

OBITUARY

Janice Pommeranz Thomas August 30, 1966 - October 1, 2017.

Janice Pommeranz Thomas of Plant City, FL passed away Sunday, October 1, 2017 at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa. She was 51. She was born in Saginaw, MI on August 30, 1966 to Norman and Helen Pommeranz. Janice moved to Plant City 15 years ago from Tampa. She worked as an Accountant for Beach Products, Inc. in Tampa for the past 27 years and she was a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church of Lakeland, FL.

Janice was preceded in death by her father. She is survived by her loving husband of 29 years David G. Thomas of Plant City, her mother Helen Pommeranz of Auburndale, her sister Diane Hewitt (Mike) of Warwick, RI, and her furkids: Gracie, Gypsy, Ziva, Kensie, and her beloved Scamp, who has been by her side ever since her first cancer surgery in July 2014. Janice very much enjoyed playing organ for church services. She began playing at the age of 12 and accompanied her father, who was a Lutheran pastor for many years.

She loved her "children" and spent many hours training and showing them in several dog sports. She started out showing her heart dog, Shilo, in obedience competitions and later in agility competitions. She also showed in conformation with some of Shilo's puppies.

After Shilo passed away, she lost all interest in dog competitions. She caught the "Disney bug" and went to Disney World almost every weekend. She enjoyed the atmosphere, the rides, and the food. Many of her friends looked forward to seeing her Disney posts and photos on Facebook.

A Memorial Service will be held on Friday, October 6th at 11:00 a.m. at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Lakeland, FL located at 6920 Socrum Loop Road, Lakeland, FL 33809.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Our Savior Lutheran Church.

Final arrangements are being handled by Oak Ridge Funeral Care of Winter Haven.

Blessed be her memory.



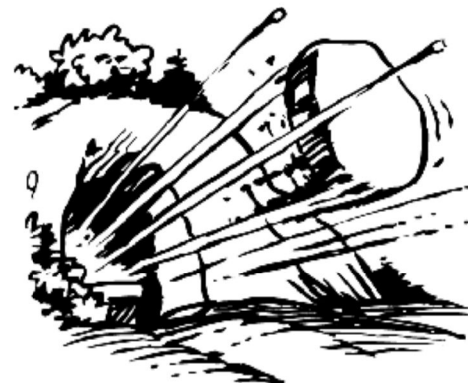
1. *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

Alleluia!

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL USA
Christian Memorial Service  *Janice Pommeranz Thomas*
October 6th, 2017 ✕ 11:00 am



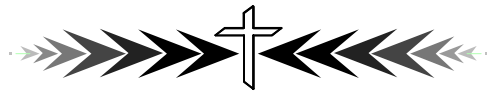
***He is arisen! Glorious Word!
Now reconciled is God, my Lord;
The gates of heav'n are open.
My Jesus did triumphant die,
And Satan's arrows broken lie,
Destroyed hell's direst weapon.
Oh, hear
What cheer!
Christ victorious
Riseth glorious,
Life He giveth -
He was dead, but see, He liveth!***



OCTOBER 6TH, 2017

PRAYER FOR PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your Holy Word and to offer You our praise and worship. We pray, open our hearts by means of Your Holy Spirit so that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and in death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*



Greeting and Prayer

Pastor: *In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

Congregation: *Amen.*

Opening Hymn (660) I'm But a Stranger Here

1. I'm but a stranger here, - Heav'n is my home;
Earth is a desert dread, - Heav'n is my home.
Danger and sorrow stand - Round me on every hand;
Heav'n is my fatherland, - Heav'n is my home.
2. What though the tempest rage, - Heav'n is my home;
Short is my pilgrimage, - Heav'n is my home;
And time's wild wintry blast - Soon shall be overpast;
I shall reach home at last, - Heav'n is my home.
3. There at my Savior's side - Heav'n is my home;
I shall be glorified, - Heav'n is my home;
There are the good and blest, - Those I love most and best;
And there I, too, shall rest, - Heav'n is my home.
4. Therefore I murmur not, - Heav'n is my home;
Whate'er my earthly lot, - Heav'n is my home;
And I shall surely stand - There at my Lord's right hand.
Heav'n is my fatherland, - Heav'n is my home. A-men.

In Loving Memory

Janice Pommeranz Thomas



Memorial Service

Friday, October 6th, 2017 at 11:00 am
Service held at Our Savior Lutheran of Lakeland, FL

Services Entrusted To

Oak Ridge Funeral Care of Winter Haven

SAFELY HOME

*I am home in Heaven, dear ones; O so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty In this everlasting light.*

*All the pain and grief is over, Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever, Safely home at last.*

*Did you wonder how I calmly Trod the valley of the shade?
Oh, but Jesus' love illumined Every dark and fearful glade.*

*And He came Himself to meet me In that way so hard to tread;
And with Jesus' Arm to lean on, Could I have one doubt or dread?*

*Then you must not grieve so sorely, For I love you dearly still;
Try to look beyond earth's shadows, Pray to trust our Father's Will.*

*There is work still waiting for you, So you must not idly stand;
Do it now, while life remaineth, You shall rest in Jesus' land.*

*When that work is all completed, He will gently call you home;
Oh, the rapture of that meeting, Oh, the joy to see you come.*

Amen.

