



**Reverend Douglas
Dwight Rathgeber**
March 9, 1944 - December 20, 2018

Concerning Christian Funerals

It is good that you have gathered together to join family and friends at the funeral service for Rev. Douglas Rathgeber. The Bible urges Christians to “rejoice those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.” Death is a time of sadness but the Lord also wants you to know that it is a necessity. St. Paul writes, “that which you sow does not come to life unless it dies; and the grain which you sow is unlike the plant which is to be!” Our flesh is mortal and returns to dust, but we look with expectation to the day of the resurrection. “We are sown a perishable body, we are raised an imperishable body.” We join together during this brief service in praise, prayer, and honor to Christ Jesus our Redeemer. “For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive!”



Order of Worship

A Celebration of Life
for
Reverend Douglas Rathgeber

THE INVOCATION

HYMN “I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry”

THE FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN WITNESS

THE PRAYER FOR COMFORT

THE FIRST READING: Psalm 139:1-18

HYMN “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

THE EPISTLE: Ephesians 2:4-10

SOLO “Amazing Grace” *by Hope Msengi*

THE GOSPEL: John 14:1-6

HYMN “For All the Saints”

THE ADDRESS

THE OBITUARY

HYMN “What Child Is This?”

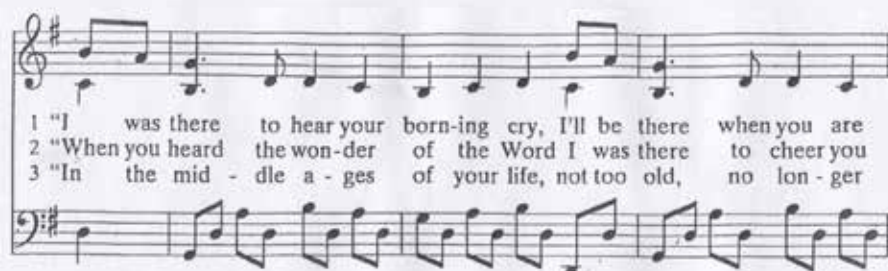
THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD’S PRAYER

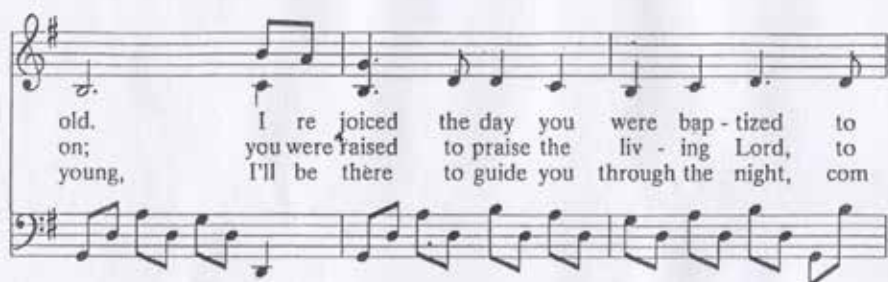
THE BENEDICTION

THE CLOSING HYMN “I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

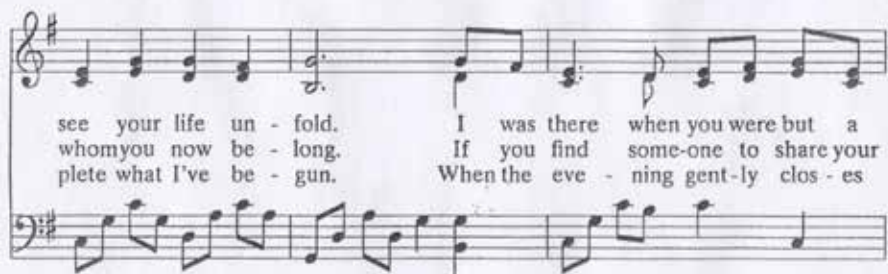
I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry



