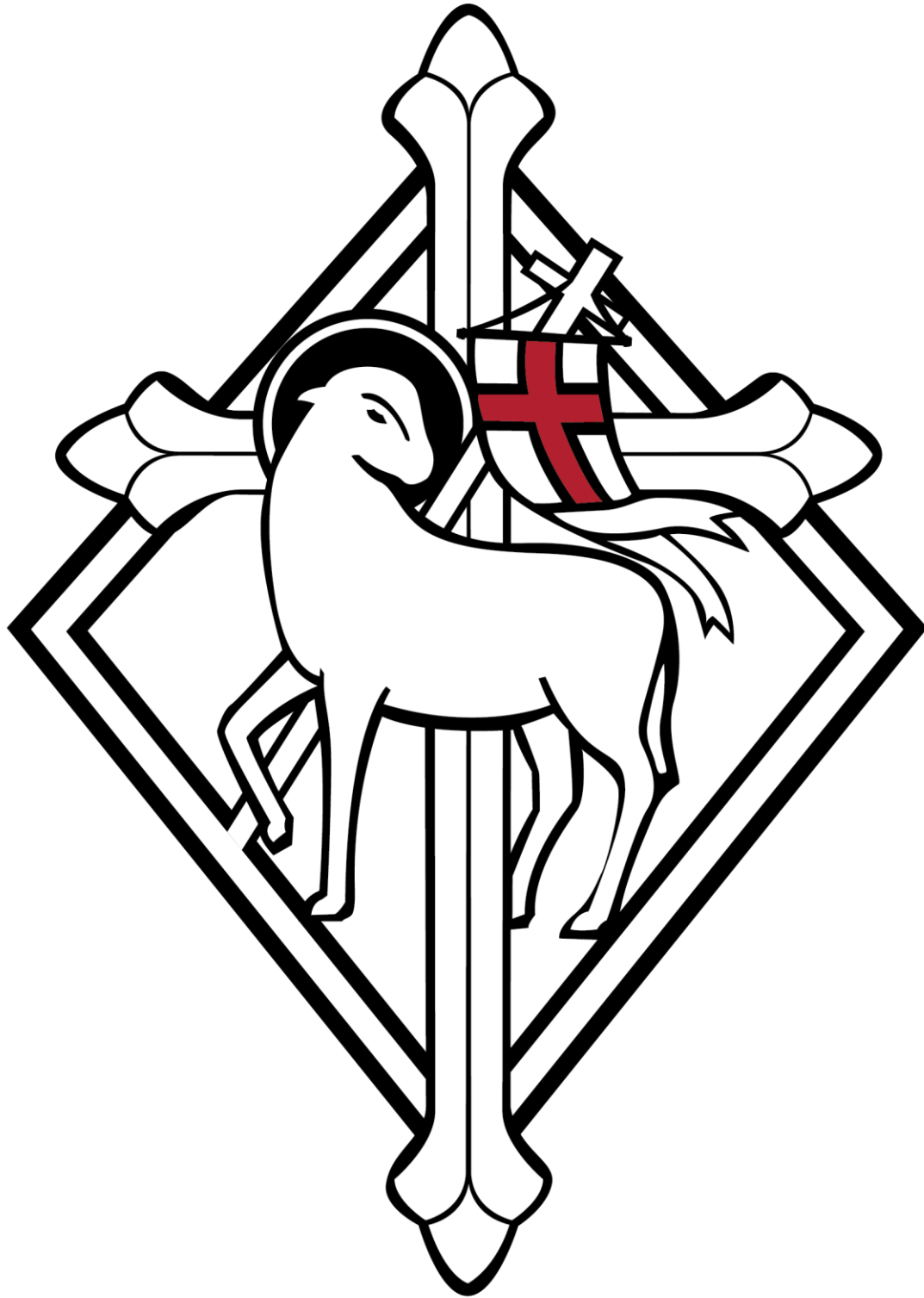




Gary Albert Nelson

May 30, 1947—May 17, 2026

In Nomine Jesu

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

151 Tremont St. W, Port Orchard WA 98366
Sunday July 19, 2026 Pastor Tony Pittenger

INVOCATION

PRAYER

READING OF THE OBITUARY

HYMN 319: Just as I Am

1. Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy Blood was shed for me
And that thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
2. Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
3. Just as I am, and though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt
Fightings and fears within, without
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
4. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

