

*Let not your heart
be troubled...*

*I go to prepare
a place for you.*

John 14:1-2



Memorial Service
for
Andrew Robert Schroeder
January 11, 2025, 1:00 PM
Lamb of God Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, Arizona

PRESERVICE SONG: *Nothing Without You*

*Take these hands and lift them up
For I have not the strength to praise you near enough
See, I have nothing, I have nothing, without you*

*And take my voice and pour it out
Let it sing the songs of mercy I have found
For I have nothing, I have nothing, without you*

*And all my soul needs is all your love to cover me
So all the world will see I have nothing, without you.*

*And take my body and build it up
May it be broken as an offering of love
For I have nothing, I have nothing, without you
All my soul needs is all your love to cover me
So all the world will see I have nothing*

*But I love you with all my heart, with all my soul,
With all my mind and all the strength that I can find*

*Take my time here, on this earth
And let it glorify all that You are worth
For I am nothing, I am nothing, without You*

Welcome to Lamb of God Lutheran Church and the Celebration of Eternal Life for Andy. You are invited to join together in song, readings, and prayer, or you may choose to listen. We are in attendance today to support the loved ones in Andy's life and to hear how his earthly life has become an eternal life in heaven, thanks to what our Savior, Jesus Christ, has done for all of us.

In the service, note that M: indicates portions read by one of the Ministers, and C: indicates where you, the congregation, may join in reading or singing.

✝ Gathering ✝

GREETING AND PRAYER

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We have come together to seek God's comfort in our sorrow and to rejoice in the promise of the resurrection. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who said, "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, you wept at the grave of your friend Lazarus, and you consoled Mary and Martha in their distress. Draw near to us who mourn for Andy, and dry the tears of all who weep. Calm our troubled hearts, dispel our doubts and fears, and lead us to praise you for having brought him to faith. In your rising from the dead, you conquered death and opened the gates to eternal life. Strengthen us with your Word, and lead us through this earthly life until at last we are united with you and all the saints in glory everlasting. Amen.

PSALM 23

M: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,

he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

✝ Resurrection Comfort ✝

M: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. The apostle Paul writes to the Romans: "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Jesus gives us this comfort: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

M: Death has been swallowed up in victory! Thanks be to God!

C: He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

M: When Christ, who is our life, appears,

C: Then we also will appear with him in glory.

M: We will be before the throne of God

C: And serve him day and night in his temple.

M: Never again will we hunger;

C: Never again will we thirst.

M: For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be our shepherd; he will lead us to springs of living water.

C: And God will wipe away every tear from our eyes.

M: Let us pray.

M: God of all grace, you sent your Son Jesus to destroy the power of death and to open the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives, we too shall live. Comfort us with your promise that neither death nor life nor things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from your love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

C: Amen.

✝ The Word ✝

Romans 8:38-39

M: For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 14:1-6, 25-27

M: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

“All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

SONG: *Amazing Grace*

The congregation is invited to sing.

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.

The Lord has promised good to me; his Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

SERMON: Fix Your Eyes on Jesus, *Hebrews 12:1-3*

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: *The Apostles' Creed*

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

SONG: *In Christ Alone*

The congregation is invited to sing.

1. In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

2. In Christ alone—who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross, as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev’ry sin on him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.
3. There in the ground his body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory, sin’s curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am his and he is mine—bought with the precious blood of Christ.
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow’r of Christ in me;
From life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow’r of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from his hand;
Till he returns or calls me home, here in the pow’r of Christ I’ll stand.

✝ Prayers ✝

PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**C: 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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

OBITUARY READING (*see pages 10-11*)

THE BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give ☩ you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING SONG: *How Great Thou Art*

The congregation is invited to sing.

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee,
"How great thou art! How great thou art!"
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee,
"How great thou art! How great thou art!"

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

Refrain

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin.

Refrain

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim: "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain

Amazing Grace, Text and tune: public domain

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Andrew Robert Schroeder

November 17, 1985 - December 14, 2024

Andrew Robert Schroeder, affectionately known as Babe, Andy, and Smoot, was born on November 17, 1985; baptized into God's family on January 19, 1986, at Faith Ev. Lutheran Church in Sussex, Wisconsin; and confirmed in his Christian faith on May 21, 2000, at Lamb of God Ev. Lutheran Church in Phoenix, Arizona. Andy lived a life of joy, faith, and love.

Andy's early years were filled with adventure. Growing up on Donna Drive in Sussex, Wisconsin, he spent endless hours outside with neighborhood kids, catching lightning bugs, foraging for berries, making snow forts and sledding in the back yard, and riding bikes and throwing and kicking balls in the warmer months. He attended St. John's Lutheran in Lannon, Wisconsin, and later Emmanuel Ev. Lutheran in Tempe, Arizona, for grade school. In 8th grade, Andy attended Altadena Middle School and met new friends. He held all of these friendships, many still close, very dear to his heart.