PASTOR: Give courage and faith to the bereaved that they may have the strength to meet the days ahead in the assurance of a holy and certain hope, in the Communion of Your Church, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love who have departed in the faith.

CONGREGATION: **Hear us, O Lord.**

PASTOR: God of all grace, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give You thanks that by His death He destroyed the power of death and that by His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Strengthen us in the confidence 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 which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

CONGREGATION: **Amen, Lord Jesus hear us.**

**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.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you;
The Lord look on you with favor and give you His peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn (47) Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

**1. Savior, again to Thy Dear Name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise.
Once more we bless Thee Ere our worship cease,
Then, lowly bending, wait Thy Word of Peace.**

**2. Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;
With Thee began, with Thee shall end, the day;
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon Thy Name.**

**3. Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light.
From harm and danger keep Thy children free,
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.**

**4. Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace. A--men.**

Please join us after the service for a meal served by the ladies of Our Savior.

Officiant: Rev. Andrew Burmeister

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Organist: No longer Janice Thomas

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 100 A Psalm of praise.

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.

Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

**Hymn (463) 1. For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confess,
Thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blest,
Al---leluia! Al---leluia!**

I Peter 1:3-9 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade - kept in Heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the Salvation that is ready to be revealed in the Last Time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the Salvation of your souls.

**Hymn (463) 5. And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Al---leluia! Al---leluia!**

John 14:1-6 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going." 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where You are going, so how can we know the way?" 6 Jesus answered, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Thanks be to God for the comfort of His Word!

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**Hymn (463) 6. But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day;
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of Glory passes on His way.
Al---le-lu-ia! Al---lelu-ia! A- -men.**

THE RESPONSIVE READING

PASTOR: Make me to hear joy and gladness:

CONG.: **That the bones which Thou hast broken may rejoice.**

PASTOR: Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation:

CONGREGATION: **And uphold me with Thy free Spirit.**

PASTOR: Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways:

CONGREGATION: **And sinners shall be converted unto Thee.**

PASTOR: God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes:

CONGREGATION: **And there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away.**

PASTOR: We have here no continuing city. Hallelujah!

CONGREGATION: **But we seek one to come. Hallelujah!**

PASTOR: Blessed are the dead, which die in the Lord. Hallelujah!

CONGREGATION: **They rest from their labors, and their works do follow them. Hallelujah!**



Prayer: (Pastor) With honor and affection we remember, O everlasting God, those who have gone before us, in particular today we remember our dear friend *Janice Thomas*. Keep us united with them and with her through faith and love toward You, that hereafter we may enter into Your presence and be numbered with those who serve You and look on Your Face in glory everlasting, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Congregation: Amen.

Hymn (- - -) Amazing Grace (Not in TLH, 4 verses)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.</p> | <p>2 The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be
as long as life endures.</p> |
| <p>3 Through many dangers, toils, and-
snares - I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.</p> | <p>4 When we've been there ten thousand
years, - Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun. A-men.</p> |

A Christian Remembrance

Sermon – TEXT Luke 2:29-32

Your Servant, (Janice) Depart in Peace

Hymn (- - -) On Eagles' Wings (Not in TLH, 3 verses and Refrains)

- 1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord, "My Refuge, -- My Rock in Whom I trust." Refrain:
And He will raise you up on eagle's wings, Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun, And hold you in the Palm of His Hand.**
- 2. The snare of the fowler will never capture you, And famine will bring you
no fear; Under His Wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield. Ref:
And He will raise you up on eagle's wings, Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun, And hold you in the Palm of His Hand.**
- 3. For to His angels He's given a command, To guard you in all of your ways,
Upon their hands they will bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.
And He will raise you up on eagle's wings, Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun, And hold you in the Palm of His Hand.**

THE PRAYERS

PASTOR: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have knit your chosen people together in one communion in the body of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Give to Your whole Church in heaven and on earth Your light and Your peace.

CONGREGATION: **Hear us, O Lord.**

PASTOR: Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life and that through the gate of death and the grave we may pass with Him to our joyful resurrection.

CONGREGATION: **Hear us, O Lord.**

PASTOR: Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, Your Holy Spirit that He may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days.

CONGREGATION: **Hear us, O Lord.**

PASTOR: Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in Your loving care that, casting all their sorrow on You, they may know the consolation of Your love.

CONGREGATION: **Hear us, O Lord.**

(Prayer continues on next page 5 →)

Luke 2:29-32 Janice Thomas Funeral "SERVANT, DEPART IN PEACE" 10.06.17

Dear family and friends of Janice, especially you David and family, grace and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord, Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION Everyone must leave this world. No one can stay here forever. Some depart in a short time and others have a longer life on earth. Compared to the history of the world however, our life spans, **when they come to a sudden end, always seem too short.**

It is comforting to know that when human beings pass away, they don't simply go off somewhere into a vacuum, nor are they on a journey that begins in death and ends in some kind of completion of goals. These false myths about death, although popular in our world today, are really nothing more than the empty mind-wanderings of hopeless people, folks who don't know where in the world to find hope, so they create their own make believe hope. Janice knew where her **sure and true hope** was.

