

**Memorial Service for
Charles Edward Axthelm
November 30, 1928 — March 18, 2022**



**April 28, 2022 at 11am
Peace Lutheran Church**

Sharing God's love, growing in faith, and creating community...

Be at Peace.



A Celebration of the Life of Charles Edward Axthelm

Serving in worship today:

Presiding Minister: The Reverend Sarah S. Scherschligt, Pastor of Peace Lutheran Church

Musician: Judy Gallagher

Readers: Christopher Axthelm, Karl Axthelm, Brent Axthelm, Seth Axthelm

PRELUDE

played by Judy Gallagher

WELCOME

P 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 in Christ, Charles Edward Axthelm, to give thanks for his life, commend him to our merciful Redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

Please stand as you are able.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P 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.

C We glorify you.

P 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.

C We praise you.

P Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

C We worship you.

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

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft-y moun-tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-



thun-der, thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played;
gran-deur and hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze;
bear-ing he bled and died to take a-way my sin;
ra-tion and there pro-claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989

Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine

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GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother in Christ, Ed. 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.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

EULOGIES

Christopher Axthelm (grandson)

Karl Axthelm (son)

POEM

“When Death Comes” by Mary Oliver

read by Brent Axthelm

READINGS

read by Seth Axthelm

Revelation 21:1-6

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away."

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**²He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;**

³he restores my soul.

**He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.**

**⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;**

**for you are with me;
your rod and your staff —
they comfort me.**

**⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.**

**⁶Surely 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.**

1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

¹If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the tenth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 10: 14-18, 27-28

¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

HOMILY

Pastor Sarah Scherschligt

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your

hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -

side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our

God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621-1681; tr. composite
 Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark
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Please stand as you are able.

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

P 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. 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 share new life in Christ. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P 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. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P 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. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P 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. Lord in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P 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. 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.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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**

PRAYER

P Let us pray.

Merciful God, you heal the broken in heart and bind up the wounds of the afflicted. Strengthen us in our weakness, calm our troubled spirits, and dispel our doubts and fears. In Christ's raising from the dead, you conquered death and opened the gates to everlasting life. Renew our trust in you that by the power of your love we shall one day be brought together again with Ed. Grant this we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

COMMENDATION

P Let us commend Ed to the mercy of God, our Maker and Redeemer.

Silence is kept.

P Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Ed. 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.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in

rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we
 calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we
 give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

Text: William Whiting, 1825–1878, alt.
 Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

SENDING

P Let us go forth in peace,
C in the name of Christ. Amen.

POSTLUDE

played by Judy Gallagher

Please join us after the service for a light lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

The entire Axthelm family thank you for joining them today for this Memorial Service. Your care and kindness in these days have been a reflection of God's love. Thank you.

*Based on the wishes of the family, the guidelines of the CDC, and the church's covid-19 policy, **masks are optional**. The church has masks on hand. If you wish to have one, please see an usher.*



Charles Edward Axthelm

Charles E. Axthelm passed away on March 18, 2022 at the age of 93. He was known to his loved ones as Ed, Dad, or Papa. Ed was a caring husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and friend.

Ed was born to Kathryn and Walter Axthelm in Marion, Ohio. He was a graduate of The Ohio State University (B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, NROTC) where he met his wife of 69 years, the late Peggy Axthelm.

Together, Ed and Peggy raised four children: Karl (Dede, dec.), Alan (Amy), Kathy, and the late Toby. Ed is survived by three children, his brother David (Nancy), seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Ed led a rich life full of adventure. As a teenager, he ran off for a summer and joined the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. He served in the US Navy for 30 years, including tours in the Korean War and exploration missions to Antarctica. He drove a school bus for the Fairfax County Schools for 15 years. Ed and Peggy traveled the world together. Between their travels and his service, Ed visited five continents.

Ed was an active member of Peace Lutheran Church, a member of the National Railway Historical Society, and an avid volunteer with Habitat for Humanity.

Donations in Ed's honor can be made to Peace Lutheran Church or the DC chapter of the NRHS.