

Celebrating the life of  
**Elaine**



3<sup>rd</sup> October 1944 ~ 20<sup>th</sup> July 2019

St Paul's Lutheran Church, Griffith

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 10:00am

# **Funeral Service Order**

## **OPENING WORDS** – *Pastor Ian Kotzur*

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit

Amen.

## **REMINDER of BAPTISM**

### **AT 235 In Your hand, my Saviour.**

In your hand my Saviour, there's a home for me.  
It's the safest place on earth to be. There you make me welcome,  
give me a new start,  
for your peace has healed my wounded heart.

(chorus)

When I'm near my Saviour,  
he gives joy to me. God alone, he is my sword and shield.  
When I'm near my Saviour, He gives peace to me.  
God shines on each flower in his field.

In your hand, my Saviour, joyful I can be,  
for you offer precious gifts to me:  
mercy and forgiveness, even though I stray.  
Life is now worth living, come what may. *(chorus)*

When I'm near my Saviour, he gives joy to me.  
God alone, he is my sword and shield.  
When I'm near my Saviour, he gives peace to me.  
God shines on each flower in his field. *(chorus)*

In your hand, my Saviour, finally I rest,  
where my life has been so richly blessed.  
By your hand you bring me to a future bright,  
filled with endless peace and joy and light. *(chorus)*

**PRAYER** - *Anna-Marie Kaskinen*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Eternal God, our heavenly Father: Be with us as we gather here in your presence to take leave of Elaine, and assure us that you are close to us as we mourn. As we hear your promises, help us to trust in them and accept the comfort they offer. As we grieve for Elaine, deepen our faith in your goodness and mercy, so that we may not be trapped in bitterness but be sustained by your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**REMEMBERING ELAINE**

Robyn and Michael will now enlighten us with memories of Elaine.

**GREETING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**Readings**

Drew Pfitzner

**Colossians 2: 6-7**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

**Jeremiah 29:11**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**ADDRESS** - *Pastor Gary Kenney*

## **THE APOSTLES CREED.**

**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, dead, and 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**

## **PASTOR**

Let us pray.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## **TRANSITIONAL BLESSING**

**The Lord watch over you, as you go out and as you come in, now and forever. Amen.**



In the sure hope of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come, we take the body of our sister in Christ to its last resting place. Let us go in peace.

**In the name of the Lord.**

**AT 194 A Christmas Blessing.**

**May the feet of God Walk with you,  
And his hand hold you tight,  
May the eye of God rest on you,  
And his ear hear you cry,  
May the smile of God be for you,  
And his breath give you life,  
May the child of God grow in you,  
And his love bring you home.**

**Music Robin Mann, Words Aubrey Podlich.**

Christ has risen.

**He has risen indeed.**

Go in the peace of the Lord.

**Amen.**



**Elaine Pfitzner** Born Elaine Joy Linke Tanunda SA 3/10/1944

Second of 3 children to Edgar and Alma Linke with Older Brother Graham and younger brother Malcolm.

Mum was christened 22/10/1944 in Freeling SA and Confirmed St Petri Nuriootpa 28/9/1958.

She attended Nuriootpa Primary School, Dux 1956 and attended Nuriootpa High School (1957-1960) and was Prefect Barossa House (Deputy Leader).

Growing up with 2 brothers, Elaine was very competitive at sport. She played "A" Tennis, Captain "B" Netball, played in Barossa and Light Table tennis comp, St Petri Youth group team.

At the end of 1959 Elaine attained her Intermediate school certificate, Studying English Literature, Arithmetic, social studies, bookkeeping, Drawing, shorthand (80 words per minute) and typing.

In 1960 she attained her school leaving certificate – shorthand improved to 120 words/min.

Growing up the Linke's lived in a house at the back of Linke's Butchers shop which is renowned for the finest Mettwurst in the land. Elaine loved playing with her best friend Kay and their dolls next door and was very close with her cousin Junette Kohlhagen. As soon as she left school, she gained work at Tarac Distillery as a stenographer Bookkeeper and rode there each day on her pushbike. Mum was always the type of woman who crossed her t's and dotted her i's and had the neatest writing of anyone we know (but it did get even smaller when she had cataracts operated on recently). One of her defining features was post it notes and jotting down notes everywhere, (including where she parked the car up the Main Street when she went shopping, when we were kids.)

