



# Miriam Elizabeth Stuenkel Hoelter

JANUARY 28, 1947 – DECEMBER 28, 2013

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*For none of us lives to himself,  
and none of us dies to himself.  
For if we live, we live to the Lord,  
and if we die, we die to the Lord.  
So then, whether we live or whether we die,  
we are the Lord's.*

—ROMANS 14:7–8

A service of Thanksgiving to God  
+ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit +  
for the faith and life of  
**Miriam Elizabeth Stuenkel Hoelter, 1947-2013**

*\* indicates you are invited to stand, if you are able*

**Preludes**

Sinfonia: "God's Time is the Best Time" J. S. Bach  
Organ: "Behold the Host Arrayed in White" J. Ferguson  
Vocal Solo: "Lord, Let At Last Thine Angels Come" J. S. Bach  
Organ: "For All the Saints, Who From Their Labors Rest" M. Burkhardt

**Welcome** – Remembering Miriam

By the Family – Pastor Roger Stuenkel, Green Valley, AZ  
By the Church – Pastor Ty Miles, Portland, OR  
By her Profession – Linda Eby, Middle School Counselor, Gresham-  
Barlow School District

**\*Entrance Hymn** "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness"

*Lutheran Book of Worship, Hymn 129*  
*The Processional Hymn at the marriage of Miriam and Mark, April 12, 1971*

**\*Invocation**

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

**\*Remembrance of Baptism**

P In Holy Baptism Miriam Elizabeth Stuenkel Hoelter was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all her sin. St. Paul says, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?"  
C **"We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of 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.”** (*Romans 6:3-5*)

**\*Introit** “I Am Sure I Shall See” The Taizé Community  
Trinity Lutheran Church Choir

Psalm 27:13

*I am sure I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.  
Yes, I shall see the goodness of our God, hold firm, trust in the Lord.*

**\*Kyrie**

P Lord, have mercy upon us.  
C **Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**\*Salutation and Prayer of the Day**

P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**  
P Let us pray. O God of grace and mercy, we give thanks for Your loving-kindness shown to Miriam and to all Your servants who, having finished their course in faith, now rest from their labors. Grant that we also may be faithful unto death and receive the crown of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
C **Amen.**

**First Reading** + Isaiah 61:1-3

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. (ESV)

P The Word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

**Choir Anthem** "O Lord, My God, You Are My Refuge" J.S. Bach  
Trinity Lutheran Church Choir

*O Lord, my God, You are my refuge; O let me never be dismayed,  
Lord in mercy hear my prayer to you.  
You are my hope. You are my refuge. My trust is ever in your care.  
Lord, in mercy hear my prayer to you.  
Through dark of night, your light shines upon my way.  
For you are near to be my comfort.  
I will praise your name forever more.*

**Second Reading** + 1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith -- being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire-- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (NRSV)

P The Word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Verse**

P Alleluia, alleluia, Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead;  
C **to Him be glory and power forever. Amen. Alleluia!**

**\*Holy Gospel + John 11:20-27**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." (ESV)

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Hymn of the Day** "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen"      *With One Voice*, Hymn 674

**Sermon**

**\*Response of Faith: The Apostles' Creed**

P God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess Miriam's faith and our own.

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

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From thence 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.**

**\*Response: Prayer of the Church**

P Let us pray to the Lord, our God and Father, who raised Jesus from the dead.

P Almighty God, You have knit Your chosen people together into one communion in the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Give to Your whole Church in heaven and on earth Your light and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and rising may die to sin and rise to newness of life through faith in Him, and so pass with Him through the gate of death and the grave to a joyful resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Give to the family of Miriam, and to all who mourn, comfort in their grief and a sure confidence in Your loving care. May they cast their sorrows and fears upon You, that they may know your grace and peace in their lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Give courage and faith to the bereaved, that within the fellowship of Your Church they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the assurance of a holy and certain hope and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to place our trust in You. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Receive our thanks for Miriam and for all the blessings You bestowed on her in this earthly life, for the privilege of knowing her and being loved by her, for the joy, faith and perseverance she brought to her earthly struggle. May her love for children, her acts and words of kindness and the warmth of her smile be a lasting memory and inspiration for the living of each day of our own lives. Lord, in Your mercy,  
C **hear our prayer.**

P O God of all grace, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give You thanks that by His death He destroyed the power of death and by His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Strengthen us in the confidence that neither death nor life nor things present nor things to come will be able to separate us from Your love, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
C **Amen.**

### **\*The Lord's Prayer**

P Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:  
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.**

**Handbell Anthem "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" J.S. Bach**  
Trinity Lutheran Church Handbells

### **\*Closing Collect**

P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**  
P Let us pray.

Lord God, our shepherd, You gather the lambs of Your flock into the arms of Your mercy and bring them home. Comfort us with the certain hope of the resurrection to everlasting life and a joyful reunion with those we love who have died in the faith; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**\*Benedicamus and Benediction**

L Let us bless the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.

**C Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn "Thy Holy Wings" With One Voice, Hymn 741**

**\*Dismissal**

P Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**Organ Recessional**

"Easter Chorale" J. S. Bach

***The family will leave the church first, and all may follow.  
All are invited to a reception in the Trinity Gymnasium immediately  
following the service.***

**SERVICE PARTICIPANTS**

Liturgist and Preacher

The Rev. William Shimkus  
Trinity Lutheran Church

Organist & Choir Director

Dr. Walter Krueger

Director of Handbells

Sally Schaefer

Soloist

Ruth Register

Flutist

Ruth Gray



Also a very special thank you today for all those who helped with music in the service, ushering, and preparing and serving the reception and otherwise helping us give thanks to God for Miriam's faith and life.

