

Celebration of Life



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Clarence "Clay" Irwin Lewis, Jr.

May 26, 1941 - May 15, 2026

Gathering

The assembly stands as able.

Pastor 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 Reader: Warren Turner Phillips

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.

Gathering Hymn

Beautiful Savior

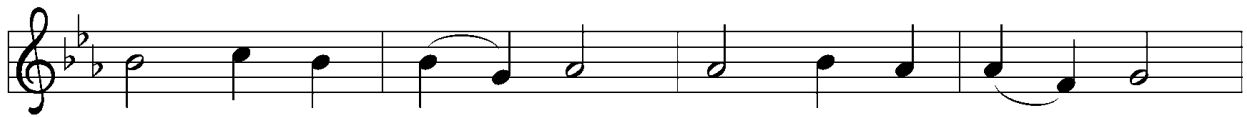
Beautiful Savior



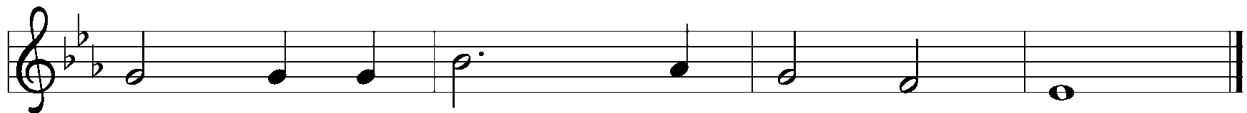
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



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!

Greeting

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

All And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother Clay. 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 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.

All Amen.

Please be seated

Words of Remembrance

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Isaiah 35:1-10 Reader: Kristin Anne Stentiford

35 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.]]^[a]

³Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;^[b]
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,^[c]

and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,^[d]

but it shall be for God’s people;^[e]

no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,

nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,

but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Leader Word of God. Word of Life.

All Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23 Reader: Aaron Young

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 paths of
righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of
death, I fear no evil;

for thou art with me;

thy rod and thy staff,

they comfort me.

⁵ Thou preparest a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

thou anointest 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

for ever

Romans 8:31-35,37-39

Reader: Nicholas Choruby

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ^[a] who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Leader Word of God. Word of Life.

All Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able to receive the Holy Gospel.

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 5:1-12

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely¹ on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Pastor The Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The assembly stands as able.

Hymn of the Day

When Peace Like a River

Creed

Pastor Let us affirm the Christian faith with
the words of the 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.

Prayers of Intercession

Pastor Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

Pastor 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. God of mercy,

All hear our prayer.

Pastor 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,

All hear our prayer.

Pastor 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,

All hear our prayer.

Pastor 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,

All hear our prayer.

Pastor 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. God of mercy,

All hear our prayer.

Pastor 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.

All Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Pastor Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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

Pastor Let us commend Clay to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant,

Clarence "Clay" Irwin Lewis, Jr.

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.

All Amen.

Pastor Let us go forth in God's peace,

All in the name of Christ. Amen.

Sending Song

Onward Christian Soldiers

Onward, Christian Soldiers



1 On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, march - ing as to war,
2 Like a might - y ar - my moves the church of God;
3 Crowns and thrones may per - ish, king - doms rise and wane,
4 On - ward, then, you faith - ful, join our hap - py throng;



with the cross of Je - sus go - ing on be - fore.
let us bold - ly fol - low where the saints have trod.
but the church of Je - sus con - stant will re - main;
blend with ours your voic - es in the tri - umph song.



Christ, the roy - al mas - ter, leads a - gainst the foe;
We are not di - vid - ed; all one bod - y we;
gates of hell can nev - er 'gainst the church pre - vail.
Glo - ry, laud, and hon - or un - to Christ the king.



for - ward in - to bat - tle, see, his ban - ners go!
one in hope and doc - trine, one in char - i - ty.
We have Christ's own prom - ise, and that can - not fail.
We through count - less a - ges with the an - gels sing:

Refrain

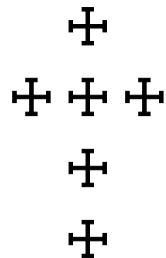


On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, march - ing as to war,



with the cross of Je - sus go - ing on be - fore.

The worship will continue at the graveside in Galveston Memorial Park in Hitchcock, Texas at 2:00 pm.



Welcome to this worship service. *The Lutheran funeral service is a celebration of the promise of Christ given in holy baptism. In holy baptism God yokes us to Jesus Christ's death and resurrection giving the promise of the forgiveness of sin and eternal life to the baptized. The funeral service is thus a celebration and remembrance of baptism. Trusting in the promise God made in baptism, the church gathers to commend the deceased to God's eternal care. The service includes scripture readings that lift up the promise of eternal life as well as a thanksgiving for baptism and prayers of thanksgiving and for comfort. Worship as you are able and listen for the proclamation of the Good News given through Jesus Christ.*

	Serving today:
Presiding Minister	The Reverend Richard A. Rhoades, Senior Pastor of First Lutheran Church, Galveston, TX
Keyboardist	Mr. Don Hermanson
Crucifer	Mr. Adam Palmer

Clay's family thanks you for joining them in celebrating his life. Thank you as well for your prayers and expressions of support.