Peter started dating Elaine when they were in their early 20's and knew each other from attending social dances together. They were engaged for a year before marrying 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 1967

Prior to this, Dad was looking afield to purchase farmland as he only had 728 acres in his on right at Point Pass. Dad called in on some Pfitzner relatives at Goolgowi and Griffith on the way back from Orange field days, he ended up

working for Vic Pfitzner for 3 months when a block of land came up for sale; "Hill End" 5500 acres. Half was arable, the other half partially cleared with Mallee, pine and box trees. The story goes that Peters father said "if you're going to buy a farm in NSW, you'd better get a ring on her finger"

After they married and honeymooned in Port Lincoln for a week (it was too hot to be away from the farm too long in case the sheep ran short of water) they settled in the old homestead on "Hill End" along with the snakes and mice. And the louvre windows made it difficult to keep the dust storms out. Michael was born 6-12-1969 (another harvest baby).

She faced isolation and some severe trials in the early days. Mum was used to a very close-knit community and being able to walk everywhere, and then on the farm had to adapt to the isolation of being 22 miles out of town. At that time the nearest neighbour was 7 miles away (Carl & May Shearer). There was only Generator Power for the first 6 months and an unreliable party line phone. Dust storms and a severe mouse plague made life difficult for a house-proud lady with small children. At one point, the ground outside looked like moving carpets of mice. Much steel wool was purchased to seal the holes to try and make the house mouse proof (and they succeeded). The final straw was when mum was going to a church luncheon with a casserole on the backseat next to Michael in a bassinet, Robyn in the back before car seats, she rolled the car on a wet treacherous corner. Everyone was fine but mum's confidence on slippery roads took a huge hit. Post Natal depression set in, and Mum's family took her, Robyn and Michael back to South Australia to recover, for 3 months. Dad visited every 2-3 weeks.

The friendship of Robert and Judith Smyth and others at Couples Club and tennis became precious social outlets when Robyn was about 1 year old onwards. Mums started playing Squash again and was renowned as a formidable opponent. Mum was always enjoyed talking to the people that she used to play against.

In 1975 mum and dad built a new house on the farm. Trevor Shearer and their worker Frank Saunders removed the old house and transported it to "Wattle Park" as a workers Cottage. No more mice. Mum made this new house a loving home and loved her garden. Dad mowed the lawns with a ride-on mower (until I was old enough to do it) but mum edged the lawn to within a cm of its life. She liked things neat and tidy. She loved her chooks and Rowdy our dog would be in all the family photos. She also ran a

meticulous visitor's book and everyone that came would have to sign it and comment about their stay. She loved it when people called in even if only for a cuppa.

Mum was well into recycling before it was popular, washing, folding and reusing plastic bags. Elaine ran a tight ship at home always providing dad with clean ironed and folded clothes, (her sock folding technique was unique) 3 meals a day and encouragement that enabled dad to work at his peak, knocking a new farm into shape.

Around this time dad tells the story of mum getting the car stuck down our lane with Nanna. They walked home. Dad was proudly showing the farm to Poppa Linke with us kids in his new 4-wheel drive landcruiser ute (baby cack yellow as I recall) He was navigating around East End lane paddock when it became stuck. He selected 4 wheel drive all too late and realised they had to walk home, kids in tow. Dad came across the abandoned green Fairlane and thought "That's not even bogged", went to drive it, but unfortunately Nanna had locked it in case someone would steal it. Elation turned to frustration as Dad walked the remaining km home.

From time to time dad would say something mischievous which would always bring out an "Oh Peter" from Mum. Even in the last days in hospital this happened and although Mum was relatively unresponsive, when all of us said "Oh, Peter" she did try to smile as we all laughed.

Around 1975 Anne and Doug Ryan built their house on the corner of Johnstons and Pinteebekana Rds. They became mum and dad's closest neighbours and closest friends only 3 miles away. We often called in on our way home from school for a cuppa, a chat and a laugh.

Mum used to drive Robyn and Michael 10 miles to the school bus every day and only missed it once because she got bogged. Although she struggled with the roads at times, she very rarely let it stop her. She carted Robyn to Piano and Netball and Michael to soccer and Drum lessons and band in the Datsun and later the corollas.

Mum took up netball again and social tennis for a few years. She also completed TAFE course in Dressmaking and continued to enjoy gardening, reading and photography.



Dad took up flying light aeroplanes as an interest, which facilitated the family returning to South Australia for visits with mum and dad's family in Barossa and Eudunda, and also trips to Northern Territory – Alice Springs and Uluru; Great Ocean Road, Broken Hill, Grampians, Kosciusko and Khanchoban, Glasshouse Mountains, Brisbane.

Later she travelled with dad when he competed in Flying competitions around the country.

Mum was always heavily involved with the church. She taught Sunday school for 25 years, organised Church picnics and then became involved in Lutheran Women at a state and later Australian level.

