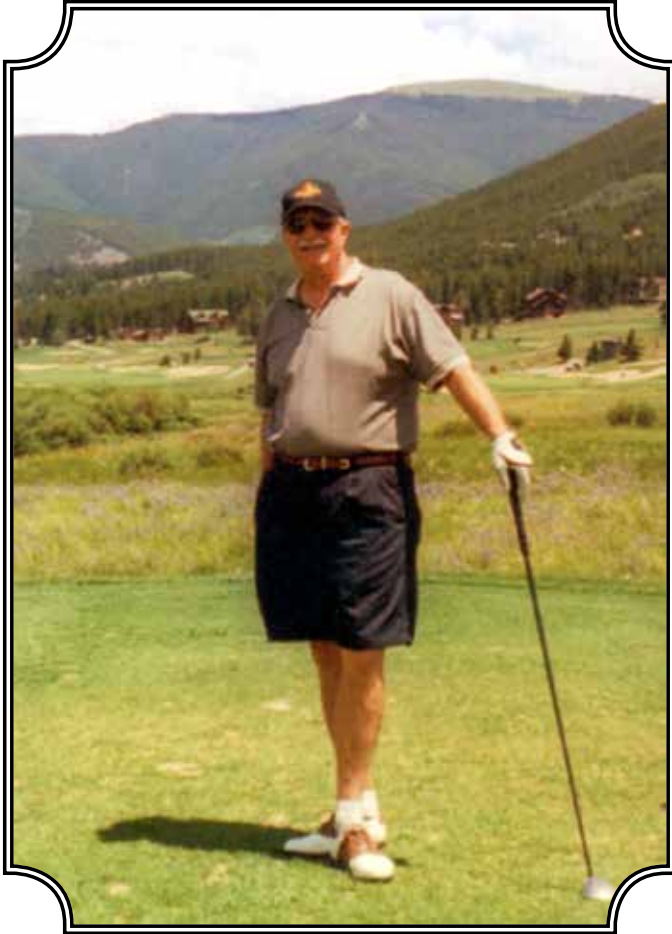


IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF  
ERNEST GERHARDT SCHLUTER, JR.  
OCTOBER 5, 1943 – JUNE 26, 2022



MEMORIAL SERVICE  
JUNE 30, 2022  
10:00 AM  
SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
680 CALDER  
BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77701

## Organ Prelude

### Opening Hymn 625

“Ye holy angels bright”

*Darwall's 148th*

### Solemn Anthems

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.  
Whoever has faith in me shall have life,  
even though he die.  
And everyone who has life,  
and has committed himself to me in faith,  
shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives  
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.  
After my awaking, he will raise me up;  
and in my body I shall see God.  
I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him  
who is my friend and not a stranger.

For none of us has life in himself,  
and none becomes his own master when he dies.  
For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord,  
and if we die, we die in the Lord.  
So, then, whether we live or die,  
we are the Lord's possession.

Happy from now on  
are those who die in the Lord!  
So it is, says the Spirit,  
for they rest from their labors.

*The Celebrant says the following Collect, first saying*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother

Ernest. We thank you for giving him to us, his family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding, deal graciously with those who love Ernest in their grief. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The people may be seated.*

### **A Reading from the Book of Lamentations (3:22-26, 31-33)**

The Honorable Rev. Keith F. Giblin

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ‘The LORD is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I will hope in him.’ The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      *Thanks be to God.*

### **Psalms 139:1-11** *(read responsively by half verse)*

Joshua Capps

Lord, you have searched me out and known me;

**you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

You trace my journeys and my resting-places  
**and are acquainted with all my ways.**

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,  
**but you, O Lord, know it altogether.**

You press upon me behind and before  
**and lay your hand upon me.**

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

**it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

Where can I go then from your Spirit?

**where can I flee from your presence?**

If I climb up to heaven, you are there;

**if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.**

If I take the wings of the morning

**and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**

Even there your hand will lead me

**and your right hand hold me fast.**

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,

**and the light around me turn to night,"**

Darkness is not dark to you;

**the night is as bright as the day;**

**darkness and light to you are both alike.**

### **A Reading from the First Book of John (3:1-2)**

The Rev. Dr. Tommy Williams

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      *Thanks be to God.*

### **Hymn 456**

"O Love of God, how strong and true"

*de Tar*

### **The Gospel** (*Remain standing.*)

The Rev. A Dean Calcote

*Priest says*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to John

*People*      Glory to you, Lord Christ.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going. "Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know

where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." *John 14:1-6*

The Word of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## **The Homily**

The Rev. Dr. James M. Pevehouse

### **The Apostles' Creed** (*please stand*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy

Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

### **The Prayers** (*please kneel or sit*)

The Rev. Dr. Tommy Williams

For our brother Ernest, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life."

Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Ernest, and dry the tears of those who weep.

*Hear us, Lord.*

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

*Hear us, Lord.*

You raised the dead to life; give to our brother eternal life.

*Hear us, Lord.*

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother to the joys of heaven.

*Hear us, Lord.*

Our brother was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit;  
give him fellowship with all your saints.

*Hear us, Lord.*

He was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at the  
table in your heavenly kingdom.

*Hear us, Lord.*

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our brother; let our faith be  
our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

*The Celebrant concludes with a collect.*

*Celebrant*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*        *And also with you.*

**Hymn 671**      “Amazing grace! How sweet the sound”      *New Britain*

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

*The people stand. The Celebrant faces them and says*

The Lord be with you.

*People*        *And also with you.*

*Celebrant*    Lift up your hearts.

*People*        *We lift them to the Lord.*

*Celebrant*    Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*        *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

*The Eucharistic Prayer may be found in the Book of Common Prayer on  
page 361.*

*At the place appointed Celebrant and People say together*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

*The people kneel or sit. At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer,  
the Celebrant continues*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

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, for ever  
and ever. Amen.

**The Breaking of the Bread**

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*All baptized persons are welcome to receive the sacrament.*

**Music During Communion**

**Hymn 333** “Now the silence Now the peace” *Now*

**Anthem** “On Eagle’s Wings” Michael Joncas  
Tim Foster, Soloist

**Organ Solo** “Gabriel’s Oboe” Ennio Morricone

**Postcommunion Prayer** *(Celebrant and people)*

Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

**Vocal Solo** “Into paradise may the angels lead you” *In paradisum*  
Tim Foster, Soloist

## **The Commendation** *(please stand)*

*Celebrant*      Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,  
*People*          where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but  
                         life everlasting.

### *The celebrant continues*

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. For so did you ordain when you created me, saying, “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

### *Celebrant and people*

*Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.*

### *Celebrant*

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Ernest. 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. *Amen.*

## **The Blessing**

## **The Dismissal**

*Celebrant*      Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
*People*          Thanks be to God.

**Hymn 376**                      “Joyful, joyful, we adore thee”                      *Hymn to Joy*

## **Postlude**







**Ernest Gerhardt Schluter, Jr.**, 78, of Beaumont, passed away on Sunday, June 26 after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

Ernest, called “Ernie,” was born on October 5 in Wharton, Texas, the oldest of three boys. He was a little league baseball pitcher and a Boy Scout earning his God and Country and Eagle Scout Awards. As an adult, Ernie was the leader of a Cub Scout troop and was tapped out for Order of the Arrow - Scouting’s National Honor Society. As a high school student, Ernie was in the Wharton High School marching band, and this is where the trajectory of his life changed. He was a coronet player and became enamored with a freshman clarinet player. On their first date to the county fair, Ernie fell in love. He pursued Betty long distance while attending Texas A&M University where he was a coronet player in the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Band. Occasionally, Ernie hitchhiked home from A&M surprising Betty. On one such occasion, Betty was on a date, so Ernie decided to marry her.

Ernie and Betty married in 1964 in Wharton and moved to Houston. Ernie began a career with Firestone that would last 46 years. He worked in various capacities, even becoming an owner of a Texas unit of the business. He was transferred to Beaumont in the late 60s and Firestone and Ernie became synonymous. People in the community were known to say they were taking their cars to Ernie, not taking them to Firestone, because Ernie loved working with customers and cared for people and their cars. He provided rides for customers back to their homes or offices

before it was a service. Through his dedication to customer service, he created life-long friendships.

On weekends, Ernie played golf and spent time with family. He and Betty enjoyed playing Bridge, and they loved to dance. They had taken ballroom dance as children and took those skills to the country and western halls of Texas.

Ernie's other big love was music. He sang bass with the St. Mark's Episcopal Church Choir for 40 years. He rarely missed a rehearsal or a Sunday service. In retirement, he also sang with Volunteer Voices of Beaumont, a local traveling senior citizen choir.