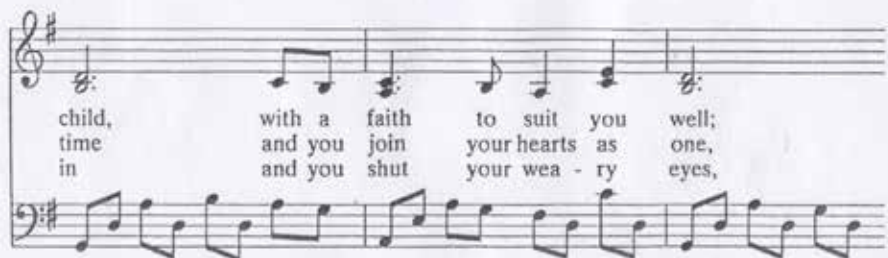
1 "I was there to hear your boring cry, I'll be there when you are
2 "When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you
3 "In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer



old, I rejoiced the day you were baptized to
on; you were raised to praise the living Lord, to
young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, com



see your life unfold. I was there when you were but a
whom you now belong. If you find some-one to share your
plete what I've begun. When the evening gently closes



child, with a faith to suit you well;
time and you join your hearts as one,
in and you shut your weary eyes,

in a blaze of light you wan - dered off to
 I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from
 I'll be there as I have al - ways been with

find where de - mons dwell."
 dusk till ris - ing sun."
 just one more sur - prise."

Verse 4
 4 "I was there to hear your

born - ing cry, I'll be there when you are old. I re -

joiced the day you were bap-tized, to see your life un - fold."

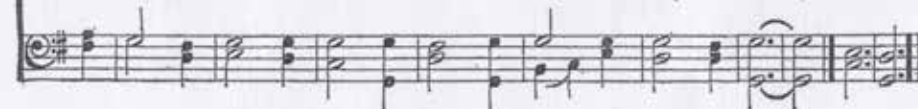
Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed



1 A - las! and did my Sav - ior bleed, And did my Sov-'reign die?
2 Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned up-on the tree?
3 Well might the sun in dark-ness hide And shut his glo - ries in

