Memorial Service for James Edward Sbertoli

Thursday, November 12, 2026 **11:00 AM**

Trinity Lutheran Church **Pleasant Valley, Iowa**



Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. **– Isaiah 40:31**

Gathering

The Holy Spirit, the comforter, gathers us in worship.

Introduction

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

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.

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. **We glorify you.**

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. **We praise you.**

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

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 628 – Jerusalem, My Happy Home

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.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother Jim. 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 the confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered in our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Word

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:28-31

The first reading is from Isaiah, the 40th chapter.
28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.
29 He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless.
30 Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted,
31 but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

At the end of the reading:
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

The second reading is from Second Corinthians, the 1st chapter.
3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, 4 who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. 5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ.

At the end of the reading:
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

THIRD READING: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

The second reading is from Second Corinthians, the 4th chapter.
16 So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. 17 For our slight, momentary affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, 18 because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen, for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

At the end of the reading:
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

FOURTH READING: Romans 8:24-28

The second reading is from Romans, the 8th chapter.

[24] For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? [25] But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. [26] Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. [27] And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. [28] We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

At the end of the reading:

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: Pastor Stephen Nilsen

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 779 – Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

Let us pray.

Each petition will end with: God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Concluding 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

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.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Commendation

Let us commend Jim to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.
Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant James Edward. 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.

Blessing

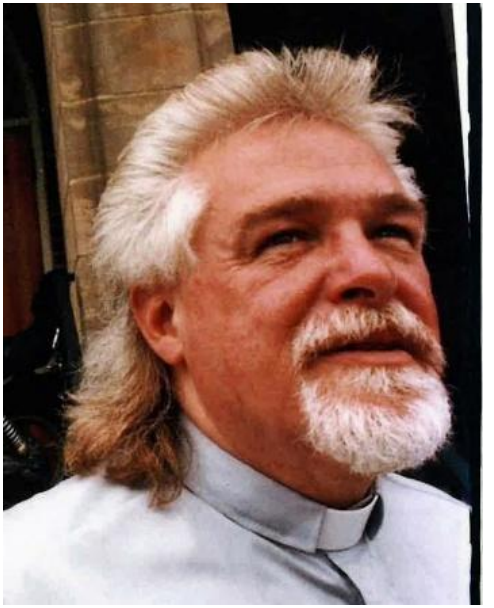
The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. Amen.

SENDING HYMN: ELW 660 – Lift High the Cross

You are invited to join the family for a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall following worship.



Obituary for James Edward Sbertoli

April 27, 1942 – November 7, 2026

James Edward Sbertoli, affectionately known as Jim, passed away on November 7, 2026, at the age of 84.

Jim was born on April 27, 1942, in Chicago, Illinois, to Edward and Jackie Sbertoli. He graduated from Augustana College and the Lutheran School of Theology.

For nearly 40 years, from 1968 until his retirement in 2007, Jim served as an ELCA Lutheran pastor, touching countless lives through his ministry. His pastoral journey included Faith Lutheran Church in Forest Lake, Minnesota; The Minnesota Synod (now NW MN Synod) serving in a variety of roles including, Youth Ministry Coordinator and assistant to the Bishop; Hope Lutheran Church in Minneapolis; First Lutheran Church in St. Paul; and Farmington Lutheran Church in Farmington, Minnesota.

Jim was a dynamic community leader and brought his strong desire to bring people together, especially youth, to share the good news. Known and loved for incorporating his banjo and songs into his sermons and riding his Harley Davidson to church. Jim welcomed all to the church. Jim cherished his mission work in Guatemala, Jamaica, and Nicaragua.

Jim and his beloved wife, Glenna, shared 62 years of marriage, building a life together centered on faith and family. Following retirement, they made their home in LeClaire, Iowa, where they enjoyed the past 15 years together.

Jim's greatest legacy is the family he leaves behind. He is survived by his loving wife, Glenna; his brother, Terry Sbertoli (Donna); and his sister, Joy McKeown (Pat).

He was a devoted father to his three children: Jennifer Kreiter (Kurt), Andrea Peoples (Eric), and Edward Sbertoli (Theresa).

Jim was a proud grandfather of eight grandchildren: Casey Kreiter (Meghan), Haley Rathjen (Wilson), Rebecca Peoples, Jacob Peoples, Elizabeth Peoples, James Sbertoli, Chase Sbertoli, Lane Sbertoli, Kayla Schlichting and Kolton Schlichting (Marissa). He was also blessed with six great-grandchildren: Landen, Breckyn, Jack, Quincy, Leo and Madynn.

Jim will be remembered for his enduring faith, his love of music, and the love he shared with his family. His nearly four decades of ministry left a lasting impression on the congregations and communities he served.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be sent to: Garland Hall, Joel Martin, Mission Jamaica, Christ Lutheran Church (150 5th Street, Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047); Lutheran World Relief; Trinity Lutheran Church.





Serving in Worship

Preaching & Presiding	Pastor Stephen Nilsen
Organist	Paul Madsen
Worship Video/Livestream	Randy Goslin
Pallbearers	Casey Kreiter
	Jacob Peoples
	James Sbertoli
	Lane Sbertoli
	Chase Sbertoli
	Kolton Schlichting

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Trinity Office Hours: Tues-Thurs 9AM-1PM
Pastor Stephen's Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 10AM-2PM
Office Phone: 563-332-5188 **Email:** office@trinitylcpv.com
Pastor Office Phone: 563-332-6432 **Cell:** 319-540-1172