The truth about death and what happens after death is told us in the written Word of God, the Holy Scriptures. There we are told that when physical death happens, the soul of the departed leaves the body. It goes either to **eternal life** with God or to **eternal death** where it is separated from God. We are also told in the Holy Scriptures that on the Last Day, at the return of our Lord Christ, all bodily remains will rise out of the grave and will be judged by our Lord. Those who in their earthly lives believed in the true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, will be judged righteous on account of the work of Christ in their place. Those who in their earthly lives rejected that message of the Gospel, the good news of the Savior, will be judged guilty on account of their own works of unrighteousness. This is the truth about death, and we know it is the truth because it is what God's Word teaches.

Janice believed what the Holy Scriptures teach concerning death and the afterlife, and so in the midst of our sorrow and grief today, we praise God that we are able to gather together to pay our final respects to one who **departed this life in the Peace that only Christ can bring.** We praise God even in our tears and sorrow, because the soul of our dear sister, **Janice Pommeranz Thomas**, now rests in peace at the **throne of the Lamb of God** Who takes away the sin of the world, and because we know that at the Last Day, when Christ comes again and all his glory is revealed, these earthly remains will rise from the ashes they are today, and they will be judged righteous on account of Christ. **In that moment Janice's joy will be complete.** Everything she believed in her life will come to its fulfillment.

The words of our text this morning were originally spoken by an **old man named Simeon.** He was promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen Christ, the son of the living God. When Jesus was eight days old, his parents Mary and Joseph took him to the Temple as was the custom of the Old Testament Church. Simeon immediately recognized Jesus as the promised Savior and he went to Him, took Him in his arms and said, **"Lord, now You let Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; 30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation 31 Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, 32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel."**

Simeon was ready to leave this life in peace because he had seen the fulfillment of the promise of God, that a Savior would come into the world to redeem the world from the bondage of sin. He had literally seen God's Salvation, Jesus, with his own eyes. What he had previously seen through the eyes of faith had now been revealed to his bodily eyes.

In some ways Janice was similar to Simeon. She lived her faithful life in service to the Lord. Although she did not, in her earthly life, get to see Jesus with her physical eyes, she did **see him through the eyes of her faith**, and she sees Him now. She held the Baby Jesus, God's Salvation, **not** in her arms like Simeon, but **in her heart.** She knew that the Savior Who lived in her heart had also lived a perfect life in her place. That for every time she sinned, Christ was sinless for her. That even though she was born with a sinful nature which made her hostile to God, **Christ was born with a perfect Divine Nature in total communion with God in her place.** She also knew that even though she deserved the punishment of eternal separation from God in hell for her sin, Christ, her Savior, suffered that separation for her! On the Cross Jesus uttered the words, **"My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"** so that Janice, in her death, **would not have to.**

Janice believed in Jesus, into Whose Name she was Baptized, and she returned to her Baptism **daily by confessing her sins to God and receiving his forgiveness.** Throughout her life she confessed this faith in her Savior, not only with her mouth, but also with her desire to come to meet God where he promised to be, in His Word and in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, where she gave her service also. Those of you who knew Janice all her life know that she rarely missed the opportunity to be fed by her Savior in his Divine Service. She had a hunger and thirst for the Bread of Life Who said, **"He who believes in me has everlasting life."**

It is because of this confession of faith which Janice made with her mouth and her life, that **we can be sure that her soul is now with the Lord in Heaven in perfect Peace,** and that on the Last Day, when Christ returns, her body will be reunited with her soul in perfection. And by the way, there will be **no more pain, no cancer, no suffering.**

It is sad that Janice has now departed this life, but we must take comfort in the fact that she did not simply depart, but rather she **entered a place far greater than this.** She had **seen the Salvation** which God had prepared before the face of all people, the **Light** that revealed the merciful God to the Gentiles, and the glory of God's people Israel.

And, speaking of "light" (in our text), Jesus was of course the True Light. (But) We are told elsewhere in Scripture (**Ephesians 5:1-2**) **"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.** Janice showed herself to be an "imitator" and **a shining light of the Jesus and the Gospel.** I have said this numerous times in the (last three) years, and many people that encountered Janice during this ordeal expressed the thought of How Janice could go through this still with her shining smile and cheerful demeanor. Both in her faithful service in serving us whenever she possibly could at the organ bench at Our Savior, and in her cheerful perseverance in the sufferings **Janice shone her Gospel life and showed her faith**, demonstrating that she knew our Good Lord was both watching over her and always has a purpose, especially for his dear children until He brings them home, as He did for Janice.

CONCLUSION Although Janice is gone from us now, by the power of Christ in her life she has left us **a tremendous legacy.** It is not a legacy of incredible wealth or fame. Instead, it is a legacy that far exceeds any of the wealth or fame that this life offers. Janice has left us with the **legacy of her faith.** From her confession we learn that it is only through Christ that we can have what she now has, eternal life and the sure hope of the Resurrection. Blessed be her memory. **Glory be to the Father & to the Son & to the H.S. as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be.**