

A Celebration of the Life of

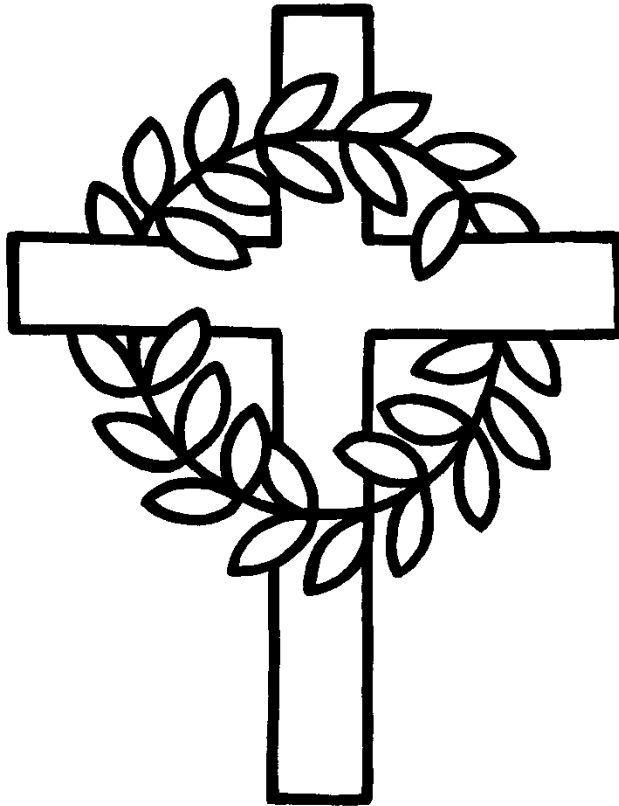
Harold Schmidt

January 15, 1928 – June 22, 2026

11:00 AM – Saturday, June 27, 2026

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street – Omaha, Nebraska 68131



Pastor H. Ashley Hall, Ph.D., Presider

Pastor Brian Maas, Preacher

Pastor Miriam Blair

David Schack, Organist

PRELUDE

Please rise in body or spirit and face the back of the nave when the sanctuary bells ring.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- ☐ As a sign of being clothed with Christ in baptism, we now place the pall over Harold's casket. All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ. In his baptism, Harold was clothed with Christ. In the day of Christ's coming, he shall be clothed with glory.

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.

☑ **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.

☑ **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.

☑ **We worship you.**

- ☐ To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.

☑ **Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

I Know That My Redeemer Lives!

ELW 619

Stanzas 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8

**1 I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
he lives, my ever-living head!**

**5 He lives to bless me with his love;
he lives to plead for me above;
he lives my hungry soul to feed;
he lives to help in time of need.**

**2 He lives triumphant from the grave;
he lives eternally to save;
he lives exalted, throned above;
he lives to rule his church in love.**

**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.**

**4 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.**

**8 He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my Savior, still the same;
what joy this blest assurance gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!**

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-1799, alt.

GREETING AND INVOCATION

- P** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation. He 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.**
- P** When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by Baptism and into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might have 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- 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 brother, Harold. We thank you for giving him 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.**

(please be seated)

SYNOD GREETINGS

The Rev. Scott Johnson, Bishop
Nebraska Synod

FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE

Cara R. Dolezal, Granddaughter
Samuel H. Schmidt, Grandson

FIRST LESSON

I John4:7-16
Mark Schmidt

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

A Faithful Shepherd is My Lord

Tune: Johann Georg Nägeli
© Alfred Publishing

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for the one who for their sake died and was raised.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!

