

Celebration of Bill R. Siefken, Sr. Entering the Church Triumphant

**Redeemer Lutheran Church
Richland, Washington
February 24, 2023**



Bill R. Siefken, Sr.

10/8/1930 – 2/7/2023

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Richland, Washington

GREETING AND PRAYER

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

We have come together to seek God's comfort in our sorrow and to rejoice in the promise of the resurrection. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who said, "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, You wept at the grave of Your friend Lazarus, and You consoled Mary and Martha in their distress. Draw near to us who mourn for Bill and dry the tears of all who weep. Calm our troubled hearts, dispel our doubts and fears and lead us to praise You for having brought him to faith. In Your rising from the dead, You conquered death and opened the gates to eternal life. Strengthen us with Your Word, and lead us through this earthly life until at last we are united with You and all the saints in glory everlasting. Amen.

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

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

C Amen.

SONG

"HOW GREAT THOU ART" v. 1,4

v.1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed; **REFRAIN**

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How Great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

v.4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!" **REFRAIN**

Text and tune: © 1949, 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust, admin. EMI CMG and Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005425

(As the family of God, let us all recite this Psalm responsively)

PSALM OF DAVID (*Psalms 23*)

P The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

C He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters.

P He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

C Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

P Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

C Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life:
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

RESURRECTION COMFORT

P Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who comforts us in all our trouble, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. The apostle Paul writes to the Romans: "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Jesus gives us this comfort: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

P Death has been swallowed up in victory! Thanks be to God!

C **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

P When Christ, who is our life, appears,

C **Then we also will appear with Him in glory.**

P We will be before the throne of God

C **and serve Him day and night in His temple.**

P Never again will we hunger.

C **Never again will we thirst.**

P For the lamb at the center of the throne will be our shepherd;
He will lead us to springs of living water.

C **And God will wipe away every tear from our eyes.**

P Let us pray.

God of all grace, You sent Your Son Jesus to destroy the power of death and to open the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because He lives, we too shall live. Comfort us with Your promise that neither death nor life nor things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from Your love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

C **Amen.**

✠THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD✠

¹Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. ²Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. ³Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. ⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. ⁵For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. (Psalm 100)

³¹What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:31-39)

⁹If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. ¹¹As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." ¹²For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 10:9-13)

¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴You know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:1-6)

SONG

"AMAZING GRACE" v. 1,2,4,5

- v.1 Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
 That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
 Was blind but now I see!
- v.2 The Lord has promised good to me,
 His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
 As long as life endures.
- v.4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
 And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
 In heaven's joy and peace.
- v.5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
 Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
 Than when we'd first begun.

Text (sts. 1–2, 4): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond; Text: Public domain

MESSAGE

PASTOR TODD SCHROEDER

LET US CONFESS OUR COMMON FAITH IN THE APOSTLES' CREED

P We have been made God's 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.

And on 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.

PRAYERS

P Lord God, heavenly Father, You are always with us, especially when our hearts are heavy with grief. Send us Your Spirit so that even as we grieve we are filled with hope. You have convinced us that Your Son Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that our loved ones who have fallen asleep in Christ are resting in peace with You. Let nothing shake our confidence in Your promise that we will be united with You and them in glory forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P What great mercy You have shown us, Father in heaven! Through Your Son's resurrection, our hope is alive and our inheritance is certain. The bliss and security we will enjoy in Your presence are blessings that will never perish,

spoil, or fade. Shield us with Your power and give us faith to trust in You in every trial until we inherit the glorious riches You are keeping for us in heaven. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious God, we see Your abiding love in the kindness shown to us by family and friends. As we receive comfort and encouragement from others, we are experiencing Your care. Help us bear all our burdens patiently. Be the strength of Your people, now and in difficult days to come.

Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, support us all day long, till the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then, in Your mercy, grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

SONG

"THE OLD RUGGED CROSS" v. 1,3,4

v.1 On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suff'ring and shame;
And I love that old cross, where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain. **REFRAIN**

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down.
I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it someday for a crown.*

v.3 In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me. **REFRAIN**

v.4 To the old rugged cross I will ever be true;
Its shame and reproach gladly bear.
Then He'll call me someday to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share. **REFRAIN**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(All) 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.

