

CELEBRATION OF LIFE  
**TOMMY WAYNE LUEDERS**

JANUARY 21, 1936 – JULY 14, 2024



SATURDAY JULY 20, 2024

11:00 AM

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran  
3525 Bee Caves Rd, Austin TX  
[www.shephills.org](http://www.shephills.org)



**GATHERING MUSIC**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness, D. Miller

**WELCOME & THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM****HYMN**

In the Garden, vv. 1-3

**GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY****REMEMBRANCES****SCRIPTURE READING**

Psalm 23 ESV

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads 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 mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 NRSV

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect?

It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL READING**

John 14:1-6 NRSV

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **HOMILY**

Pr. Lauren Dow Wegner

**HYMN**                      Amazing Grace, #779 vv. 1-5 (v. 1, *solo*)

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**COMMUNION MUSIC**                      The Bird's Song, R. V. Williams

**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER**

**COMMENDATION**

**BENEDICTION**

**HYMN**                      How Great Thou Art, #856 vv. 1-2 & 4 (v. 1, *solo*)

**SENDING**

**POSTLUDE**                      Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee, arr. D. Cherwien



**WORSHIP LEADERS**

Pastor	Pr. Lauren Dow Wegner
Director of Worship & Arts	Kevin McClure
Soloist	Erika Bacon
Communion Assistants	Nancy Etzler, Julie Hudnall, Carole Morgan
Altar Stewards	Ken & Elnora McDonald

Tommy W. Lueders, Colonel United States Air Force, retired, died on July 14, 2024. He was born in La Grange, Texas on January 21, 1936, to Judge and Mrs. Theo Lueders. He graduated from La Grange High School and received Bachelor of Business Administration and Doctor of Jurisprudence degrees from the University of Texas.

Football and basketball were an important part of his life in high school and college, and some of his favorite memories were from his freshman teams at the University of Texas. Specifically, he had fond memories of the 1954-55 freshman basketball team that shared the Southwest Conference Championship. Humorously, his favorite football memories while at UT seemingly came while in law school in defeating professor Charles Alan Wright's Legal Eagles team. He competed in rodeo from a young age through college, and enjoyed officiating high school and college football as well as scouting for several teams. Tom enjoyed hunting and fishing from his youth. His retreat was the Colorado River around La Grange where he spent many days and nights hunting and fishing with his family. The Davey Crockett TV show hit the airwaves in 1954, and every red-blooded American boy wanted a coon-skin cap. Tommy spent his free time trapping raccoons for the legion of Davey Crockett fans. He loved teaching others how to hunt and fish and took particular joy in watching his children and grandchildren enjoy the outdoors. Tommy was active in military chapels and Lutheran churches and was a member of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran church in Westlake since 1987.

After law school, Tommy joined the Air Force in 1961, and retired in 1989. He became staff judge advocate after only two years on active duty and served in that capacity four other times. Tommy served in Texas, Alabama, Taiwan, Libya, South Korea, and the Pentagon. He had great experiences and met many lifelong friends during his service. The high point of his career was serving as the Legal Advisor and Legislative Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for four years, which was a year longer than the standard appointment. He also served as Special Counsel to the Air Force General Counsel. As staff judge advocate of Wheelus Air Base,

Libya, he was the legal member of the United States Embassy team that negotiated with Col. Gaddafi after the Libyan revolution and was the Chief of International Law for the United Nations Command when there was a serious incident at the demilitarized zone in Korea. During the Reagan administration, he served on several interagency groups including serving as legal advisor of the first Anti-Terror Group. His numerous service-related awards include the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Defense Superior Service Medal. Tommy was a life member of the American Legion, and the VFW, and served as Chairman of the Military Law Section of the State Bar of Texas.

After a short retirement period, in which he built an addition to his family's Austin home, effectively by himself, Tommy accepted a position as the first Director of Hearings and Review for the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission. He used his experience as a military trial judge and instructor at the Air Force Judge Advocate General's School to rapidly develop a dispute resolution team that, at the time, was regarded as one of the best in the United States. Fighting off retirement as long as possible after leaving the agency he practiced law for another decade. Tommy was a worker. From actually digging a well by hand with the help of several others at his in-law's home in the sandy soil of Alabama, to rebuilding carburetors on the kitchen table, he rarely was at rest and was always building or fixing something.

He married his wife, and best friend, Betty Jo Ezell of York, Alabama, on June 19, 1966, and they had a wonderful life together and have seen the world as a team. From weathering massive sandstorms in Tripoli, Libya, to working together on their beautifully landscaped homes, they have rarely been apart. Tommy is survived by Betty, his wife of 58 years; daughter, Amy Jo (Rod) Dunsmore and their children, Mary, Drew, and Gabe; son, Tommy (Megan) Lueders and their children, Jackson and Carson; and his nephew, Bill (Judge Lorna) Bedard and Chad Ezell; and niece, Tiffanie Ezell. He is preceded in death by his parents, Judge Theodore (Antonio) Lueders; sister, Judge Theo (Judge Bill) Bedard; brother, Rev. Jimmy Lueders; and nephew, Dr. Ted (Melissa) Bedard.

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PROCEEDINGS AND  
DEBATES OF THE  
101ST CONGRESS,  
FIRST SESSION.  
FRIDAY AUGUST 4,  
1989. VOL. 135 NO. 109.

HON. CONSTANCE A.  
MORELLA OF  
MARYLAND IN THE  
HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES.  
THURSDAY, AUGUST  
3, 1989. -



Mr. Speaker, Col. Tommy W. Lueders retired from the Air Force on August 1, 1989, after serving as a judge advocate for over 28 years. He received his bachelor of business administration and doctor of jurisprudence degrees from the University of Texas in Austin. He served as a base staff judge advocate three times, the first after only 2 years of active duty. He was the deputy staff judge advocate at the Civil Air Patrol national headquarters.

After teaching military justice and directing the practice court program at the Judge Advocate General's School, he became the chief of international law for the United Nations Command and United States Forces, Korea, in Seoul, Korea. He returned to Texas and served as deputy staff judge advocate of the 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force at Bergstrom Air Force Base. The highlight of his career was spent as legal advisor and legislative assistant to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. At the request of the Chairman, he stayed an additional year. Then he became the first and only special counsel to the Air Force general counsel. He returned to headquarters, 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force as staff judge advocate and concluded his career. We wish Colonel Lueders his wife Betty; and children, Amy and Tommy II, all the best in their future endeavors.

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Memorial contributions may be directed to Shepherd of the Hills  
Lutheran Church via QR code or postal address below.



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