At the end of 1995 she completed 7 years on state executive of Lutheran women of NSW. She was Secretary for 6 years and 1 year as an extra member. She was President of Griffith Ladies Fellowship, helped out at Anglican Four Rivers Bookshop, she joined Griffith Chorale in 1995. She wished she could sing better than she did but enjoyed being in the choir.

2000-2003 she was Secretary of Lutheran Women of Australia and was on organising committee for the Convention at Stanley Tops.

In their semi-retirement, mum and dad enjoyed numerous trips with close friends around Australia and around the world including South America, Europe, Canada, and America. One of the highlights was discovering the birthplaces of Mum and Dad's families in Germany, and records of family back to the 1500s.

For the last 10 years mum has been challenged by an itchy skin condition, later diagnosed as Sezary Syndrome, a T Cell lymphoma. She and dad have travelled to Melbourne for treatment at Peter MacCallum Cancer hospital many many times. She has undergone many treatments including being involved in a trial drug which she showed some improvement for a little while. Eventually they have exhausted all treatments including 5 bouts of chemo and 2 full body scans of radiation and targeted radiation. All through mum has kept a record of all drug treatments and monitoring her blood sugar levels. Mum's methodical nature and bookkeeping skills yet again came to the fore.

Mums competitive nature came out riding the exercise bike at Peter Mac hospital, timing herself and beating her speed, the competitive spark would come in her eye as she did her next personal best.

When mum was in hospital, she was desperate to come home for Christmas a couple years ago and wanted to prove that she was ready. The physio came to visit, and she demonstrated many arm, leg and body movements to prove she was ready to go. The physio asked her to march on the spot and she did full marching and although her head was spinning, she remained upright, and they let her come home.

Mum saw her role as supporter and carer of dad in his role in the farm, she kept everything working efficiently at home so he could concentrate on farming. When she got ill, dads role changed remarkably and he became carer, he learnt to cook, wash (not sorting the clothes as mum would have) and more. He's said, "Of course I do it, she's looked after me all these years". This wasn't easy for dad, and a constant struggle not knowing where this was going.

They have travelled through life as a partnership, supporting each other as needed. Staying true to their wedding vows, "married for better or worse, til death do us part."

Some of dads plans and ideas have challenged her, possibly only because she was humble in nature, but with conversation they always worked things through.

She never complained once about her disease, the worst she would say was it was a beggar of a thing. And she never once said why me? Instead she said "Why not me..." Her faith has been strong all through, and she was hopeful she would be healed but confident that if she wasn't her healing would be in heaven.

Mums competitive nature came out this last Christmas. Mum only came out of hospital a few days before Christmas. We were playing table tennis and backyard cricket. Although she was slow to move on her feet, she still managed to outsmart everyone at table tennis. Then in cricket she took

several catches as fielder, went in to bat with James as runner, and proceeded to hit the ball for 4 and six around the yard, she forgot she had a runner and raced James for the wicket, and was the highest run scorer of the game.

If that wasn't enough, when Drew was teaching the kids how to crack a whip, she had a go, nearly spun herself off her feet, yet managed to crack it on the first couple tries. Her health insurance premiums went through the roof after that.

The highlight of this year was grandson Drew and Danielle's wedding in March (and being itchy free for the wedding).

Mum will be sadly missed but the Disease Sezary Syndrome, won't We wish to remember mum as the fun-loving woman that always saw the good in everyone.

She is loved grandma of 7 grandchildren.

Michael and Larissa's children Drew 25, now married to Danielle, and Simone 23.

Robyn and her first husband Dave Drysdale's daughter Rhiannon 23 engaged to Jacob Heron.

Tara 15, Alana 15, Kaitlin 13 and James 12, children of Robyn and Paul Barraclough

Some Elaine-isms we are going to miss

- When dad says something and she missed it, dad would say "Oh don't worry", mum would respond "Oh, I'm not worried"
- "Oh Peteeeeer"
- Hospitality – a cuppa and a listening ear for all who dropped in
- Consideration for others - Visiting me and the kids she'd bring her own sheets or a cooked meal (apricot Chicken) so I didn't have extra work and would help wash and hang the clothes.
- Bedtime songs for the kids – she sang "Jesus Loves Me" to each of the grandkids at bedtime and created little song books for each of them.



*The Pfitzner family wish to thank you for your kind words  
of sympathy, love, support and friendship.  
Your expressions of shared grief are of great  
comfort to them.*

*You are invited to join with them at the  
Lutheran Church Hall for  
some light refreshments following the funeral.*



**Griffith Regional Funeral Services**  
Phone (02) 6964 4473