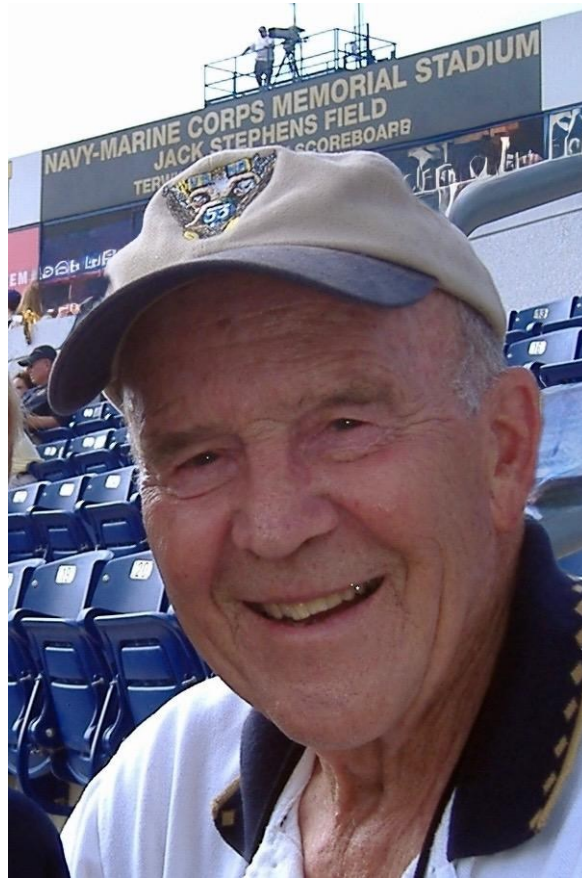




A SERVICE TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF

DARRELL DEAN DEMPSTER

APRIL 9, 1929 - AUGUST 15, 2026

A Service to Celebrate the Life of
Darrell Dean Dempster
April 9, 1929 - August 15, 2026
St. Martin's Lutheran Church
1120 Spa Road, Annapolis, MD 21403

Pastor ~ The Rev. Micah Krey

Preacher ~ Chaplain Paula Thistle

Director of Music Ministry ~ Adedotun Olayemi

Media Technician ~ Sara Wetz

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Order of Service

PRELUDE

*Shout to the Lord
On Eagle's Wings*

ELW 821

ELW 787

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

How Great Thou Art

ELW 856

1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion, and take me

all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft-y moun-tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-

thun-der, thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played;
gran-deur and hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze;
bear-ing he bled and died to take a-way my sin;
ra-tion and there pro-claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain
Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee, how great thou
art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to
thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother Darrell. We thank you for giving *him* to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

¹ For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: ² a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted; ³ a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up; ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance; ⁵ a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶ a time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to throw away; ⁷ a time to tear and a time to sew; a time to keep silent and a time to speak; ⁸ a time to love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace.

The Word of The Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalms 23

¹The LORD ¹ is my shepherd;
I shall not ¹ be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down ¹ in green pastures
and leads me be- ¹ side still waters.

³You restore my ¹ soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways ¹ for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall ¹ fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they ¹ comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence ¹ of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is ¹ running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days ¹ of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the ¹ LORD forever.

THE GOSPEL LESSON - *Chaplain Paula Thistle*

John 14:1-6

The Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ according to John the fourteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** (*Please be seated*)

LOVING REMEMBRANCES

HOMILY - *Chaplain Paula Thistle*



1 A migh - ty for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
 2 If we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing turns to
 3 Though all the world with dev - ils fill and threat - en to de -
 4 God's Word shall stand a - bove the pow'rs, shall end all their thanks-

fail - ing; our help - er frees us from the flood of
 los - ing; the righ - teous one fights by our side, the
 vour us, we trem - ble not, we trust God's will: they
 giv - ing. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours, for

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe,
 one of God's own choos - ing. You ask who this may be:
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Though Sa - tan rant and rage,
 God with us is liv - ing. Let goods and kin - dred go,

for - sworn to work us woe, with guile and dread - ful might
 Christ Je - sus, it is he, the Lord of hosts by name.
 in fierc - est war en - gage, this ty - rant's doomed to fail;
 this mor - tal life al - so; though all of these be gone,

is armed to wage the fight: on earth there is no e - qual.
 No oth - er God we claim! None else can win the batt - le.
 God's judg - ment must pre-vail! One lit - tle word shall tri - umph.
 they yet have noth-ing won. The king - dom's our for - ev - er!

THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

COMMENDATION

Let us commend Darrell to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Darrell,
Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold,
a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming.
Receive him into the arms of your mercy,
into the blessed rest of everlasting peace,
and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

Amen.

Rest eternal grant him, O Lord;
And let perpetual light shine upon him.

Amen.

THE 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.

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace.
In the name of the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
 2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os -
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - lers guard in

rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
 mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
 dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
 dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we
 calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we
 give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

SENDING

Let us go forth in peace. Amen.

POSTLUDE

*O Beautiful for Spacious Skies
 For All the Saints*

ELW 888

ELW 422

Captain Darrell D. Dempster, USN (Ret) of Annapolis, Maryland, passed away peacefully on August 15th, at the age of 97. He was predeceased in 2021 by his wife of 64 years, Sally Strott Dempster, and in 1961 by his infant daughter, Deborah Jean. He was the proud father of Charles Edwin (Eddie) Dempster (Eva), Diane Marie Stanko (Carl), David Andrew Dempster (Dawn) and Holly Dempster Phillips. He is also survived by nine grandchildren: Michelle, Jason (Sarah), and Eric (Paige) Stanko; Mitchell, Brooke, Cody, Reagan and Greer Dempster; Nicole Phillips; great granddaughter, Naomi Stanko; and, his younger brother, John Dempster.

Born in Hutchinson Kansas on April 9, 1929, he spent his school age days in Wichita, Kansas, the oldest of five children born to Edwin and Catharine Boehme Dempster. He loved his deep Kansas roots with his life and character being strongly influenced by the Great Depression and The Dust Bowl.

Darrell enlisted in the US Navy in January 1948 after one semester at Wichita University. He was assigned to Treasure Island in San Francisco. While there, he applied to the US Naval Preparatory School in Bainbridge, MD. He was appointed to and graduated from the US Naval Academy Class of 1953. He subsequently earned a post graduate degree and served for 28 years in Supply Chain and Project Management.

With his wife and growing family, he was stationed first in Yokosuka, Japan, followed by Philadelphia PA, Monterey CA, Washington, DC, Pleasant Hill CA, Coronado CA, and, then, back to Washington, DC until his retirement in 1981. He was also deployed twice to the Tonkin Gulf, off the coast of Vietnam. Through his Navy career, church mission trips, and vacations, he traveled the world and took pleasure in seeing new places, meeting new people, and experiencing new cultures.

An avid volunteer, he especially enjoyed supporting and offering his time and talents to The Tanzanian Task Force (providing water via wells in Tanzania), St Martin's Lutheran Church, and The Seafarers of Baltimore.

He loved competing in local and National Senior Olympics and watching a wide range of sporting events. Darrell continued to go to Navy Football games with friends and family throughout the latest season and was the last man standing (or sitting in his Zoomer wheelchair) for the Class of '53 tailgates.

He was an excellent photographer and writer. As the family genealogist with a steel trap mind, he diligently documented the generations of lives for both his and Sally's families. He used family interviews, family tree charts, census information, scrapbooks, journals, his memoir (*Dead Broke*), and thick binders to gather and share information.

For the last five years, Darrell missed Sally dearly and he gathered her journals, poems, and scattered notes to create the book *In God's Hands*, which showcased her spirit and spirituality. He continued to try and fill her void with book writing and publishing. When asked recently what was best about his life, he quickly responded that it was Sally, with whom he is now reunited.

Up until almost his dying day, he was able to stay in his Annapolis home. It took a village of caregivers and family members to allow him to do this. The Dempster siblings are eternally grateful to his special caregivers, their agencies, his daughters-in-law, grandchildren, and to each other for rallying together to grant him this wish.

To honor Darrell, please give a silent salute to something that brings you joy.