

A Celebration of the Resurrection and Life of

William (Bill) James Mealia

Born ~ November 22, 1943

Joined the Church Triumphant ~ August 25, 2025

Saint Luke Lutheran Church



Saturday, November 22, 2025 ~ 11am

The Reverend Dr. Christian Eichorn, Pastor

Preservice Music
Bud Esper, Director of Music

“Founded in 2005, *The Patriot Guard Riders* are honored to welcome the friends and family of William (Bill) James Mealia at the entrance of St. Luke Lutheran Church. They are here today to stand a silent flag line. The PGR’s mission is to carry out a tribute to honor Bill’s memory of the courage and sacrifice he so freely gave.”

GREETING

P 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 brother Bill Mealia, to give thanks for his life, to commend him to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

Congregation stands

OPENING HYMN “Amazing Grace”, #779 (*Music on next page*)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

C We glorify you.

P 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.

C We praise you.

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

C We worship you.

WA Let us pray...we pray this through your son Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

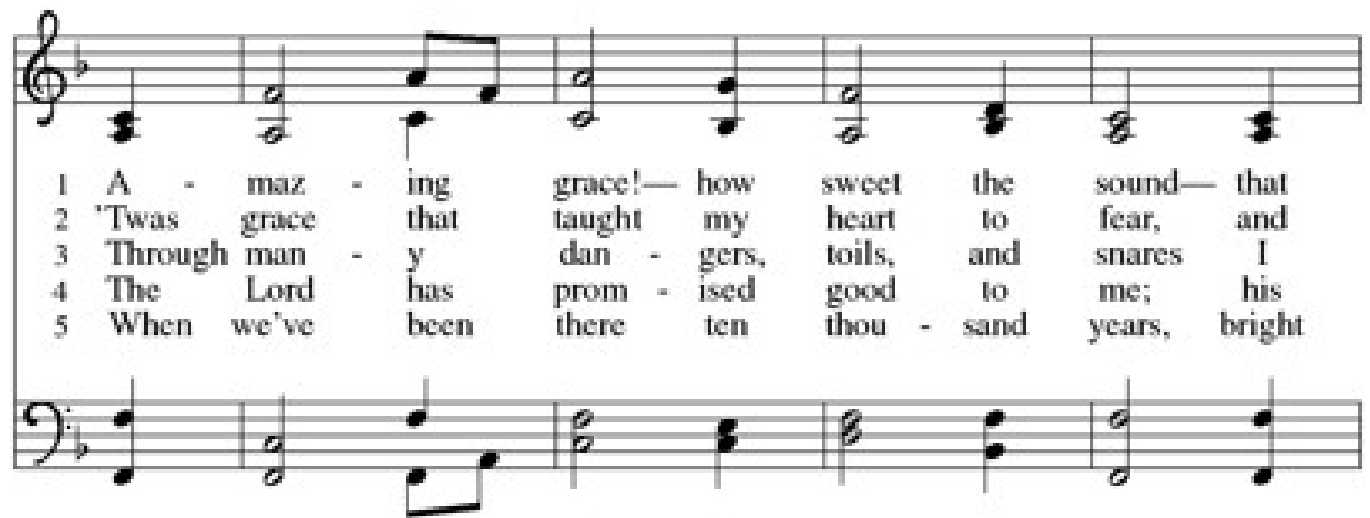
Congregation sits

FIRST READING ~ ECCLESIASTES 3:1-8, 14,15

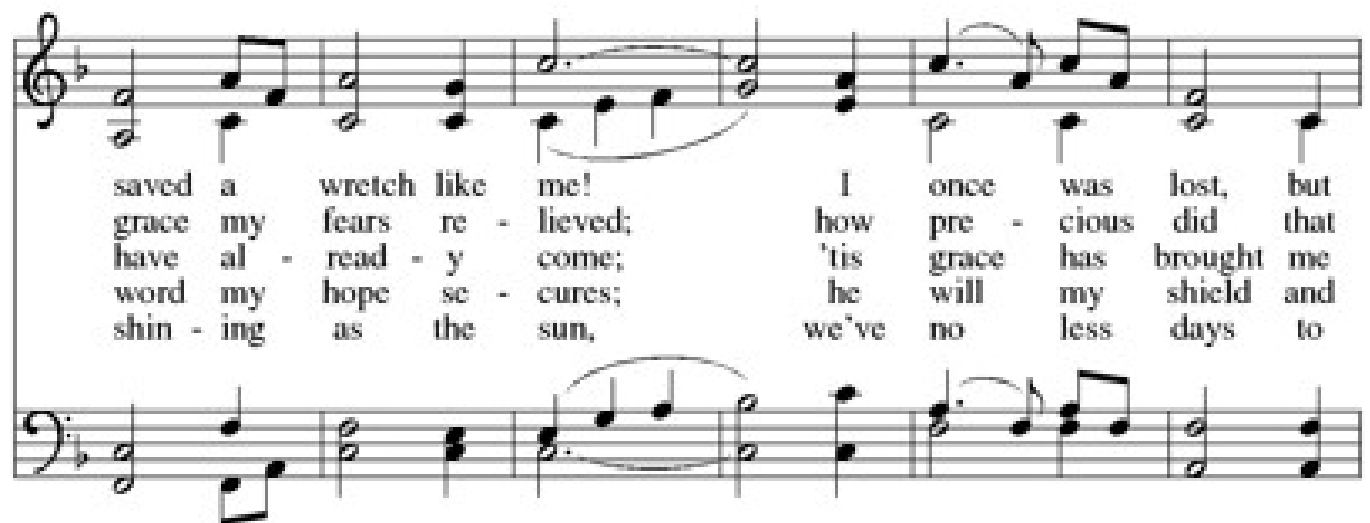
P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

A READING OF PSALM 23

P/C The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

SECOND READING ~ 1 Corinthians 15:51-56

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Congregation stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Alleluia" S-151A



THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT JOHN 14:1-6

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Congregation sits

Sharing Memories of Bill

+ SERMON +

+ THE REVEREND DR. CHRISTIAN EICHORN, PASTOR +

Congregation stands

HYMN OF THE DAY "Precious Lord, Take My Hand", #773

(Music on next page)

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Thomas Andrew Dorsey, 1932

George Nelson Allen, 1844

$\text{♩} = 107$



1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am
2. When my way grows dre - ar, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near, When my life i - s
3. When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night dra - ws near, And the day i - s



weak, I am worn; Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light:
al - m - ost gone, Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand lest I fall:
past a - nd gone, At the ri - ver I stand, Guide my feet, hold my hand:



Refrain



Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.



APOSTLES CREED

WA Let us confess the faith of the church.

C 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 into hell. 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

P Let us pray....God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

WA ...God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God of all grace, ...the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *S-206 (Front of hymnal, page #206)*

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

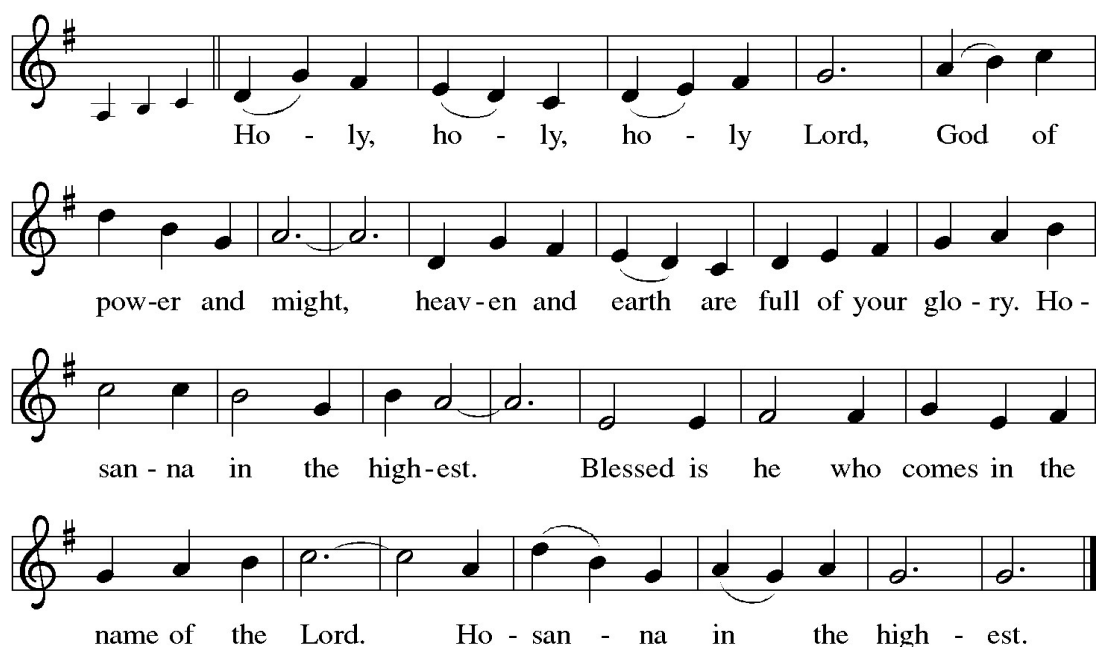
C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