BLESSING

P Merciful God, source of our healing, as Your servants Mary and John stood at the foot of the cross; we stand before You with broken hearts and tear-filled eyes. Keep us mindful that You know our pain, and lead us to see Your resurrection power already at work in Bill. In Your time, raise us from our grief even as You have promised to raise Bill to life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

SONG

"WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS"

v.1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
Oh, what needless pain we bear—
All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!

- v.2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
- v.3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee;
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819–86; Text: Public domain

Liturgist – Rev. Laurence Meyer
Proclaimer – Rev. Todd Schroeder
Music – Dan Niebuhr
Ushers – Don Darsow, Mark Rogers, Elmer Petersen

BILL SIEFKEN SR.

October 8, 1930 – February 7, 2023

Bill was born in Chanute, Kansas on October 8th, 1930 to Gerhard & Orpha Siefken. He grew up and attended school in Kansas and Colorado. Bill joined the Air Force in Colorado at the age of 20 and was discharged in Portland, Oregon as a Staff Sergeant in December of 1954. While enlisted, he met Reta Nelson and they were married at the Portland Air Force Base Chapel on April 12, 1952.

After his discharge, they moved to Canon City, Colorado, and Bill completed a 4-year Machinist Apprenticeship at Colorado Fuel & Iron in Pueblo, Colorado. The growing family moved to Richland, Washington in 1961 and Bill started work for G.E. at Hanford, and then worked for FFTF. While employed at Hanford, Bill built 3 of his own homes, with help from Reta and their five boys. Then, in 1975 Bill & Reta founded Siefken & Sons Construction, and the family began developing the Bryn Mawr Apartments in North Richland. The apartments enabled Bill to take early retirement from Hanford in 1982, while growing their construction business. After several years, Bill retired from Siefken & Sons Construction, passing it along to the next generation, and Bill & Reta continued managing their growing rental property business.

Bill was an active member and Trustee at Redeemer Lutheran Church. He was active in Richland Rotary where he led the hands-on projects for many years including the development of Centennial Park and the Sutch Park & Bridge Relocation project. He was instrumental in the Rotary Duck Races, with the course eventually being named after him. He received several awards while in Rotary including the "Service Above Self" in 2001.

Bill received the Small Business of the Year "Award for Excellence" in 1995. He was an active member of the Apartment's Association for many years. He was involved in many volunteer efforts over the years, including moving a building from FFTF to the Howard Amon Park area for the CREHST Museum and the related construction work to finish the project.

In his free time, Bill enjoyed RV traveling with Reta and their friends for many years, fishing with family and friends, and many memorable trips with family to the Oregon

Coast, Hawaii, and Charbonneau Park. Bill kept active through the years, still routinely riding his bike till the age of 92.

Bill had a big heart, he was a loving and caring husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, and friend. He was a leader and entrepreneur, a respected businessman and employer; he touched the lives of so many and made lasting friendships in every area of his life throughout his 92 years.

Bill passed on peacefully, while surrounded by family, on February 7th, 2023. He is survived by his wife of 71 years Reta Mae Siefken, who has been residing in an Alzheimer's Special Care Center for the last five years. Bill is also survived by his sister Jane Yergert, sons Richard (Carole) Siefken, Scott Siefken, Jeff (Jami) Siefken, and Bill Siefken, Jr., grandchildren, Aaron (Felicia) Siefken, Ryan (Marche) Siefken, Shane (Chelsi) Siefken, Brendan (Anissa) Siefken, Abbie (Buck) Hegland, Megan (Darrell) Russell, Jeremy (Lisa) Siefken, Jake Siefken, and 17 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brothers Earl Siefken, Dudley Siefken, and sister Ruth Larsen, sister-in-law Birdy Siefken, son Brian Siefken, daughter-in-law Christine (Roske) Siefken, granddaughter Rowena Christine Siefken, and great-granddaughter Clara Lynn Siefken.

RECEPTION

A reception will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall. Please join the family in sharing stories and memories of Bill.