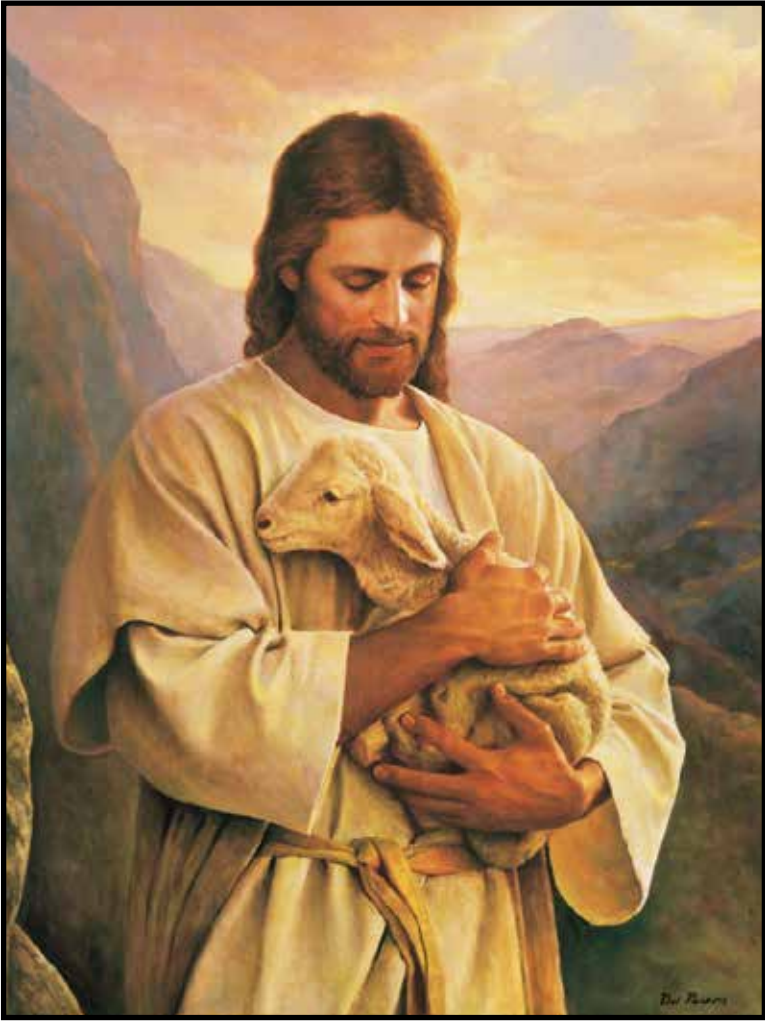


Would He de-vote that sa-cred head For such a worm as I?
A - maz-ing pit - y, grace unknown, And love be-yond de-gree!
When God, the might-y Mak-er, died For man the crea-ture's sin. A-men.



4 Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt mine eyes to tears.

5 But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away,
'Tis all that I can do.



The Good Shepherd

John 10:14-15

I am the good shepherd. As the Father knows me and I know the Father, in the same way I know my sheep and they know me. And I am willing to die for them.

For All the Saints

1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,
2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
3 Oh, may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
7 But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day: The
△ 8 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, Through

Who Thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, Thy
Thou, Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight;
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old And
saints tri - um - phant rise in bright ar - ray; The
gates of pearl streams in the count - less host,

name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
Thou, in the dark - ness dwell, their one true light.
win with them the vic - tor's crown of gold!
King of Glo - ry pass - es on His way.
Sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost:

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

4 Oh, blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine!
5 And when the fight is fierce, the war - fare long,
6 The gold - en eve - ning bright - ens in the west;

We fee - bly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; Yet
Steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, And
Soon, soon to faith - ful war - riors com - eth rest;

all are one in Thee, for all are Thine,
hearts are brave a - gain, and arms are strong.
Sweet is the calm of par - a - dise the blest.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar y's lap is
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
 3 So bring Him in cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to

sleep ing? Whom an gels greet with an them sweet While
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin ners here The
 own Him. The King of kings sal va tion brings; Let

shep - herds watch are keep ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov ing hearts en throne Him. Raise, raise the

Christ the king, Whom shep herds guard and an - gels sing;
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 song on high, The vir gin sings her lul la by;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar-y!
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar-y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar-y!

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -
3 He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to
4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; He lives to

this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious
plead for me a - bove; He lives my hun - gry
guide me with His eye; He lives to com - fort

once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.
in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.
me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.

5 He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.

7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

8 He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!



Reverend Douglas Dwight Rathgeber, 74, died, December 20, 2018, at home, with his loving wife by his side after a three year battle with cancer. He was born on March 9, 1944, in Wichita Falls, Texas, to Carl and Laverne (Kuehn) Rathgeber. He was baptized into faith on May 21, 1944, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wichita Falls and later confirmed his faith on March 30, 1958. He graduated from Concordia Boys' High School in Austin, Texas, in 1962; Concordia Junior College

in Austin, Texas, in 1964; Concordia Senior College in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1966; and Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1970.

During his first year at seminary he married Karen Margaret Liermann on December 29, 1966, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Orange, California. Upon graduation from the seminary, he accepted a pastoral call to serve St. John Lutheran Church in Selma, Alabama. In September 1973, he accepted a pastoral call to serve St. John Lutheran Church in Beaumont. He faithfully served the congregation of St. John (Beaumont) for over forty-three years where people knew him as "Pastor". Throughout his tenure he served as vacancy pastor for the

following Lutheran congregations in the area: Redeemer, Beaumont; Grace, Orange; Trinity, Port Arthur; and Hope, Winnie. He served many years as LCMS Circuit Counselor and as an advisor to the Circuit 34 Lutheran Women Missionary League when they hosted the Texas District LWML Convention in 2006. He has also served on various committees and boards, including the Citizens Advisory Board of the Beaumont Police Department.