S-108 *(Music on next page)*



P ...Do this for the remembrance of me.

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.**

Congregation sits

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND WINE Our communion is open to all who are baptized.

"LAMB OF GOD (Agnus Dei)" S-208 (*Front of hymnal, page #208*)



BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

COMMENDATION

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

P Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend Bill Mealia. Acknowledge we ask 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 all your saints in light.

C Amen.

THE UNITED STATES ARMY ESCORT *A Reading from Bill Sirginson, Chaplain*

HYMN “A Mighty Fortress”, #504 *(Music on next page)*

WA Let us go in peace.



The Family of William (Bill) James Mealia

We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to all of those for your love, support, and cherished friendships with Bill. Immediately following the service, please join us in the Church's Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship and to honor Bill. Refreshments will be served.

~ Thank You for being with us today ~

The following members assisted with today's service with live streaming:

The Reverend Dr. Christian Eichorn, Pastor

Altar Care ~ Sharon Tulio, Sara Hart | AV Team ~ Ed & Marie Keating

Bulletin ~ Dawn Plyler | Celebrant Assistant ~ Bill Sirginson, Chaplain

Church Music ~ Bud Esper, Director of Music | Communion Assistants ~ Donna

Cutsforth, Pam Eichorn, Jim Hughes | Greeter & Registry ~ Dona Quinlan

Ushers ~ Ron Clark, Kenn Nelson, Richard Wood | Worship Assistant ~ Emil Gnam

A special Thank You to

The Patriot Guard Riders & The United States Army Escort

We are profoundly grateful for your unwavering commitment to honor our nation's fallen wartime veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Their courage will continue to inspire us, and their sacrifices will forever shape who we are as a community and a nation. A promise that the lives we honor will never be forgotten!

ST LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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office hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00am to 2:00pm

The Reverend Dr. Christian Eichorn, Pastor

cell/text: 610.393.7622 | email: pastoreichorn@stlukeoib.org

Emil Gnam, Worship Assistant

Bud Esper, M.A., Director of Music

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HYMN "A Mighty Fortress", #504



