Jean Helen Pochert

March 4, 1936 – January 6, 2026

Jean Helen Pochert entered the Church Triumphant on January 6, 2026, trusting in the saving work of Jesus Christ and the sure promise of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. She was born on March 4, 1936, in Grosse Pointe, Michigan, to Otto and Helen Pochert.

Jean was baptized into Christ in March 1936, where God claimed her as His own child, and she was confirmed in the Christian faith on April 10, 1949. Throughout her life, Jean lived in the confidence of God's grace alone, received through faith alone, grounded in Christ alone.

She graduated from Grosse Pointe High School on January 28, 1954, and followed her God-given vocation into nursing. Jean attended the nursing program at Deaconess Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, receiving her nursing license on January 3, 1958. Her career reflected a deep understanding of service to neighbor, as she worked faithfully in oncology, public health, rehabilitation, geriatrics, and general nursing. Whether in Detroit or later at Duke Hospital in Durham, North Carolina, Jean cared for others with compassion, humility, and excellence. When asked which area of nursing she loved most, she would answer, "All of them."

After moving to Durham in 1970, Jean continued her education and earned a master's degree from Duke University in 1972. In 1973, Grace Lutheran Church in Durham received her letter of transfer from Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church in Detroit, where Pastor Paul Nelson welcomed her and she remained a devoted member for the rest of her life.

At Grace Lutheran Church, Jean was a faithful servant, serving for many years on Altar Guild, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) and quilting group for Lutheran World Relief, attending Bible study regularly, maintaining the Book Nook, caring for the church grounds, and attending faithfully to even the smallest responsibilities such as making sure the garbage cans were in the proper place for pick up and returning them after pick up, always seeing her service as service rendered to the Lord.

Jean's daily life reflected her devotion to God's Word. Christian radio filled her home, prayer shaped her days, and gratitude marked her interactions. Those who helped her in any way were often touched by her handwritten thank-you notes, sincere expressions of Christian love.

Jean enjoyed spending time with friends, neighbors, and family, and she delighted in learning. After moving to Durham, she took painting classes and studied the German language with Claudia Wolf. She lived for many years on Bivins Street and fondly remembered when the Lakewood Shopping Center featured a carousel. As her health declined, Jean moved to Renaissance Care Home in 2025, where she remained steadfast in faith, nourished by God's promises.

Jean was preceded in death by her parents, Otto and Helen Pochert and her sister, Ruth Tyler. She is survived by her sister Lois Graham and eight nieces and nephews.

Jean's life was one of faithful service, grounded in the Gospel and sustained by God's grace. A Memorial Service will take place at Grace Lutheran Church, Durham, NC on January 17th, 2026 at 1 PM. Memorial contributions may be sent in Jean's memory to the "Saints of Grace Fund" at Grace Lutheran Church, 824 N. Buchanan Blvd., Durham, NC 27701.