

***A Celebration of Life for
Marilyn R. Tollefson
09/04/1934 – 11/19/2025***



***April 11, 2026
Central Lutheran Church
Eugene, Oregon***

CARILLON

The bells toll, once for each year of Marilyn's life on earth.

CANDLE LIGHTING

Tim Tollefson, Marilyn's son

PIANO TRIBUTE *In My Life* – by the Beatles August King, grandson

PRELUDE *Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring* - Bach Dr. A. ElRay Stewart-Cook

WELCOME

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation, who comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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.

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.

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

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

HYMN #431 Holy, Holy, Holy

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister in Christ, Marilyn. We thank you for giving her 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. **Amen.**

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

Sara King, Marilyn's daughter
Leah Jeske, friend of Marilyn's

READING **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8** Becky Walleen, niece & goddaughter

For everything there is a season
and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born and a time to die;
a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill and a time to heal;
a time to break down and a time to build up;
a time to weep and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek and a time to lose;
a time to keep and a time to throw away;
a time to tear and a time to sew;
a time to keep silent and a time to speak;
a time to love and a time to hate;
a time for war and a time for peace.

PSALM 121 (*read in unison*)

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

**The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

SOLO *O Divine Redeemer* – Charles Gounod David Gustafson, Tenor

GOSPEL READING **John 14:15-21** (*please stand*)

The Gospel according to John, the 14th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY

Pastor Laurie A. Jones

HYMN #838 Beautiful Savior

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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 & your peace. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all grace, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give you thanks because by his death Jesus destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and 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, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER - *Malotte*

David Gustafson, Tenor

COMMENDATION

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Marilyn. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

HYMN On Our Way Rejoicing

1 On our way re - joic - ing, glad - ly let us go. Christ our Lord has
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther, joy - ful songs we sing; un - to God the
con - quered; van - quished is the foe. Christ with - out, our safe - ty;
Sav - ior, thank - ful hearts we bring; un - to God the Spir - it,
Christ with - in our joy; who, if we be faith - ful, — can our hope de - stroy?
bow we and a - dore. on our way re - joic - ing, now and ev - er - more.
On our way re - joic - ing; — as we for - ward move,
hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Text: John Monsell

St. Gertrude
Music: Arthur Sullivan

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in peace. In the name of Christ. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE *Fantasia in G Minor, BWV 542 - Johann Sebastian Bach*

Immediately following the service, you are invited to join the family in the Parish Hall where there will be a photo display and an opportunity to share memories with one another and to enjoy some light refreshments.

The flowers on the altar are given in loving memory of Marilyn by her children, grandchildren, and her cousin, Joel Triolo.



*Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me even though they die, will live and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."
John 11:25-26*

Marilyn R. Tollefson

1934 – 2025

Born in Philip, SD to Ida and Antony Triolo, Marilyn grew up in South Dakota and Eugene, Oregon where she graduated from University High School. She began college at Pacific Lutheran University and graduated from University of Oregon with a B.S. in Education in 1962.

Marilyn married her high school sweetheart, Bob Tollefson in 1955 becoming a dedicated military wife and mother. They lived in France, Germany, across the continental United States, and Hawaii. She raised their two children alone during Bob's three tours of duty in Vietnam. Active in her Lutheran church community wherever she lived, Marilyn was a regular choir member. She was active throughout her life volunteering, working in retail, swimming, walking her beloved dogs, baking, gardening, knitting, and into her mid-seventies thought nothing of stacking a cord of firewood by herself. Marilyn was a lifelong member of PEO, and twice volunteered with her church on trips to Guatemala, helping with the construction of housing for orphaned girls. Marilyn regularly attended birthdays, sporting and school events, in support of all her grandchildren. She relocated to Boulder, CO in 2022 to be closer to her daughter, but she continued to follow Central Lutheran Church services online.

She is survived by her children Sara King (Spencer) and Tim Tollefson, and her grandchildren August, Oliver and Louis King, and Ruby and Eden Stellavato-Tollefson. She was preceded in death by her sister, Jody; brother, Dan; and former husband, Bob.

Marilyn will be remembered as a devoted and loving mother and proud grandmother, she will be held fondly in our hearts, appreciated for the positive influence she had on her family and friends, and respected for her indomitable spirit.