MILITARY HONORS



HYMN 302:The Tree of Life

1. The tree of life with ev'ry good
In Eden's holy orchard stood,
And of its fruit so pure and sweet
God let the man and woman eat.
Yet in this garden also grew
Another tree, of which they knew;
Its lovely limbs with fruit adorned
Against whose eating God had warned.
2. The stillness of that sacred grove
Was broken, as the serpent strove.
With tempting voice to Eve beguile
And Adam too by sin defile.
O day of sadness when the breath
Of fear and darkness doubt and death,
Its awful poison first displayed
Within the world so newly made.
3. What mercy God showed to our race,
A plan of rescue by His grace;
In sending One from woman's seed,
The One to fill our greatest need
For on a tree up lifted high
His only Son for sin would die,
Would drink the cup of scorn and dread
To crush the ancient serpent's head!
4. Now from that tree of Jesus' shame
Flows life eternal in His name;
For all who trust and will believe,
Salvation's living fruit receive.
And of this fruit so pure and sweet
The Lord invites the world to eat,
To find within this cross of wood
The tree of life with ev'ry good.



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 25:1–7 (ESV)

¹To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. ²O my God, in You I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. ³Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. ⁴Make me to know Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. ⁵Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long. ⁶Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O Lord!

Romans 8:31–39 (ESV)

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure 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.

John 10:14-16 (ESV) ¹⁴ I am the Good Shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. So there will be one flock, one Shepherd.



HYMN197: My Hope is Built

1. My Hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.*

2. When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil.

Refrain

3. His oath, His covenant, and blood
Support me in the whelming flood;
When every earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my Hope and Stay.

Refrain

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.

Refrain

HOMILY



The First Song of Isaiah

Refrain

*Surely, it is God Who saves me;
I will trust in Him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and He will be my Savior*

1. Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say,
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon His Name;

Refrain

2. Make His deeds known among the peoples;
see that they remember that His Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for He has done great things,
and this is known in all the world.

Refrain

3. Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion,
Ring out your joy,
For the great one in the midst of you
Is the Holy one of Israel.

Refrain

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

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.



HYMN: Amazing Grace

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.
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.
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.
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.



PSALM 23 (KJV)

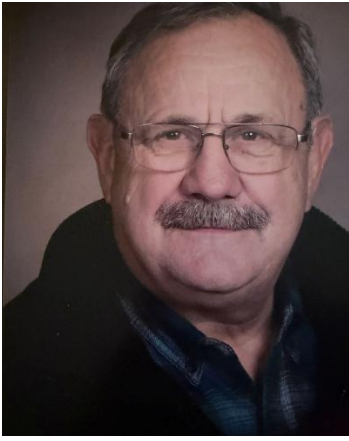
C: The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

BENEDICTION

MUSIC TRIBUTE: *"One More Day"* Sung by Jim Murphy

All are invited to join the family down the hall for a reception catered by Garnishing Chef





OBITUARY

Gary Albert Nelson, 78, died on May 17, 2026, at his home in Port Orchard, WA. Gary was born to Albert Nelson and Ruth Stempf Nelson at the FDR Hospital in Bremerton, WA. Gary is preceded in death by his parents, his sister Ardith Nelson Brown, and his brother James Nelson. Gary married Linda Newell Nelson on May 11, 1984, and they spent 42 years in marriage and raised a blended family of five children; Adam Nelson (Christie), Amber Nelson Dupuis (Joseph), Ray Killgore (Wendy), David Killgore (Mary), Tony Killgore (Amanda). In their blended family there are 17 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Gary grew up and lived his teen years in Port Orchard, WA, until joining the United States Air Force on July 30, 1965, serving four years, one year in Pleiku, Vietnam, where he was awarded the Bronze Star.

Upon returning home from his military service, Gary attended Green River Community College earning an Associates degree in Air Traffic Control. Gary flew for the Department of Natural Resources as well as for the State of Washington in an Air Ambulance. In 1998 he completed his Bachelors degree at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in Vocational Education.

Gary worked in the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard for thirty-eight years, retiring in July of 2010. He started his career as a Pipefitter and worked his way up to become a Nuclear Instructor.

Gary was an avid flyer, earning his pilot's license on October 4, 1970 and he continued on to obtain a commercial pilots license as well. He was a flight instructor for many years; teaching his son Adam to fly at age 16 and taught his niece Jeanne to fly as well. He was a great teacher in the air and on the ground as he taught four teenage boys to drive and everyone survived.

In 2000 he built his own airplane, an Avid Magnum, and flew it to Osh Kosh, Wisconsin, with his brave friend Glen Walker accompanying him; this resulted in many great stories coming from their adventure.

Gary was known for his wonderful smile and his friendly outgoing personality; he will be forever missed by family and friends.

Gary was a lifelong member of Bethany Lutheran Church in Port Orchard, WA.

Memorial donations can be made to: [Alzheimer's Association](#) of Washington: 12721 30th Ave NE, Suite 101, Seattle, WA 98125, Bethany Lutheran Church, or to the charity of your choosing.

Blessed be his memory.