He enjoyed golfing, hunting, reading, playing cards and dominoes, and watching football.

He is survived by his wife of almost fifty-two years, Karen Liermann Rathgeber; daughter, Wendy Rathgeber of Tokyo, Japan; son, Paul Rathgeber and his wife, Jackie; grandsons, Jack and Charlie of LaVista, Nebraska; brother, Reverend Benjamin Rathgeber and his wife, Lois, of Cleburne, Texas; sister, Priscilla Rathgeber Holz and her husband, Alan, of Springfield, Virginia; and many nieces, nephews, and godchildren.

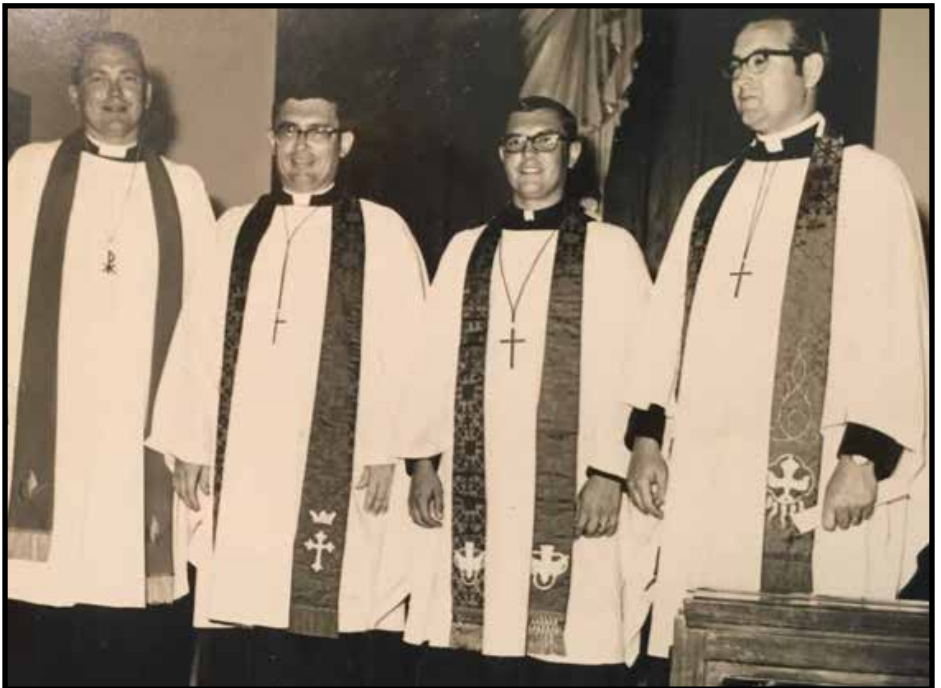
Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14: 6

