Christ the King Lutheran Church

Funeral Service for Jill Swearingen

September 24, 2026

Welcome

Pastor Rob Morris

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, Jill 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.**

Kyrie

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

Salutation and Collect 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 Jill 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.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:27-31
Read by Tori Swearingen, daughter

27 Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?
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 to him who has no might he increases strength.
30 Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;
31 but they 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 23
Led by Brittany Sachleben, daughter

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 paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4Even 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.

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 forever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Epistle

2 Timothy 4:6-8
Read by Erin Swearingen, daughter

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time
of my departure has come. **7** I have fought the good fight, I have
finished the race, I have kept the faith. **8** Henceforth there is laid up
for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous
judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all
who have loved his appearing.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Verse

P Alleluia, alle- | luia.*
Jesus Christ is the firstborn | of the dead;

C **to Him be glory and power for- | ever.***
Alle- | luia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:1–10

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

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

1Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when
he sat down, his disciples came to him.
2And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:
3"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of
heaven.
4"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
5"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
6"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for
they shall be satisfied.
7"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
8"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
9"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of
God.
10"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and
utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice
and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they
persecuted the prophets who were before you.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

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

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.

Sit

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church and the Lord's Prayer

P Taught by our Lord and trusting 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.

Nunc Dimittis

P "I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord. "He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."

C **Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;**
Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which You have prepared in the sight of every people:
a light to reveal You to the nations
and the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P "I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord. "He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."

Concluding 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, Benediction, and Dismissal

P 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.

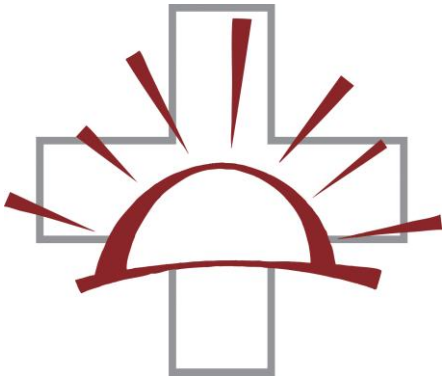
C **Amen.**

P Let us go forth in peace,

C **in the name of the Lord. Amen.**

Time of Remembrance

Morris Silverstein, father
Amy Silverstein, sister



Jill Swearingen

On September 14, 2026, Jill (Silverstein) Swearingen passed away with her family by her side at Brigham & Women's Hospital, Boston, MA, after a long and courageous battle against breast cancer. Just 16 days shy of her 56th birthday, she lived in Bethel, CT and previously in Parker, CO and Bolton, CT.

Born and raised in Bolton, she was the daughter of Morris Silverstein and the late Nancy Petke Silverstein. Her elementary education was in the Bolton school system after which she attended and graduated from East Catholic High School in 1988. She obtained a B.S. in Business Administration from Boston University in 1992. Jill built a career in New England and Colorado in the field of human resources, working with various companies in retail and the software industry and most notably in manufacturing for over 15 years with Eaton Corporation. She ultimately landed in health care as a Human Resources Manager for Mass General Brigham. A move to Denver, Colorado a few years after graduation changed her world forever as she met Marcus Swearingen, the love of her life. After starting a family and spending many happy years in Parker, CO, they subsequently moved back to CT in 2013 and celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary last year.

Jill was predeceased by her mother; her maternal grandparents Minnie and Albert S. Petke of Manchester, CT; and her paternal grandmother Esther Silverstein of Bolton, CT. She is survived by her father, Morris, of Bolton, CT; her husband, Marcus, of Bethel, CT; her daughters Erin of Colorado Springs, CO, Tori of Waltham, MA and Brittany of Pueblo, CO; her sister Amy Silverstein Kawahata and brother-in-law Nori Kawahata of Wayland, MA; her mother-and-father-in-law Janet and Steve of Pueblo, CO; her son-in-law Nate and granddaughters Boston and Jane of Pueblo, CO; nephews Owen and Theo of Wayland, MA, and many close and cherished family members and friends, too numerous to name, but each deeply special to her and her family.

Jill passed away after facing cancer with the same strength, determination, and unmistakable spirit with which she approached everything in her life. She fought hard, but she never allowed cancer to define who she was. Her life was far bigger than her illness. It was defined by the people she loved, the friendships she treasured, the places that brought her joy, and the plans she was always making for what came next. Anyone that knew her knew exactly where they stood with her. She told it like it was. She was honest, direct, logical, upbeat and completely herself. She knew what mattered to her and what she thought, and behind that straightforward exterior was an enormous heart.

Above all, Jill loved her family. Her husband and daughters were at the center of her world. She was incredibly proud of her daughters - whether she was cheering them on at a swim meet or an a cappella concert or seeing them graduate from high school and college. She loved watching them grow into the women they have become. She was also the person who kept track of the details and kept the family moving, connected, organized, and headed in the right direction. If there was a project to organize, a trip to take, a problem to solve, or something six months away that everyone else thought there was plenty of time to figure out, Jill probably already had a plan. She was a source of strength, guidance, and love and the glue that held her family together.

She loved her friends just as fiercely. Friendships mattered deeply to her, and she held onto them across the years and miles, whether they began in high school, youth group, college, at work, her neighborhood, or somewhere along the way. She shared in the ups and downs of their lives - showing up for those she loved, celebrating their successes, and listening when they needed her.

She brought a combination of care, fairness, practicality and honesty to her career in human resources. From her days as a volunteer for Boston University's Speak Easy peer counseling service and as a member of a church youth group in high school, she enjoyed helping people. She was dedicated to her work and took real pride in doing it well. She was thoughtful, detail oriented and fair and believed that doing the right thing mattered, even when it wasn't the easiest thing.

There were certain places that always felt like home to Jill. She loved Boston and all the energy, history, sports (especially the Red Sox and BU hockey), neighborhoods and memories that came with it. She grew up skiing in Vermont and spending time on the beaches of Rhode Island and Maine. In particular, Goose Rocks Beach in Maine held a special place in her heart. The beach was where she could walk, read, admire the ocean and spend time with family and friends that she loved.

She loved to read and take walks with friends. She also loved to travel, even relearning French in preparation for that next trip. She was looking forward to the next stage in her life that would allow her to embark on new adventures; there was still life to be lived and she intended to live it.

Her family and friends will carry her with them – in the traditions she created, at family gatherings, in visits with old friends, in walks around the neighborhood, the Charles River or down the beach. She was deeply loved, and she will be profoundly missed. And although the adventure ahead of her was cut far too short, the love, friendships, family and memories she spent a lifetime building will carry forward for generations.