☒ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Pastor Brian Maas

(please rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF COMFORT AND TRUST

Children of the Heavenly Father

ELW 781

**1 Children of the heav'nly Father
safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e'er was given.**

**3 Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth,
and their sorrows all he knoweth.**

**2 God his own doth tend and nourish,
in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them,
in his mighty arms he bears them.**

**4 Though he giveth or he taketh,
God his children ne'er forsaketh;
his the loving purpose solely
to preserve them pure and holy.**

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958

Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

☒ With the whole church, let us confess the faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

- P** Almighty God, we praise You for the great company of saints who have finished their lives in faith and now rest from their labors. We remember especially our loved one, Harold, whom You have redeemed by the blood of your Son and received as your dear child through Holy Baptism. We thank You for giving him to us as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your compassion, comfort all who are sad in this hour. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** You do not leave us comfortless, but strengthen and care for us through your Word and sacrament. You give us family, friends, and neighbors to help when there is loneliness, now and in the days to come. Brighten our future with firm trust in your promises and care. Lord in your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Remove our fears and lead us to rejoice in the gift of eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Savior, who has also taught us to pray...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- C** **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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

**1 Thine the amen thine the praise
alleluias angels raise
thine the everlasting head
thine the breaking of the bread
thine the glory thine the story
thine the harvest then the cup
thine the vineyard then the cup
is lifted up lifted up.**

**2 Thine the life eternally
thine the promise let there be
thine the vision thine the tree
all the earth on bended knee
gone the nailing gone the railing
gone the pleading gone the cry
gone the sighing gone the dying
what was loss lifted high.**

**5 Thine the glory in the night
no more dying only light
thine the river thine the tree
then the Lamb eternally
then the holy holy holy
celebration jubilee
thine the splendor thine the brightness
only thee only thee.**

**3 Thine the truly thine the yes
thine the table we the guest
thine the mercy all from thee
thine the glory yet to be
then the ringing and the singing
then the end of all the war
thine the living thine the loving
evermore evermore.**

**4 Thine the kingdom thine the prize
thine the wonder full surprise
thine the banquet then the praise
then the justice of thy ways
thine the glory thine the story
then the welcome to the least
then the wonder all increasing
at thy feast at thy feast.**

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

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SENDING

COMMENDATION

☞ Let us commend Harold to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept.

☞ Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Harold. 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.

CLOSING HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ELW 632
Stanzas 1, 4-6

**1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:**

**5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.**

**4 A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.**

**6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

CLOSING PRAYER

☞ Rest eternal grant him, O Lord;

☞ and let light perpetual shine upon him.

DISMISSAL

☞ Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

☞ Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

✠ ✠ ✠

You are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall for lunch and sharing of memories.

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Harold Schmidt

January 15, 1928 – June 22, 2026

Harold is survived by his children Mark (Karen), Paul (Christine), David (Marla), Ellen, and Jon (Nadine). He is also survived by his sisters, Doris, Edith, Mary (Jim), his brother Lawrence (Jane), his sister-in-law Beverly, his brother-in-law Richard and his sister-in-law Judy. He is also survived by many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Harold was born on January 15, 1928 on a farm 15 miles northeast of Waterloo, Iowa. He was baptized and confirmed at Immanuel Lutheran Church near Klinger, Iowa. Harold attended high school and college at Concordia University in River Forest, Illinois.

Harold met his future wife, Ruth Joan Schumacher at Concordia, and they were married in 1950. They shared the next 67 years together, until her death in 2017.

Harold was dedicated to his students and the church, beginning with his initial positions as teacher and principal at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Brentwood Missouri from 1950-1955, principal at Immanuel Lutheran School in Waterloo, Iowa from 1955-1960, and as an educational missionary in Hong Kong from 1960-1970.

After his ordination as a Lutheran minister, Harold served as pastor at First Lutheran Church in Omaha, Nebraska from 1971-1993, and at Pohoco Lutheran Church near Fremont, Nebraska from 1997 until his retirement in 2012. He also served as interim minister at many area churches.

During his lifetime, Harold touched and enhanced many lives; he will be deeply missed.

Memorials may be made to the Harold Schmidt Fund at the Omaha Community Foundation (omahafoundation.org).