

# **Celebrating the Resurrection Faith**

in memory of

**Stella San Miguel**

August 31st, 1934 - June 2nd, 2026



June 15, 2026

12:30 pm



Saint James Lutheran Church

Fayetteville, NC

Presiding: Rev. John Locke

704-530-9969 (cell)

[jpl406@gmail.com](mailto:jpl406@gmail.com)

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit, the comforter, gathers us in worship. A funeral pall is placed over the casket, symbolic of the baptismal promise that we are covered with the love of Christ.*

### **Introduction**

Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world.  
We are gathered to worship,  
to proclaim Christ crucified and risen,  
to remember before God our sister, Stella  
to give thanks for her life,  
to commend her to our merciful redeemer,  
and to comfort one another in our grief.

### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*As a sign of being clothed with Christ in baptism, a pall is placed on the coffin. Tonie Neal will pour water into the baptismal bowl from a chalice that had been given in memory of Oscar San Miguel by Stella San Miguel.*

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus,  
we were baptized into his death.  
We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death,  
so that as Christ was raised from the dead  
by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life.  
For if we have been united with him in a death like his,  
we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from  
the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life,  
we glorify you.

**We glorify you.**

Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death  
for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to  
eternal life, we praise you.

**We praise you.**

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who  
sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope,  
we worship you.

**We worship you.**

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.  
**Amen.**

*We stand*

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

*Lift High The Cross* ELW 660

**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**

Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory,  
we remember before you today our sister, Stella.  
We thank you for giving her 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.**

*We sit*

**A Family Memory**

Joseph San Miguel

**Hymn:** *Go Tell It On the Mountain* ELW 290

**A Family Memory**

Diana Vittoe

**Scripture** Ecclesiastes 3:1-8      Jeanell Dooley, granddaughter  
**Scripture** Psalm 23      Amanda Bartel, granddaughter  
**Gospel:** Matthew 6:25-34      Ashley Bryant, granddaughter  
**Sermon**      Pastor John Locke

*We stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**    *Shine, Jesus, Shine*    ELW 671

### **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.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give courage and faith to all who mourn,  
and a sure and certain hope in your loving care,  
that, casting all their sorrow on you,  
they may have strength for the days ahead.  
God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that, where this world groans in grief and pain,  
your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life.  
God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Help us, in the midst of things we cannot understand,  
to believe and trust in the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting.  
God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain 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 in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **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.**

*We sit*

## **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### **Commendation**

Let us commend Stella San Miguel to the mercy of God,  
our maker and redeemer.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior,  
we commend your servant Stella.

Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you,  
a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock,  
a sinner of your own redeeming.

Receive her into the arms of your mercy,  
into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and  
into the glorious company of the saints in light.

**Psalm 91** Anna Lisa Johannessen, soloist

### **The Blessing**

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and  
forever. **Amen.**

Let us go in peace.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Sending Hymn** *A Mighty Fortress* ELW 504

*Our worship continues at Sandhills State Veterans' Cemetery,  
8220 Bragg Blvd., Spring Lake, NC with a committal service at 2:00 pm*

The funeral worship is a service of prayer, praise, and thanksgiving to God for the blessed memories of our loved one, Stella, who has departed this life for the victory over death made possible through Christ. You are invited therefore, to participate joyfully in this final tribute to her life and faith. Grief and sorrow are natural, but the resurrection of our Lord remains the focal point of our worship.



**In lieu of flowers**, the family requests that donations be made in Stella's memory to the Memorial Fund of St. James Lutheran Church.



Musician	Michael Macias
Ushers	Gary & Joan Eissinger
Acolyte	Allyson Dooley
Crucifer	Holden Linkous
Pall bearers	Franklin Vittoe Tyler San Miguel Michael San Miguel Ayden San Miguel Nicholas Dollar David Thomason Jr.



**Stella San Miguel (Leija)** passed away peacefully on June 2, 2026, surrounded by her loving family.

Born on August 31, 1934, in San Antonio, Texas, Stella was the daughter of the late Pascual Leija and Maria Amador.

As a proud military wife, Stella shared a beautiful, adventurous life with her husband, Oscar San Miguel, holding down the home front with resilient strength and unwavering faith while he served his country. Stella was known for being determined and strong-willed, a woman who always led with her deep faith and immense love. She was a faithful member of St. James Lutheran Church where she found immense joy in her church family, her ministries, and her faith in the Lord.

Her kitchen was always a place of gathering, and she found immense joy in cooking for her family and bringing everyone together. She also held dear the lifelong memories spent with her cousin and friend, Nelda Morales Martinez. Her greatest pride and joy were undoubtedly her family. Stella is reunited in heaven by her beloved husband, Oscar San Miguel; her son, Andrew San Miguel; her son-in-law, Bill Vittoe; her cherished grandchildren, Jennifer Vittoe Chaplin, Maria San Miguel, Mercedes San Miguel, and Isaiah Frederick; and her three dear brothers.

Stella's legacy lives on through her surviving family, including her children, Diana Vittoe, Bonnie Ryan (Jeff), Oscar San Miguel (Cathy), Stella Dollar (Roger), Orland San Miguel (Nancy), Patrick San Miguel, Rebecca Thomason (David), and Joseph San Miguel (Marcie); her brother, Eddie Leija (Matilda); her surviving grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and a host of extended family members and friends who will miss her dearly.