Ernie was as generous as he was gregarious. He shared his resources with his family and friends, benevolently giving financial support and time to people and causes including St. Mark's Episcopal Church where he cooked chili for their annual chili supper and took tickets for the event for many years. He also enjoyed the Friday chapel service at St. Mark's Church. Pre-Covid, Ernie attended chapel service at All Saints Episcopal School with his grandchildren. He and Betty were selected as "Grandparents of the Year" at All Saints.

Betty and Ernie spent their retirement years in Florida and Wisconsin. There in the small town of Fish Creek, WI Ernie loved playing golf, Bridge, Cry Canasta, salmon fishing and riding bicycles. Betty and Ernie were active members of Church of the Atonement in Fish Creek, and Ernie formed a group of men for a coffee hour every Thursday. When in Texas, he frequented the Health & Wellness Center where he also had a group of men friends.

Left to cherish his memories are his wife, Betty Mays Strickland Schluter; daughter, Shelly Schluter Vitanza, her husband, Carl Anthony Vitanza and their three children, Joshua Clayton Capps, Elizabeth Nicole Vitanza and Christian Anthony Vitanza; brother, Carl Richard Schluter, his wife, Carolyn Marchant Schluter, their two children, Shelby Marchant Schluter, his wife, Robin Allen Schluter and Shauna Schluter Gerlach, her husband, David Chace Gerlach; Betty's sister, Jo Ann Slemons and her husband, Steve Vance Slemons; Betty's brother, Carson Mart Strickland; and many great nieces, nephews, and friends, who were like family.

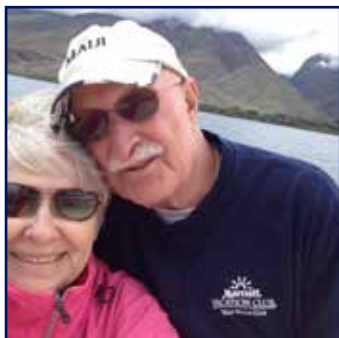
Ernest is preceded in death by his parents, Ernest Gerhardt Schluter, Sr. and Bertha Krueger Schluter; brother, Marvin Ray Schluter and son, Steven Ray Schluter.

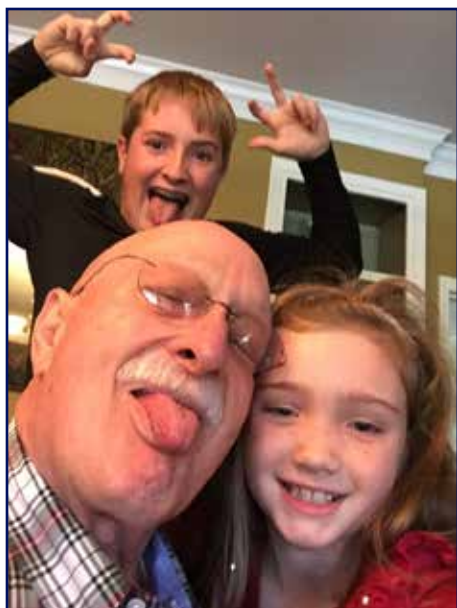
The Schluter and Vitanza families greatly appreciate the caregivers – Christy Burnham, Emmanuel Abella, Paolo Querol and Mark Joshua “MJ” Gloria, who cared for Ernie with compassion and gentleness.