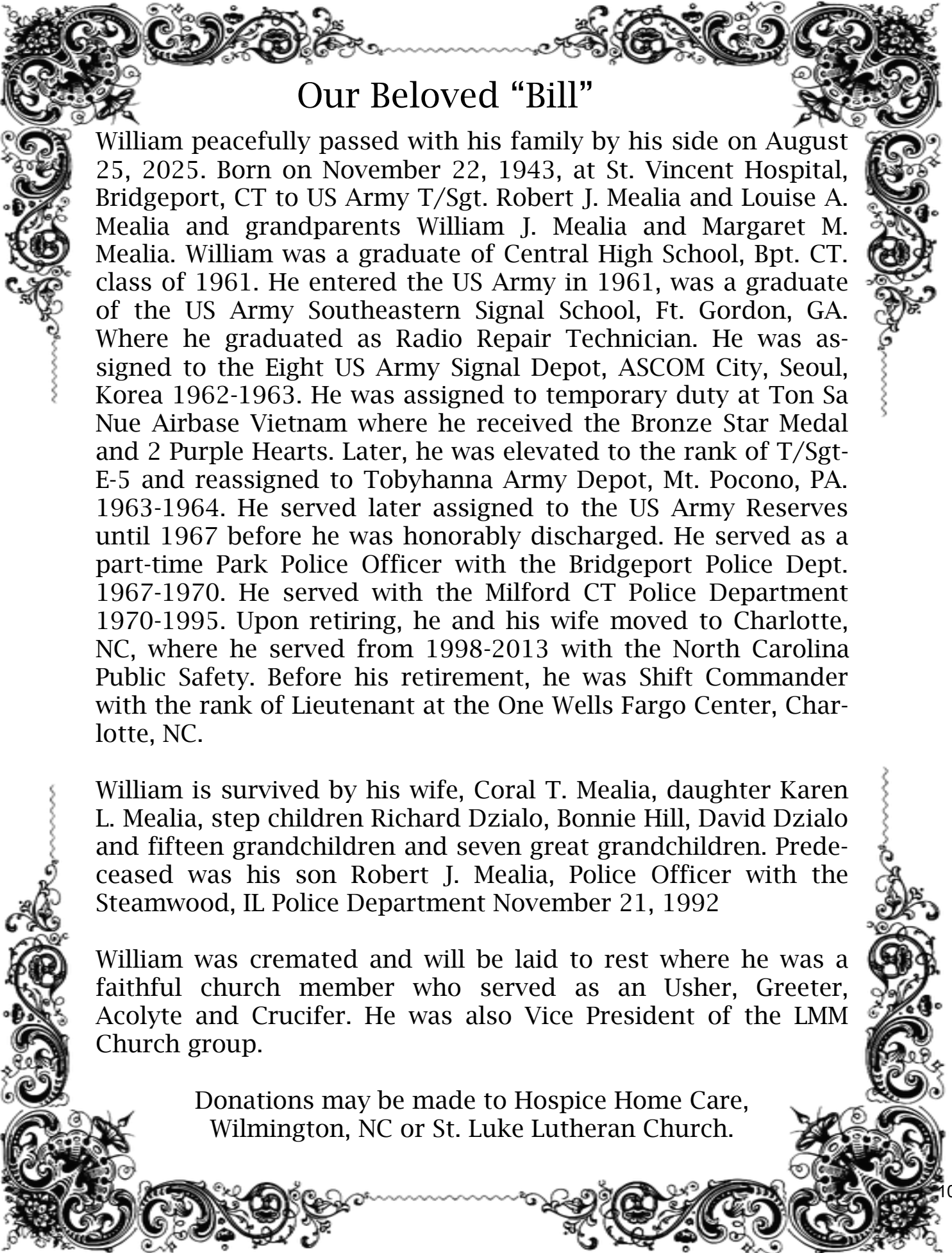
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us, Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it, Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

A decorative floral border with intricate scrollwork and leaf patterns, framing the text on all four sides.

Our Beloved "Bill"

William peacefully passed with his family by his side on August 25, 2025. Born on November 22, 1943, at St. Vincent Hospital, Bridgeport, CT to US Army T/Sgt. Robert J. Mealia and Louise A. Mealia and grandparents William J. Mealia and Margaret M. Mealia. William was a graduate of Central High School, Bpt. CT. class of 1961. He entered the US Army in 1961, was a graduate of the US Army Southeastern Signal School, Ft. Gordon, GA. Where he graduated as Radio Repair Technician. He was assigned to the Eight US Army Signal Depot, ASCOM City, Seoul, Korea 1962-1963. He was assigned to temporary duty at Ton Sa Nue Airbase Vietnam where he received the Bronze Star Medal and 2 Purple Hearts. Later, he was elevated to the rank of T/Sgt-E-5 and reassigned to Tobyhanna Army Depot, Mt. Pocono, PA. 1963-1964. He served later assigned to the US Army Reserves until 1967 before he was honorably discharged. He served as a part-time Park Police Officer with the Bridgeport Police Dept. 1967-1970. He served with the Milford CT Police Department 1970-1995. Upon retiring, he and his wife moved to Charlotte, NC, where he served from 1998-2013 with the North Carolina Public Safety. Before his retirement, he was Shift Commander with the rank of Lieutenant at the One Wells Fargo Center, Charlotte, NC.

William is survived by his wife, Coral T. Mealia, daughter Karen L. Mealia, step children Richard Dzialo, Bonnie Hill, David Dzialo and fifteen grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Predeceased was his son Robert J. Mealia, Police Officer with the Steamwood, IL Police Department November 21, 1992

William was cremated and will be laid to rest where he was a faithful church member who served as an Usher, Greeter, Acolyte and Crucifer. He was also Vice President of the LMM Church group.

Donations may be made to Hospice Home Care,
Wilmington, NC or St. Luke Lutheran Church.