by Aaron Gullerud, grandson of Don Drews)

Benediction *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn: "I'm But a Stranger Here, Heaven is My Home"

LSB 748

- 1** *I'm but a stranger here, Heav'n is my home;
Earth is a desert drear, Heav'n is my home.
Danger and sorrow stand Round me on ev'ry hand;
Heav'n is my fatherland, Heav'n is my home.*

- 2** *What though the tempest rage, Heav'n is my home;
Short is my pilgrimage, Heav'n is my home;
And time's wild wintry blast Soon shall be overpast;
I shall reach home at last, Heav'n is my home.*

- 3** *Therefore I murmur not, Heav'n is my home;
Whate'er my earthly lot, Heav'n is my home;
And I shall surely stand There at my Lord's right hand;
Heav'n is my fatherland, Heav'n is my home.*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

A reception will be held at the Drews' residence following the victory service:

**1161 S. Mary Ave.
Sunnyvale, CA 94087**