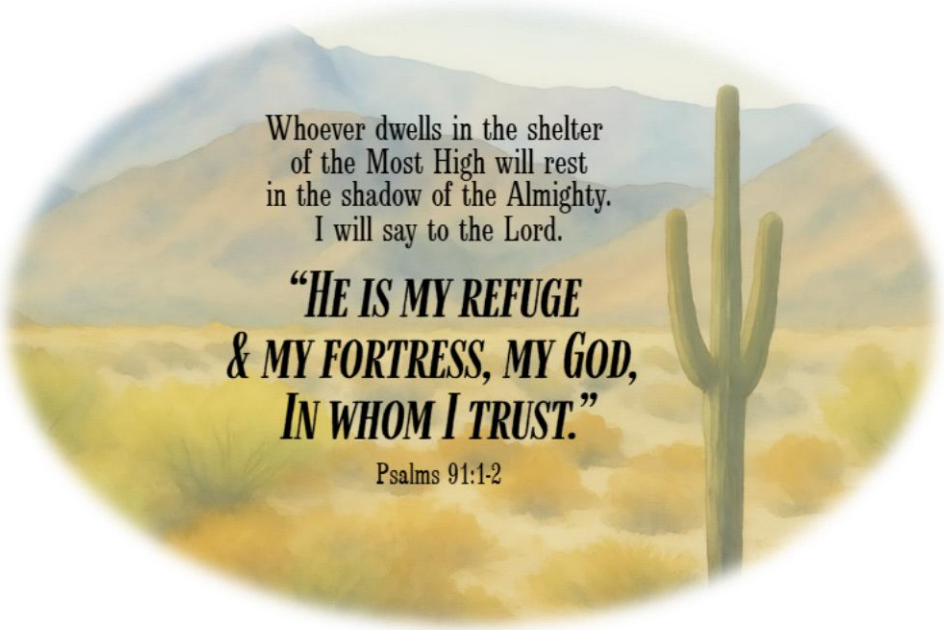
IN LOVING MEMORY

Larry R. Shober

November 15, 1939 – July 13, 2026



CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE

Friday, July 17, 2026
10am Viewing, 11am Service
Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE

GATHERING

PRELUDE "I Need Thee Every Hour"..... R. Lowry

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world.
We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen,
to remember before God our brother Larry, to give thanks for his life,
to commend him to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: 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.

P: 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.
C: We glorify you.

P: 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.
C: We praise you.

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

P: To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.
C: Amen.

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.

OPENING HYMN "Blessed Assurance" ..... #638

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain: This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long:
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.
O Lord in your mercy and glory, we remember before you today our brother Larry. We thank you for giving Larry 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.

TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

OUR FINAL JOURNEY

Will you walk with us, our Savior, will you take us by the hand?
Will you guide us down the pathway that leads to the promised land?

When that morning breaks so clearly and our tolls toils on earth are through-
Guide our souls within thy Kingdom with your love forever true.

See us past the veil of shadow, hear us when we call your name;
Help us on beyond the river, as our souls are seared with pain.

Guide us down the path to glory, safe from earthly sins and shame,
As, 0 Lord, this is thy power, hallowed be your precious name.

Patricia Mackie

THE WORD

PSALM 23

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
3 he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me; your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies,
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
6 Surely 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.

ECCLESIASTES 12: 1-8

12 Remember your creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years draw near when you will say, "I have no pleasure in them"; 2 before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return with the rain;

3 in the day when the guards of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and
the women who grind cease working because they are few, and those who look
through the windows see dimly; 4 when the doors on the street are shut, and the
sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the
daughters of song are brought low; 5 when one is afraid of heights, and terrors are in
the road; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and the caper
bud falls; because all must go to their eternal home, and the mourners will go about
the streets; 6 before the silver cord is snapped, and the golden bowl is broken, and the
pitcher is broken at the fountain, and the wheel broken at the cistern, 7 and the dust
returns to the earth as it was, and the breath returns to God who gave it. 8 Vanity of
vanities, says the Teacher; all is vanity.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

SERMON OF REFLECTION

***HYMN OF THE DAY** "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling" ..... #608

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain: "Come home, come home!
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me?

Refrain

3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me.

Refrain

***THE APOSTLE'S CREED**

Together, let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostle's Creed,

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.
A brief silence is kept for reflection.

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 and your peace. Lord in your 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. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Help us, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

LS - God of comfort, just as you have been a source of strength for me, please become that source for my family and friends. So many of my loved ones seem to be going through such awful challenges lately, and I don't always know the best way to help them. Guide me to say and do just the right things to help them feel stronger and more capable so that they can rise up and meet their problems with newfound faith and fortitude. Just as you are a light in my life, Father, let me now be that light for others wherever and whenever I can. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he 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, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

SENDING

SENDING HYMN "Great is thy Faithfulness" ..... #733

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain

COMMENDATION

Let us commend Larry to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend our servant, Larry. 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.**

***DISMISSAL**

P: Let us go forth in peace.
C: I**n the name of Christ. Amen.**

POSTLUDE: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"..... arr. L. von Beethoven

All are invited to process with the family to the interment at Muddy Creek Cemetery. The family also understands that some guests may prefer to remain at the church, and are invited to proceed downstairs to the fellowship hall for refreshments.

COMMITTAL

GATHERING

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.

GREETING

Grace and peace from our Savior Jesus Christ be with you all.
C: And also with you.

PRAYER

Let us pray,
Holy God, holy and powerful, by the death and burial of Jesus your anointed, you have destroyed the power of death and made holy the resting places of all your people. Keep our brother Larry, whose body we now lay to rest, in the company of all your saints. And at the last, O God, raise him up to share with all the faithful the endless joy and peace won through the glorious resurrection of Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

READING – JOHN 12:23-26

[23] Jesus answered [the disciples], "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. [24] Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. [25] Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. [26] Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

COMMITTAL

P: In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our brother Larry, and we commit his body to its final resting place; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

The Lord bless him and keep him.
The Lord's face shine on him with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon him with favor and ☩ give him peace.
C: Amen.

Grant him eternal rest, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon him.
O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Those who desire to leave a fingerprint may do so now.

DISMISSAL

P: Let us go in peace.

Fingerprint

The family invites neighbors and friends to leave a fingerprint.

Leaving a fingerprint on a casket serves as a touching expression of love, signifying that a part of you will always remain with the departed. Just as we treasure keepsakes, photographs, and other mementos to hold onto memories of those we've lost, this act allows the deceased to symbolically take your love with them. It is a quiet yet powerful way to express that, although they may no longer be physically present, the connection you share is eternal.

Today's Service Leaders

Presiding Minister	Pastor Stacy Chavis
Organist	Greg Gehman
Pall Bearers	Darryl Shober Dwayne Shober Justin Shober Shaun Shober Chad Sweitzer Eric Weik Mark Roberts
Refreshments	Muddy Creek's Parish Life Committee

A poem Larry wanted us to share today:

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free;
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took his hand when I heard Him call,
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day
to laugh to love to work or play;
tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,
then fill it with remembered joy –
a friendship shared a laugh, a kiss;
Ah, yes, these things, I, too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow;
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I've savored much –
good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart, and share with me –
God wanted me now, he set me free.

Thank you for your love,
care, and support. The cards,
calls, and visits have provided
much comfort during this time.

Sincerely,
the Shober Family