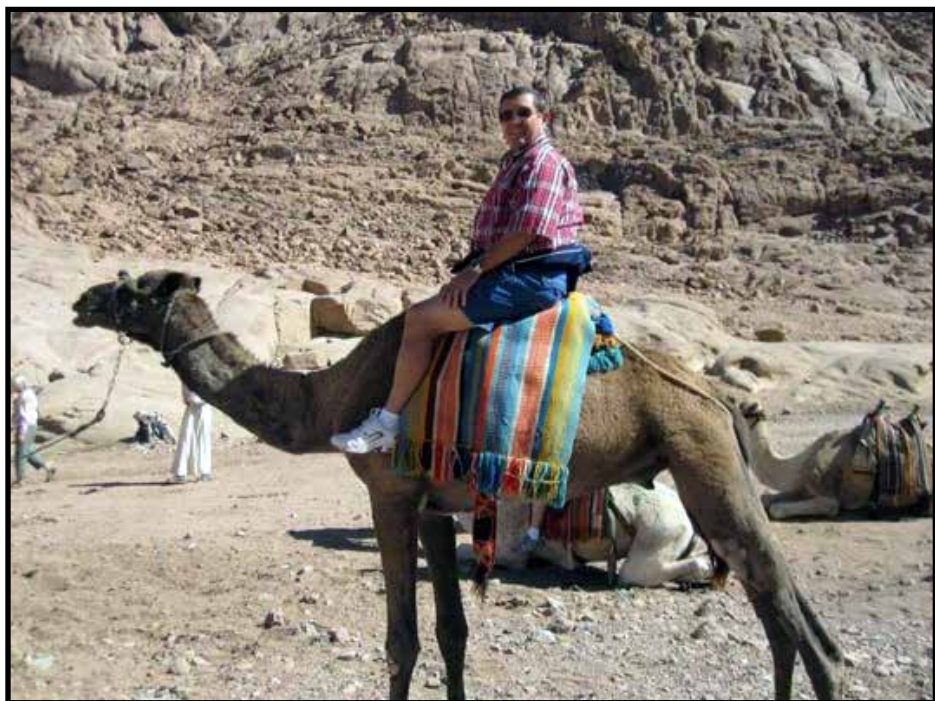
For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9



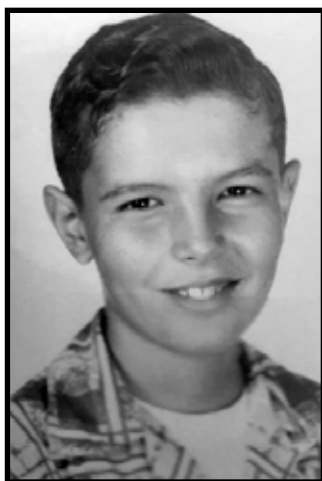


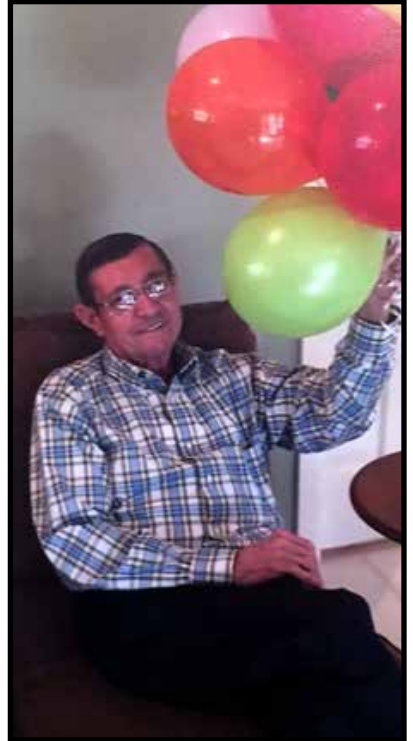
















ly, because we are truly all members of God's family. Learn their first names as well
to a first name basis in order that He might work closely with you every day. We
as well, as we engage in the work which our Lord has given to us, to spread the
a part of His family.

rectory in your home be a reminder that you are a part of this family, that the
d are concerned about you, just as you love them and are concerned about

In His service,
Pastor Rathgeber
Pastor Rathgeber

Reverend Timothy Dinger, Officiant
The Pastors of Circuit 34, Lectors
Beryle Woolbright, Organist
Hope Msengi, Soloist
Elisante Msengi, Accompanist

Pallbearers

Ernie Erickson
Billy Heiner
Fred Heiner
Tim Kaspar
Seth Kieschnick
Bob Milbrath

Honorary Pallbearers

Weldon Kaspar
Roy Kieschnick
Willie Mueller
Mike Root
Howard Olivier

Memorial Contributions

St. John Lutheran Organ Fund
2955 South Major Drive
Beaumont, Texas 77707



Please sign Reverend Rathgeber's guest book and share your memories at
www.broussards1889.com