



St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Austin, Texas

June 20, 2021

2:00 p.m.



A Service of
Praise and Thanksgiving for
Velma and Albert Holck

Prelude

Musical Welcome

Borning Cry

John C. Ylvisaker

GATHERING

The people stand.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Hymn

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

Hymn 774

SHOWALTER

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

The people are seated.

Eulogies

WORD

Psalm 23 *Please join us in the reading.*

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

³he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff —
they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

Austin Saengerrunde Choir

Heilig, Heilig, Heilig

Reading

John 10:11, 10:14-16

Homily

The people stand.

Hymn

Oh Master, Let Me Walk with You

Hymn 818

MARYTON

The Prayers

God of grace and glory, we thank you for Albert and Velma, who were so near and dear to us, and who have been taken from us.

We thank you for the friendship they gave and for the strength and peace they brought. We thank you for the love they offered and received while they were with us on earth.

We pray that all that was important to Albert and Velma will be respected by those that follow; that their lives will be remembered and continue to mean much to us now that they are gone.

We ask you that they may go on living in their children, their family, and their friends; in the hearts and minds, the courage and consciences of friends and family.

We ask you that we who were close to Albert and Velma may now, because of their passing, be even closer to each other, and that we may, in peace and friendship here on earth, always be deeply conscious of your promise to be faithful to us in death.

We pray for ourselves, that we do not try to minimize this loss nor let it isolate us from others.

May God grant us courage and confidence in the new life of Christ.

We ask this in the name of the risen Lord. Amen

Lord's Prayer

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

Commendation

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

Choral Benediction

The Lord Bless You and Keep

Peter Lutkin

Blessing

Hymn

Take My Life, That I May Be

Hymn 685

PATMOS

Postlude

SERVING TODAY

Preaching: Rev. Ellen Williams, Senior Pastor

Assisting: Tom Blomquist

Musicians: St. Martin's Praise Force—Jenny Ohrstrom, Katherine Altobello-O'Brien, Jameson James, Tim O'Brien, Alvin Helge, Andrew Furhman; Steve Wager, Praise Force Director; Austin Saengerrunde Choir

Video: Eddie Jennings

Sound: Jim Parkhurst

Albert and Velma's Story

Albert William Holck was born on October 24, 1932 to Manfred Holck and Bertha Bohn Holck.

Albert's childhood was spent around the family home on Travis Heights Boulevard. He attended Fulmore School, Allen Jr. High School, and graduated from Austin High School. His childhood included earning the Eagle Rank in the Boy Scouts of America and attending the international Boy Scout Jamboree of 1947 in Moisson, France. He also participated in the Capital Set Square Dance team, sponsored and led by his parents, traveling throughout Texas and in other states, performing square dance routines. The group included his siblings and several cousins.

Velma Margaret Miller was born on July 31st, 1935 to Erich Carl Miller and Selma Kriegel Miller.

Velma's early childhood was spent on the family farm near Copperas Cove, which is now a part of Fort Hood. Her later childhood was spent in the family home near Bartlett, Texas, where she graduated from Bartlett High School.

Both Albert and Velma began their college experiences at Texas Lutheran College, now Texas Lutheran University. Both of them transferred to the University of Texas at Austin, where Albert graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree and Velma graduated with an education degree. Albert then attended the Evangelical Lutheran Seminary (Capital) in Columbus, Ohio. His internship year was spent with Emanuel Lutheran Church, Seguin, Texas. He graduated from seminary in 1957, and was ordained on June 23, 1957 in St. Martin's Lutheran Church.

Albert and Velma met at a University of Texas Lutheran Student Association event during the summer of 1954. They were married at St. John Lutheran in Bartlett, Texas on January 15th, 1956.

During Albert's internship in Seguin, Velma taught 2nd grade. She accompanied Albert to Columbus, Ohio for his final year of seminary, and taught Ohio history in the Whitehall School District.

Albert's first call was at Eben-Ezer Lutheran Church, in Brenham, Texas. Velma gave birth to her first three children while in Brenham and spent a year teaching in the Brenham School District. Their next home was in Winters, Texas where Albert served at St. John Lutheran Church. While in Winters, Velma sponsored her own Kindergarten school. Their next home was in Houston, Texas where Albert served at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church and Velma participated in many church activities. While in Houston, their fourth child was born. Their next home was in Pine Bluff, Arkansas where Albert served at Christ Lutheran and Velma resumed teaching. After 3 years in Pine Bluff, the family moved to Austin, Texas. Here Velma resumed her teaching career, teaching first in the Del Valle School District, and then in the Lake Travis School District. Albert served at Prince of Peace Lutheran until his retirement from pastoral ministry. Albert then worked for the State of Texas with the Texas Water Commission. He finished his public work as one of the preachers for the Saturday worship service at St. Martin's. Velma was Albert's right hand in ministry in all of the churches that he served.

In retirement, they did many things together. Velma sang alto and Albert sang 1st Bass and 2nd Tenor in the St. Martin's Senior Choir, and in the Austin Saengerrunde Damenchor and Maennerchor, respectively. Albert also sung in the St. Martin's Choir during his formative years. Velma served several terms as President and Music Committee Chairman in the Saengerrunde Damenchor. Albert served as Vice-President and Music Committee Chairman, for many years, in the Saengerrunde Maennerchor. Both Albert and Velma worked with the Mop and Hammer group at St. Martin's. Velma also was part of the Elizabeth Circle at St. Martin's and helped start the tradition of Children's Worship bags. These bags provide children with activities to do during worship.

Albert always enjoyed singing, serving as song leader at many Boy Scout gatherings. He also sang in the Texas Lutheran Men's Chorus. Fishing, gardening (growing vegetables), raising rabbits and chickens were among his other hobbies. Velma enjoyed growing African Violets, sewing, and cross-stitching.

Albert's love of traveling, developed during the square dancing years, his seminary training, and in his life with Velma. They made many family vacation trips, camping in Arkansas, Colorado, Texas, and a few other states. Travel overseas began in 1983 with Chorgemeinschaft Texas, in a trip to Germany. During that trip they also traveled behind the Iron Curtain to contact relatives in Dresden. This was followed by cruises to Alaska and the Caribbean, and trips to Copper Canyon, Mexico, and Canada.

Velma was known for her quiet disposition, her willingness to listen and warm smile. She loved her homes and always worked to make them a pleasant place to be, including at meal time. Her Christmas Tea Rings were especially prized, and she made it possible to continue the Holck Christmas tradition of baking Molasses Cookies. She took loving care of her grandchildren and had a special relationship with each one.

In their later years, Albert became primary caregiver for Velma as she suffered with dementia. This experience helped him to express his emotions and to see how delicate life can be.

Rev. Albert William Holck, 87, of Austin, Texas, passed away, Tuesday, March 24, 2020, in the comfort of his own home surrounded by all three children, numerous grandchildren and significant others.

Velma Margaret Miller, 84, of Austin, Texas passed away, Thursday, April 9th, 2020.

For all their lives, they credit their Lord Jesus, who guided and protected them. They loved their Lord and are loved by their Lord.