

Memorial Service

Mary Linn Semeling

September 2, 1944 - September 16, 2026





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Born on September 2, 1944, in Clovis, New Mexico, to Joseph and Alice Duncan, Mary spent her early years in several states while her father served in the U.S. Army. The family eventually settled in Seattle, where she graduated from Kings Garden.

Mary worked as a secretary before meeting and marrying the love of her life, Oris Semeling, on October 17, 1964. They built a life together for sixty-two years, raising their two children. Mary devoted herself to her family and was deeply involved in her children's sports, clubs, and schools. She embraced countless crafts over the years and became a gifted seamstress, knitter, quilter, cake decorator and teacher, and jewelry maker. She was also a spirited bowler, a devoted church member and volunteer, and cherished time spent playing cards with her sisters-in-law. For decades, Mary created beautiful multi-tiered wedding and birthday cakes for family, friends, and church celebrations.



A strong woman of faith and a twenty-year cancer survivor, Mary was deeply loved by her family, friends, and all who came to know her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Alice Duncan. She is survived by her husband, Oris; her son, Brent Semeling; daughter, Lorissa Warren; five grandchildren, and her brother, John Duncan, and his wife, Gail.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Mary's memory to Faith Lutheran Church.



Welcome to Worship

We are an intentionally inclusive community, proclaiming a warm welcome to people of every race, nationality, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, and ability into all aspects of our church life.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

BLESSING

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

C: Thanks be to God

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

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

C: 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.

PSALM 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

³he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister, Mary. 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 your aid, so we may see in death the gate to eternal life, that we may continue our course on earth in confidence until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

LESSONS: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Colossians 3:1-4, 15-17, 23-24

Matthew 28:19-20

SERMON

Pastor Shannyn Fuerst

HYMN *ELW* 732

Born-ing Cry

WATERLIFE



1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
3 "In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



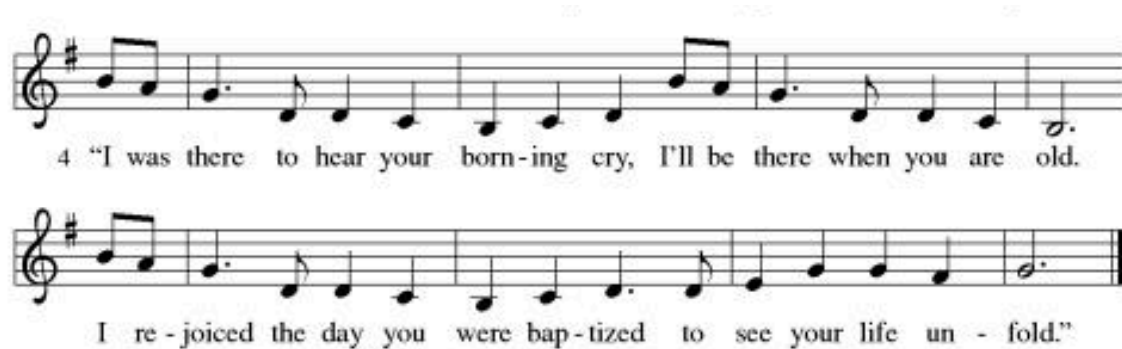
I re - joiced the day you were hap-tized to see your life un - fold.
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Music: WATERLIFE, John C. Ylvisaker
Text and music © 1985 John Ylvisaker,

APOSTLE'S CREED

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 into hell.

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.

PRAYERS

P: Lord, in your mercy...

C: ...Hear our prayer

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

COMMUNION INVITATION

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ. Come, all is ready, all are welcome.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

As we gather for communion, all are invited to come forward to the bottom step near the baptismal font. If you would like to receive a blessing instead, please place your hands over your heart as a sign of requesting the blessing. You will receive the bread (host) and the wine or grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available and the baked bread is gluten free. If you are communing from another location, we trust that Christ is present through the Holy Spirit in the bread and the wine/grape juice. Please note the importance of the words of institution and the invitation to communion, holding holy worshipful space within this sacrament.

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace now and forever, Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

HYMN ELW 779

Amazing Grace

NEW BRITAIN

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised, good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

THE COMMENDATION

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Mary. Acknowledge, we humbly ask 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.**

DISMISSAL

P: Let us go in peace

C: In the name of Christ.

POSTLUDE

*You are invited to join the family for desserts in the Library
following the worship service.*

Donations in memory of Mary Semeling will be given to Faith Lutheran Church.

Officiant: Pastor Shannyn Fuerst

Musician: David Buice

Altar Guild: Barb Loveseth

Reception Host: Sandi Dexter