



*Blessed are they
that mourn:
for they shall be comforted.*

MATTHEW 5:4



Celebration of the life of

Rev. Donald L. Wukotich

August 30, 1942—April 14, 2025

St. John Lutheran Church

June 14, 2025

Williston, OH

11:00 am

Prelude

Donella Wilt, Pianist

Gathering

Rev. Shawn O'Brien

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 Don ,
to give thanks for his life,
to commend him to our merciful redeemer,
and to comfort one another in our grief.

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.

ALL: Amen

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been,
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.

Greeting**Rev. Jim Bosse**

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

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

First Reading

Revelation 21:1-4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

Second Reading

Matthew 5:3-9

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. "

Third Reading

Matthew 25:14-21 (GNT)

At that time the Kingdom of heaven will be like this. Once there was a man who was about to leave home on a trip; he called his servants and put them in charge of his property. He gave to each one according to his ability: to one he gave five thousand gold coins, to another he gave two thousand, and to another he gave one thousand. Then he left on his trip. The servant who had received five thousand coins went at once and invested his money and earned another five thousand. In the same way the servant who had received two thousand coins earned another two thousand. But the servant who had received one thousand coins went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money.

After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The servant who had received five thousand coins came in and handed over the other five thousand. 'You gave me five thousand coins, sir,' he said. 'Look! Here are another five thousand that I have earned.' 'Well done, you good and faithful servant!' said his master. 'You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!

A Time of Remembrances

Leslie, Joel, Rev. Bosse, Rev. Meyer

Hymn

Morning Has Broken

ELW # 556

Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.

Praise for the singing!

Praise for the morning!

Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!

Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!

Apostles' Creed

**ALL: 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

**ALL: 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.**

Commendation

P: Let us commend Donald to the mercy of God,
our maker and redeemer.

(Silence is kept.)

P: Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Donald. 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.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

Special Music-Elijah Edwards

Sending

P: Let us go forth in peace,

C: In the name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude



Friends and Family,

***Following the service, the family will receive friends and family
at the back of the sanctuary.***

***If you wish to stay for a time of food and fellowship,
you are instead invited to go directly
to the church basement after the service.***



In Loving Memory

Rev. Donald L. Wukotich

August 30, 1942—April 14, 2025

Reverend Donald "Don" Wukotich, age 82, passed away peacefully on Monday, April 14, 2025, at Hospice of Northwest Ohio.

Born in Salem, Ohio, on August 30, 1942, he was the son of Joe and Mildred (Rosberg) Wukotich. Don grew up in Salem, graduating from Salem High School before pursuing higher education.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Wittenberg University in 1965 and subsequently received his Masters in Divinity from the Hamma School of Theology in 1969.

Pastor Don dedicated his life to ministry, with a particular passion for reaching communities often considered "underserved." His early ministry saw him faithfully serving as pastor to various churches throughout Ohio. A formative experience came in 1975 during his Clinical Residence in ministry at Hartford Hospital, which significantly broadened his perspective on ministry's possibilities. This inspired him to preach to and pray with specialized populations across the Midwest, including prison inmates and hurting families, offering them spiritual guidance, comfort, and support.

His continued commitment to service led him to become the Executive Director at Luther Home of Mercy in 1986. He was a key figure in the establishment of Lutheran Ministries of Mercy, serving as a founding member and later being named its President/CEO in 2013. Pastor Don guided these organizations with compassion and vision until his retirement in 2017.

Following his retirement, Don lovingly cared for his wife of 58 years, Dee, until her passing in 2024.

Known for his engaging love of storytelling and fellowship, Pastor Don possessed a warmth and humility that drew people to him. Everyone who met him found something to love and admire, stemming from his genuine care for others. In his later years, he found joy in organizing and participating in running events and spending time with his beloved family.

Pastor Don was preceded in death by his parents, Joe and Mildred; wife, Dee; and brothers, Joe, Paul, and Chuck.

He is survived by his son, Joel (Julie) Wukotich; his daughter, Leslie (Jeff) Straka; grandchildren Elijah (Lizzie), Mia, Jonah, Claire, Aaron, and Wyatt; and great-grandchildren Olive and Mabel.

Memorials are encouraged to Luther Home of Mercy, P.O. Box 187, Williston, Ohio 43468, Hospice of Northwest Ohio, 30000 E. River Road Perrysburg, OH 43551, or to a charity of the donor's choice.