

Celebrating the Life of Linda Dorothy Bobbitt

April 23, 1965 – July 27, 2026



August 28, 2026

12 pm

**First Lutheran Church
Longmont, Colorado**

Celebrating the Life of Linda Bobbitt

Prelude: *Thaxted*, from *Jupiter in The Planets*

Gustav Holst

Gathering

Welcome

Pastor Stephanie Kopsch

Processional Hymn – *Magnificat*, from *Holden Evening Prayer*

Marty Haugen

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
And my spirit rejoices in you.
You have looked with love on your servant here,
And blessed me all my life through.
Great and mighty are you, O Holy One,
Strong is your kindness evermore.
How you favor the weak and lowly one,
Humbling the proud of heart!

You have cast the mighty down from their thrones,
And uplifted the humble of heart.
You have filled the hungry with wondrous things,
And left the wealthy no part.
Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One,
Strong is your justice, strong your love,
As you promised to Sarah and Abraham,
Kindness for evermore.

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
And my spirit rejoices in you.
You have looked with love on your servant here,
And blessed me all my life through.

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

Eulogy

Sheridan Green and Bobbi Weber

Remembrances

Christopher “CJ” Bobbitt and Michele Ryan

Word of Thanksgiving

Bishop Meghan Johnston Aelabouni

Special Music: *Fishers of Men*

Becky Buller

Reading – Acts 2:42-47

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Reading – John 20:1-20

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, ¹² and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Hymn of the Day – Christ Be All Around Me

David Leonard, Jack Mooring, Leeland Mooring, and Leslie Jordan

As I rise, strength of God, go before, lift me up;
As I wake, eyes of God, look upon, be my sight.

As I wait, heart of God, satisfy and sustain;
As I hear, voice of God, lead me on, be my guide,
Be my guide.

Above and below me, before and behind me;
In every eye that sees me, Christ be all around me;
Above and below me, before and behind me;
In every eye that sees me, Christ be all around me, yeah.

As I go, hand of God, my defense, by my side;
As I rest, breath of God, fall upon, bring me peace,
Be my peace.

Chorus:

**Above and below me, before and behind me;
In every eye that sees me, Christ, be all around me;
Above and below me, before and behind me;
In every eye that sees me, Christ, be all around me, yeah.
Oh, oh, Christ, be all around me, yeah;
Oh, oh, Christ, be all around me, yeah.**

Your life, Your death, Your blood was shed
For every moment, every moment;
Your life, Your death, Your blood was shed
For every moment, every moment;
Your life, Your death, Your blood was shed
For every moment, every moment;
Your life, Your death, Your blood was shed
For every moment, every moment.

Chorus

Prayers of Intercession

Each part of the prayer ends with “God of mercy.” Please respond with **“Hear our prayer.”**

Lord’s Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Announcements

Commendation

Hymn – Will the Circle Be Unbroken

Text by Ada R. Habershon; music by Charles H. Gabriel

There are loved ones in the glory
Whose dear forms you often miss.
When you close your earthly story,
Will you join them in their bliss?

Chorus:

**Will the circle be unbroken by and by, Lord, by and by?
There's a better home awaitin' in the sky, Lord, in the sky.**

In the joyous days of childhood
Oft' they told of wondrous love.
Pointed to the dying Savior,
Now they dwell with Him above.

Chorus

You remember songs of heaven
Which you sang with childish voice.
Do you love the hymns they taught you,
Or are songs of earth your choice?

Chorus

You can picture happy gath'ings
'Round the fireside long ago.
And you think of tearful partings
When they left you here below.

Chorus

One by one their seats were emptied,
One by one they went away.
Now the fam'ly is parted.
Will it be complete one day?

Chorus

We exit in peace, in the name of Christ.

Postlude

All are invited to a reception following the service.