Andy attended Arizona Lutheran Academy, where he became a standout multi-sport athlete, earning all-region and all-state accolades in football and baseball. Fearless on the field and a legend in both sports and spirit, he inspired teammates and fans alike. While fine arts weren't his calling—his trumpet-playing for mandatory credits was infamous. He attended the University of Redlands and played football for the Bulldogs. Andy's heart was always in the game. He was a gifted athlete and played on soccer and baseball/softball teams with friends and family all of his life. He was competitive and played hard, always exhibiting excellent sportsmanship.

Andy pursued a successful career in banking, mastering rigorous "series" exams to become a trusted financial consultant in wealth management. Professionally known as Andrew, he earned the admiration of colleagues for his intelligence, work ethic, honesty, and unwavering integrity.

As a brother, Andy was protective and encouraging; he was loyal, supportive, trustworthy; and he was present. He cared deeply about his bonds with his siblings and truly appreciated any opportunity to gather or chat. Andy invested significant time building relationships with his nieces and embraced being an uncle and godfather. Though Andy may not have been a father himself, he certainly was a father figure in several children's lives and he treated them as his own. To his nieces, Evie and Rosie, and nephew, Connor, he was the ultimate jokester, often handing over his phone for endless selfies and snapchats.

Andy's love extended deeply to his wife, Jenny, with whom he shared a relationship built on loyalty, respect, and joy. She shares his love for the Green Bay Packers and the Liverpool F.C. Together they enjoyed sports events, sun and sand at Laguna Beach and in San Diego, and a very special trip to Paris, Dublin, London and New York City. They loved hiking in Sedona with their dog Capri who brought out Andy's nurturing and playful spirit. They spent hours in their happy place at the Wolff family cabin in Happy Jack, hiking the Blue Ridge Reservoir where he asked her to marry him, riding the quad through the woods, throwing sticks and playing fetch with Capri, and making brie s'mores over the fire. Jenny was Andrew's greatest love, his dedicated caregiver, and his strongest cheerleader.

Diagnosed with aggressive neuroendocrine cancer in April of 2023, Andy fought with unmatched strength and resilience. He took great pride in being fit even during his illness. He lifted weights in his home gym and took Capri on long runs. In recent weeks he was doing yoga, stretching, and marching in place to keep moving. He lived his best days, never played the victim, and suffered disappointment and frustration privately. He was intentionally optimistic and cheerful for everyone around him. His courage inspired all who knew him, and his faith never wavered. He said, "thank you," "thank you for being here," "thank you for helping me" hundreds of times to so many wonderful people. He cherished every moment with family and friends; every bike ride, Disney on Ice, birthday and tailgate party, wedding, fantasy football draft, round of golf, snowball fight, champagne clink, soup exchange, and every kiss and embrace from Jenny.

Andy's love was as big as his hugs—strong and sincere, evolving from playful squeezes to heartfelt embraces that lingered. His light, strength, and love will live on in the hearts of all who were blessed to know him.

Andrew is survived by his loving wife, Jenny, and her family: parents, Dave and Jean Wolff, brothers Tom and Ben, his wife Haleigh, and nephew Connor. He also leaves behind his parents, Jeff and Wendy; his sister Carly; his brother Ben and his wife Shannon; his adored nieces Evie and Rosie; his grandma Jean; grandpa Adam (Helene); Uncle Rob (Kim); Uncle Richie (Cheryl); and many cousins, loving family members, and incredible friends.

He is reunited in heaven with his grandpa Robert Dix, grandma Millie Schroeder, and auntie Pat Jones.

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

Revelation 21:4

Acknowledgments

FROM THE FAMILY

We have received amazing support and love over the last 20 months and especially in the last few weeks. We thank you so much for kind words, loving sentiment and diligent prayers for us and Andy. Thank you to so many who kept hope alive with prayers and generous Go Fund Me donations. We invite all of you to a post-service gathering at Ben and Shannon's house today.

We are so grateful for so many who make this special Andy Celebration Day possible.

- To the members of Lamb of God - thank you for adapting our church home and parking to accommodate family and friends; thank you for memorial cards, service folder, set up and re-set up, ushers, parking management, refreshments.
- To Pastor Bode - thank you for officiating Andy and Jenny's wedding and your participation in this Memorial Celebration for Andy.
- To Pastor Koepke - thank you for hearing Andy's profession of faith, for ministering to our family when we said our final earthly goodbyes, and for presenting God's promises in this service.
- To Liz and Amelia Enter - thank you for pre-service music and song so meaningful to our hearts.
- To Epic Party Rentals - thank you Nathan and Brooke Jaehnig for so generously donating all of the party equipment and comforts at Ben and Shannon's house.
- To AZ Wilderness - thank you Pat Ware and company for party libations.
- To Ki's Up in Smoke BBQ - Thank Kelvin and Leigha Armstrong for being great neighbors and providing an Andy favorite - RIBS for this day.
- To all who traveled - thank you for supporting us in person - all your hugs mean so much and all your prayers over the miles have been priceless.

SERVING TODAY

Pastor Brad Bode, Campus Pastor at Arizona Lutheran Academy

Pastor Michael Koepke, Pastor at Lamb of God Lutheran Church

Preservice Music - Amelia Enter, guitar, and Liz Enter, vocalist