You are invited to join the family for a luncheon in the Parish Hall.



Clarence Irwin Lewis, Jr. (Clay) May 26, 1941 - May 15, 2026 Clay Lewis, who had roots in Galveston and Houston, Texas, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, passed away on May 15, 2026 in Flower Mound, Texas at the age of 84. He will be remembered by all who knew him as loving his family and friends dearly, pursuing fun and adventure in life and the outdoors, as a lifelong learner and teacher on many topics, and as a leader with a strong work ethic. Clay was born in Sarnia, Ontario, Canada, to American parents Clarence Irwin Lewis, Sr. and Erna Marguerite Kobarg Lewis, who were in Canada due to Clarence Sr.'s career as a Chemical Engineer, building refineries around the US and Canada for MW Kellogg. Clarence Sr. later joined Standard Oil of New Jersey (now ExxonMobil). Clarence Sr.'s path directly influenced Clay's education, career, and life. Clay's early years were spent in Amuay and Tia Juana, Venezuela as the family continued to follow his father's career. He attended school in Venezuela and Mobile, Alabama, then attended Ball High School in Galveston, and graduated from Culver Military Academy in Indiana in 1959. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Tulane

University (1963), where he was an officer in Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity and was also in ROTC - The Scabbard and Blade Drill Team. He also earned a Masters of Science in Chemical Engineering at Clemson University (1965) and a Masters of Business Administration from LSU (1978). This education, his smarts, and his father's influence led him to a life-long career with ExxonMobil, where he made an impact on his teams and the company, traveled the world and developed many deep friendships. Clay's career began with ExxonMobil in 1965 as a process engineer in the Baton Rouge Chemical Plant. In June of 1966 he entered active duty with the US Army, where he was stationed in Fort Story, Virginia, with a rank of First Lieutenant. He then went to Vietnam in June 1967 and held the rank of Captain. He was honorably discharged at Fort Lewis, Washington in June of 1968. He returned to ExxonMobil in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in June of 1968, and held numerous positions at the Chemical Plant. He transferred to Exxon's headquarters in Houston in 1985 as a Polyethylene Operations/Planning Manager North America, then was given an opportunity in Saudi Arabia as an Executive Vice President. He transferred back to Mont Belvieu, Texas as Polyethylene Plant Manager, then went back to Saudi Arabia for a second assignment. During his final assignment in Saudi Arabia, he worked on a significant expansion of the safest, most efficient and reliable plant in the world. He retired in 2004 after 39 loyal years with ExxonMobil. He was involved in many outside organizations and activities including The Tulane University Chemical Engineering Board of Advisors, The Tulane University School of Science and Engineering Board of Advisors, The International Schools Board in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, was a Junior Achievement Advisor, and was also the President of Sportsman Road, Galveston for 10 years, among countless others. While in Baton Rouge, Clay met Nancy Gail Shay Phillips. They married in 1978, and she was his best friend. They were married for 51 years. Their family life was happy and full, with three children in their combined family, eleven grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren. Clay and Nancy had a wonderful life together, filled with many good friends and family and travel all over the world that created many special memories. His adventures included traveling, fishing, hunting, scuba diving, and the Vets and Vets Corvette Club. He loved to learn, and developed passions for lots of things including woodworking and beekeeping as a hobby. Throughout his life many family and friends relied on him for special tutoring sessions for their success. He loved all the grandchildren and children and had special relationships with

each one. Clay was previously married to Marjorie Ann Hoffman Lewis, and had one child in 1964, Bonnie Jacqueline Lewis. Clay is survived by his wife, Nancy Gail Shay Lewis of Flower Mound, Texas and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, his brother, Thomas Carl Lewis, of Galveston, Texas, his daughters Kris n Phillips Young (Randy), Adrienne Phillips Sten ford (Mitch), and Bonnie Lewis Choruby (Shawn). Clay was lovingly known as Pops to the entire family. The surviving eleven grandchildren are Warren Turner Phillips (Sarah), Florentina Marie Phillips Jones (Ben), Aaron Michael Young (Kate), Adam Ma hew Young, Benjamin Phillips Young (Victoria), Kris n Anne Sten ford, Jordan Alan Stentiford, Jacob Mitchell Sten ford, Nicholas Jake Choruby (Breelan), Anna Claire Choruby Stilwell (Spencer), and Madeline Kate Choruby. Pops' thirteen great-grandchildren are: Emma James Sten ford, Myra Nancy Jones, Helena Martha Jones, Mary Elizabeth Phillips, Eleanor Grace Young, Henry Michael Young, Judah Ma hew Young, Jesse William Young, Jake Forest Choruby, Jovie James Choruby, Danielle June Choruby, Caroline Clay Stilwell, and Eloise Claire Stilwell. He was preceded in death by his father Clarence Irwin Lewis, Sr., and his mother Erna Marguerite Kobarg Lewis. A visitation will be held at 10:00 am at First Lutheran Church in Galveston, Texas on June 30, 2026, followed by a Memorial Service at 11:00. In lieu of flowers, please consider a dona on to Wounded Warriors or St. Jude Children's Hospital.