Instrumental and Vocal Ensemble

Andrew Halladay — director, guitar, voice
James Halladay — Music Director, Nativity Lutheran Church; voice
Gary Elmquist — organ, piano
Abby Burchard — violin
Eetung Raugh — violin, voice
Kathleen Harrison — cello
Kent Mueller — cello
Lois Espeland — string bass, voice
Robert Espeland — guitar
Rich Horiuchi — guitar
Sara Burchard — voice
Cathy Horiuchi — voice
Rod Carter — voice
Sue Carter — voice
Kathy Pierce — voice
Tina Ramey — voice

First Lutheran Chancel Choir

Sally Campbell — director
Gary Elmquist — accompanist

Audio/Sound Technician

Milenda Powers

Ushers

Laural & Gene Anderson
Kay & Wade Little

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Linda Dorothy Bobbitt

April 23, 1965 – July 27, 2026

Linda Bobbitt collected sand. Small jars of it, gathered from beaches all over the world. The ocean was a spiritual place for her, its vastness a match for her own spirit, and she never left a shore without keeping a little of it. She held on to the people she loved much the same way. Carefully, joyfully, and for good. Linda Dorothy Bobbitt (née McMullin) died July 27, 2026, at her home in Thornton, Colorado. She was 61.

She was born in Austin, Texas, on April 23, 1965, to Dr. Rian McMullin and Carolyn (now Cardile), and spent her earliest years following her parents' studies, first to Tallahassee, Florida, just after her sister, Michele, was born, and then to Meadville, Pennsylvania. But it was Colorado that made her who she became, in Applewood, then Golden, then Arvada. The family settled there when she was eight. She learned to ski that year. She picked up a cello that year, too. She kept both, the mountains and the music, for the rest of her life.

The cello won her a scholarship to Colorado State University after she graduated from Arvada High School in 1983, and it carried her further still, through a psychology degree in 1987 and a master's in counseling psychology at the University of Kansas. The music never left her side. Over the years it took her into musical theatre pits, orchestras, chamber groups, and leadership roles in more ensembles than the family can count. Offstage she was harder to categorize. She was a gifted roller-skating dancer, an avid skier, hiker, and camper, and a devoted enough fan of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* to have performed it in local theatres more than a hundred times.

She and Rick Bobbitt shared nearly forty years of marriage. Their son Daniel was born in Salem, Oregon where Linda, naturally, had already found her way onto the board of the Salem Chamber Orchestra. Christopher followed a few years later, after the family returned to Colorado and eventually made their home in Thornton. Her house became the center point of the Denver family, the table everyone ate at, the address every birthday and holiday somehow ran through. She was at nearly every family gathering, and more often than not she was hosting it.

In her twenties, Linda kept meeting homeless pregnant teenagers, and it bothered her that so little existed to help them. So she built something herself, a government-funded program to support those girls, no matter their circumstances. That became the pattern of her working life. When she saw a need, she answered it. She answered it for five years at Larimer County, where she built new programs, reworked old funding, and helped the county's nonprofits step into the modern era. She helped guide a United Way merger and served on the management team of the county's mental health center. She answered it as a researcher at the OMNI Institute, and for a decade alongside Rick at Geospatial Experts, the family's small business.

And when the need she saw was in the church itself, she went to work there, too. Linda served two elected terms as vice president of the Rocky Mountain Synod of the ELCA, chairing its board. At forty-nine she went back to school, earning a Master of Arts in Congregational Mission and Leadership from Luther Seminary, and for more than a decade she led research for the Lutheran church on what makes congregations come alive. She served as a Deacon from 2022 to 2025, in which time she also founded Blue Veil Ministries, offering spiritual direction, studying church health, and counseling congregations. She believed in serving people regardless of their religion. And she did, her whole life.

Those who loved her will keep their own mental pictures. Linda at the stove, cooking gourmet meals as if the kitchen was one more instrument she had mastered. Linda in an art class, making jewelry to give away to others. Linda wandering the Denver Botanic Gardens, or up in the mountains with a notebook, writing. Linda sitting in meditation, still and content. And somewhere on a shelf, those jars of sand, a whole world's worth of beaches gathered one handful at a time.

Linda was preceded in death by Rick, her beloved husband, who passed away earlier this year. She is survived by her sons, Daniel Bobbitt (and his wife, Denelou), and Christopher Bobbitt; her mother, Carolyn Cardile; her sister, Michele Ryan; and her mother-in-law, Helen Bobbitt.

In Lieu of Flowers, please consider a donation to your local community orchestra, or to the
Linda Bobbitt Spiritual Direction Scholarship Fund:

To donate online, visit <https://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/17599/donations/new> and select “Other” from the list of programs. Write in “Linda Bobbitt Spiritual Direction Scholarship” and complete the form.

To donate via mail, make checks payable to LTSS and add “Linda Bobbitt Spiritual Direction Scholarship” to the memo line. Mail to:

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