

Celebration of Life Service
Ronald C. Thom
August 10, 1951—September 3, 2025



Lord of Love Lutheran Church
10405 Fort St., Omaha, NE 68134

Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 11:00 am

** Indicates places to stand, as you are comfortable in doing so.*

-Bold type indicates *congregational responses.*

-Please remember to silence your cell phones or shut them off before the service.

Prelude

Please stand as you are comfortable.

****Welcome and Gathering at the Font***

Welcome in the name of Jesus the Savior, who died and was raised to new life by the grace of God. We are gathered here to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our brother in Christ, Ron, to give thanks for his life, to commend his to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

A reading from Romans 6: 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.

****Processional Song "Go Rest High on that Mountain"***

Written by Vince Gill, sung by Home Free

Please be seated.

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.

Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother in Christ, Ron. 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. Illumine our lives, so we may see in death the gate to eternal life, that we may continue our course on earth in confidence until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Remembrances of Ron

-During the service: Miguel Avalos, Victor Carillo, and Tom Olson

-During the luncheon: Paul Christenson, David Egr, Pastor Paula Lawhead, Pastor Chris Meier, Pastor Todd Nelson, and anyone else who would like to share a "Ron story"

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 41:10

Do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you; I will help you;
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

Psalms 51:1-12

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy,
blot out my transgressions.

**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you, you alone, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.**

Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

**You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.**

Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

John 10: 14, 27-29

(Jesus said,) "I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me...

"My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of the Father's hand."

Homily

Pastor Becky Sells

Choir Anthem "People Get Ready"

Written by Curtis Mayfield, Arranged by Kirby Shaw

Apostles' Creed

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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.

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,

Hear our prayer.

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,

Hear our prayer.

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,

Hear our prayer.

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,

Hear our prayer.

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,

Hear our 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 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 shall 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.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together the Lord's Prayer as Jesus taught us.

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

Announcements

Commendation

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

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

Sending

Let us go forth in peace.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Sending Song : "Scars in Heaven" by Casting Crowns

Tolling of the Bell (It will ring one time for every year of his life.)

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Obituary for Ronald C. Thom

Ronald C Thom was born, along with his twin sister Roslynn, on August 10, 1951, in Fremont, NE to Elna and Paul Thom. The family later moved to Tecumseh, NE where Ron attended high school and developed his love for muscle cars and drag racing. Ron eventually grew out of drag racing, but never his love for hot rods.

After graduating from Tecumseh High School in 1969, Ron tried out many things over the next several years. He attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, left to work construction in Colorado Springs, returned to Nebraska to attend Peru State, before finally leaving college to find work and marry Jerryl Trout. They welcomed two boys into the world, Christian and Andrew. Despite being a lifelong Husker fan, Ron eventually became a Maverick and graduated from the University of Nebraska Omaha in 1996.

Ron was a long serving and active member of Lord of Love Lutheran church. He joined the congregation 1974 and remained a member at least until his death, but most likely still considers himself a member. Ron loved music and singing and was a member of the choir where he occasionally sang solos and performed special music. He also taught Sunday school and was a youth group sponsor. Ron was a proud member of Men's Breakfast and rarely missed one of their Saturday gatherings.

Ron began working at the Union Pacific Railroad in October 1992 where he met his second wife Brenda. He and Brenda were married at Lord of Love on November 24, 2001. They enjoyed a wonderful marriage as only best friends do.

Ron is preceded in death by his parents Elna and Paul Thom, sister Paulette Grable and brother-in-law Merle Grable. He is survived by his wife Brenda Thom; son Christian (Megan) Thom, grandchildren Spencer and Olive; son Andrew (Elizabeth) Thom and grandchildren Cobalt and Indium; stepdaughter Theresa Saucedo and grandchildren Maria and Annabelle Bochnicek; stepdaughter Janice (Stephen) Filbin and grandchildren Isabella and Julia; and his twin sister, Roslynn Thom.

Ron Thom was a big guy with a big heart. He made lifelong connections and friends wherever he went. He loved many things, but his greatest loves were his family and friends, classic cars, and Husker football (and not necessarily in that order). His warmth, humor, and the steadfastness of his love will be missed dearly.

A 2nd Remembrance of Ron, written by Diana Baker's daughter Kim Pratt.

(Diana became acknowledged as one of the Thom siblings by Ron and Roz's parents when Roz brought her home early on in Roz's nursing career. Diana and her kids have remained as extended family since then.)

Ronald Thom. The Man. The Myth. The Legend.

He would have appreciated that quietly, as he rarely wanted the attention on himself. A man of faith, Ron carried it with him in ways that often seemed to bring miracles right out of his pockets. Some of those miracles were found in how he always seemed able to pull off the most unbelievable odds, but most importantly, in how deeply he cared for others and the generosity with which he lived. There was always a seat at his table, and when needed, he offered a helping hand that was kind but also steady and strong.

To him, family was family and that never just meant blood. One of his many miracles was the tremendous amount of love he had to give for his wife, sisters, children, stepchildren, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, his congregation, and his winning team, even when they weren't actually winning. His circle extended to dear friends who became lifelong family.

Ron never forgot a birthday or special occasion. He sent texts and reminders, and he would sing to you on your special day, always making sure you felt seen and loved. He could command a room with his booming voice, but more often it was filled with laughter, whether in his Santa Claus voice or with one of his unforgettable Olaf and Sven jokes. His heart belonged to his God and family first, church second, Huskers third, and a salt or sugar-rimmed margarita somewhere close behind, creating a sense of belonging for everyone lucky enough to be around him.

Above all, Ron cherished the joy of being surrounded by those he loved. For his family, he wasn't just a husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend; he was a steady presence, a source of love, humor, prayer, and the reminder that we always had someone in our corner.