**Memorials** - The family suggests gifts in Miriam's name to:

**+ Sherie Hildreth Ovarian Cancer Foundation**

PO Box 327 Gladstone, OR 97027

<http://www.shocfoundation.org/>

**+ Trinity Lutheran School**

5506 NE Killingsworth, Portland, OR 97218

<http://trinityportland.org/>

**+ Portland Lutheran School**

740 SE 182nd Ave Portland, OR 97233

<http://portland-lutheran.org/>

+ Or a charity of your choice.

## **+ Miriam Elizabeth Stuenkel Hoelter +**

Miriam Elizabeth Stuenkel Hoelter was born January 28, 1947 in Monett, MO, to Rev. Walter W. and Helen Reith Stuenkel and baptized into the Lord Jesus Christ on February 9, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Freistatt, MO. She was confirmed in her faith at Bethany Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI in 1961. She attended Milwaukee Lutheran High School in Milwaukee, WI and attended Concordia College in Milwaukee (where her father was the president) for two years. She graduated from Concordia College, River Forest, IL with a teaching degree and taught for a year at Our Savior Lutheran School in Flint, MI. When the family moved to Lawrence, KS, Miriam opened her home to be a daycare provider and, after her own children were in school, did long-term substitute teaching in the Lawrence public schools. In 1988, earned a MS in Counseling at the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

Miriam served for two years as a school counselor in Lawrence and, when the family moved to Portland, OR, in 1990, for a year at Candy Lane Elementary in the Oregon City School District. She served 18 years as an elementary school counselor at East Gresham and Hall Elementary Schools. In the Gresham-Barlow School District Miriam served as co-facilitator of K-8 counselors and sat for four years on the district's Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Cohort Planning Team, eventually co-presenting at state conferences on the work of this team. An active participant in the Oregon School Counselors Association, she was its president (2005-2006) and was named Elementary School Counselor of the Year for Oregon in 2003. Miriam was a trained Love and Logic Parenting presenter and conducted classes for Trinity and St. Michael's Lutheran staff and parents and at Northwest District Lutheran Teachers' Conferences. Miriam retired from education in 2009. She has also served as an adjunct professor on topics about school counseling at Concordia University, Portland, OR, and Lewis and Clark College, Lake Oswego, OR. For the last two years, she served as a CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children, in Multnomah County.

Miriam served her Lord and the Church in many ways. At Trinity Lutheran Church, where her husband Mark was pastor, she took turns as Trinity Adult Choir Director, Sunday School teacher, member and chair of Committees on Fellowship and Parish Education, sang in the choir, was active in the Dorcas Society and participated in quilting and many other service opportunities. In the Northwest District, she was appointed to the Northwest District Seminary

Interview Committee in 1995 and later became its chair, serving yet through 2013. In the national church body, she became the first woman elected to serve on the Board of Regents of a Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod Seminary, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN, from 2004 to 2010. Most recently she was on the Portland Lutheran Association for Christian Education Board, supporting Portland Lutheran School.

Miriam and Mark Hoelter married on April 12, 1971 at Hope Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, WI and lived in Flint, MI; Hepler, KS; Lawrence, KS; and Portland, OR. Her life journey included surgery for and a diagnosis of ovarian cancer on February 28, 2001. After five years of remission, chemo treatment resumed in 2006, ultimately including whole brain radiation in May of 2012. She determined that cancer would not define her life and spoke often to groups and nursing classes about living with cancer, participated in cancer awareness and education groups, and wrote articles. She and Mark dedicated themselves to travel, visiting France and Denmark, Eastern Europe, England, the Holy Land, Hawaii, Alaska, and several Northwest venues in the ensuing years. Of course, she loved nothing better than to be with people: especially her grandchildren, but also her sons and daughters-in-law, extended family, friends and colleagues in work and church. In the summer of 2013 treatments became less effective and she succumbed to the disease at home surrounded by her family on December 28, at the age of 66 years and 11 months. But she had outlived her expected life span with great energy, grace and enthusiasm. Miriam is survived by her husband, Pastor Mark Hoelter, sons Peter (Jenny); Christopher (Allison), Micah and Lucas, grandchildren Owen, Sara, Andrew, Jackson, and Carson, and her brothers and sisters Rev. Robert (Julie) Stuenkel, Dorothy (Rev. Paul) Marschke, Rev. Roger (Margaret) Stuenkel, Grace (John) Bruss, and Rhoda (Paul) Hayes, and several nieces and nephews.

On December 17, 2005, Miriam gave the address at the winter commencement of Concordia University, Mequon, WI. In her remarks, she noted that among the Masai tribe of Africa, famed as fearsome warriors, the traditional greeting is: “And how are the children?” The priority for this society was the well being of their children, and if the children were well, then the powerless were protected and the people were well also. (And after her speech, a Masai man who was present for the commencement told her, “Yes, that is what we ask.”) Above all things, we would affirm, Miriam cared about the children, that they were well and loved and protected. We give thanks to God for this gift of Miriam and her love for the children – and for all God’s people - in our life.