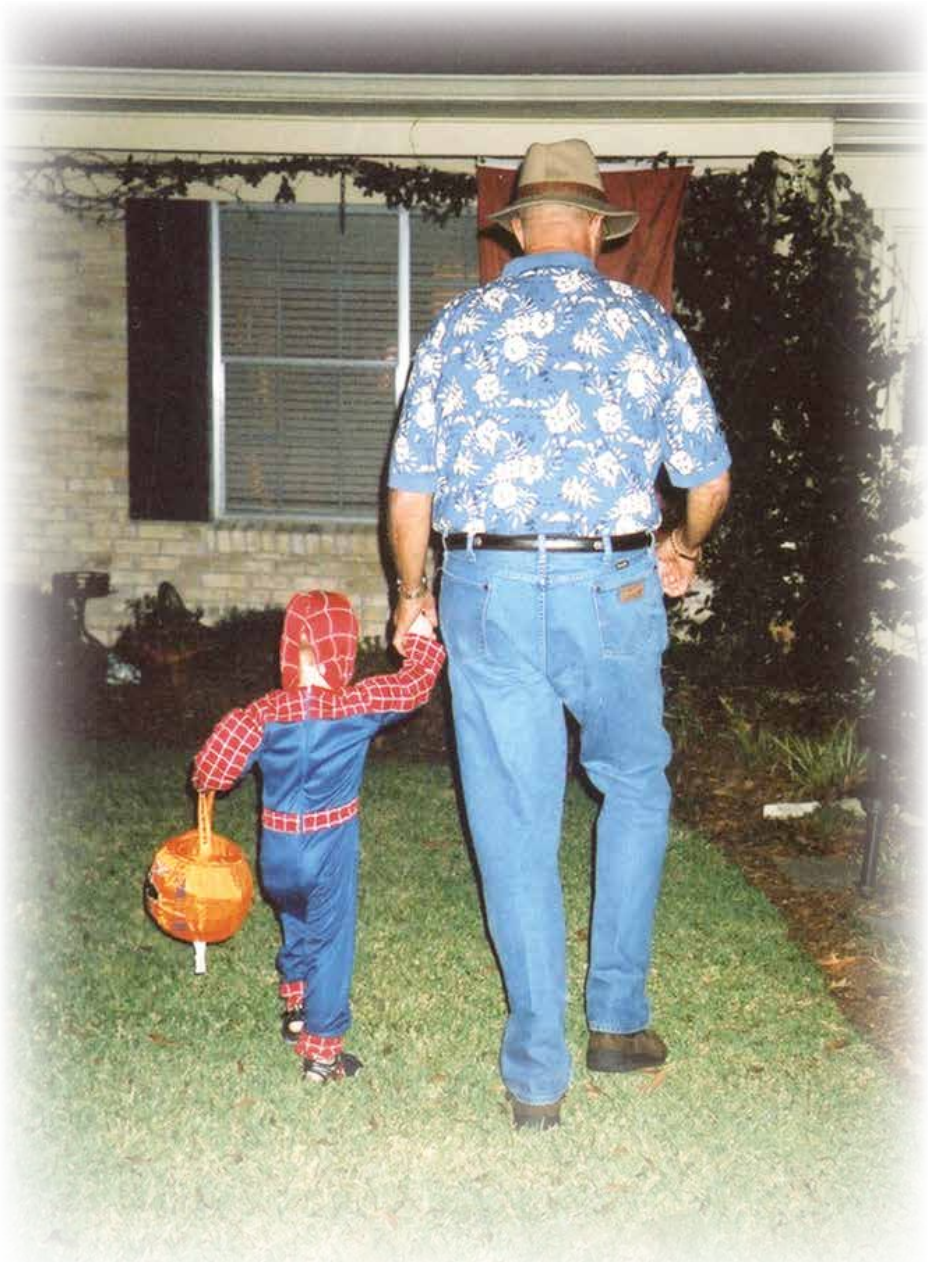




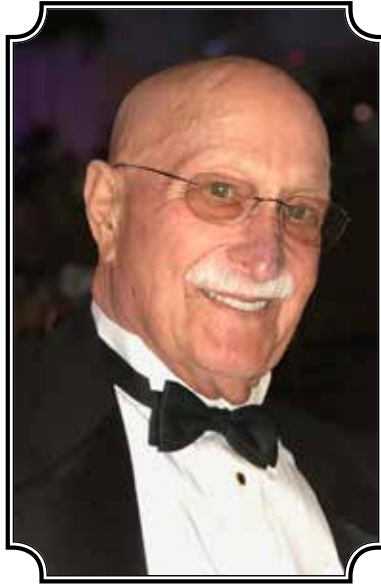








***Go home. Relax.  
Know that all is well with me.***



**Committal**

Broussard's Crematorium  
Beaumont, Texas

**Memorial Contributions**

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
680 Calder  
Beaumont, Texas 77701

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Church of the Atonement  
P.O. Box 241  
Fish Creek, Wisconsin 54212

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All Saints Episcopal School  
4108 Delaware  
Beaumont, Texas 77706

*Broussard's*  
Established 1889

Please sign Mr. Schluter's guest book and share your memories at  
**[broussards1889.com](http://broussards1889.com)**