



St John's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of
The Honorable David Brent Cloninger
and Witness to the Resurrection

October 24, 2026

THE HONORABLE DAVID BRENT CLONINGER

The Honorable David Brent Cloninger, of Cabarrus County, North Carolina, passed away on October 18, 2026, in Concord, North Carolina. He was born on November 17, 1963, in Cabarrus County, and lived a life rooted in the community he called home.

Brent graduated from Mount Pleasant High School as a member of the Class of 1982. He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and graduated in 1986 with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications. Upon graduation from UNC, Brent worked in the family-owned insurance business for four years. In 1990, he began law school at the Norman A. Wiggins School of Law at Campbell University. He graduated from law school in 1993 and then began his solo law practice in Cabarrus County where he practiced in all courts, District and Superior, and in all areas of law. In November of 2010, Brent was elected as a District Court Judge in Cabarrus County. He was sworn in on January 1, 2011, and has remained in that position, having been reelected in November of 2014, 2018 and 2022. He was currently a sitting District Court Judge for Judicial District 25 serving the citizens of Cabarrus County with commitment and a deep connection to the people and place that had shaped his life.



Brent has been around the legal field throughout his life. His father was in law enforcement for over 50 years, where he was a Trooper with the North Carolina State Highway Patrol, and upon retirement, he served as a Bailiff with the Cabarrus County Sheriff's. When Brent is not in the Courtroom, he has been involved with the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council and the Boys and Girls Club Advisory Board as a past member.

A true Renaissance man, Brent possessed deep knowledge, talent and curiosity across multiple diverse fields including history, sciences, politics and philosophy. Brent cherished his family and the time he spent with them. Vacations, simple family meals, and gatherings were treasured parts of his life, reflecting the warmth and closeness he valued so deeply. Brent was a Tar Heel born and bred. Throughout his life he supported, mourned, and celebrated all things Carolina.

He is survived by his wife, Lisa McRorie Cloninger; her daughter, Alyssa Huie (Harrison); his brother, Bobby Cloninger (Lynda); his nieces, Emily Slagle (Jacob) and Anna Cloninger; his nephew, Robert Cloninger; great niece, Caroline Slagle; great nephew, Harrison Slagle. Those who knew Brent will remember the importance he placed on family, fellowship, and sharing life's meaningful moments together.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bobby June Cloninger and Bernice Harrison Cloninger. Brent Cloninger will be remembered for his service to Cabarrus County, his dedication to the law, and the love he held for his friends and family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be directed to the Cabarrus K9 Retirement Fund, 540 Hinson Rd., Richfield, NC 28137. Contributions to the fund directly support the retired K9s of the Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office by helping cover veterinary care, medical expenses, food, and other needs as they enjoy their well-deserved retirement.

✠ GATHERING ✠

The Holy Spirit, the comforter, gathers us in worship.

PRELUDE

The Reverend Tennyson Shifley

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 brother, the Hon. David Brent Cloninger, to give thanks for his life, to commend him to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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 – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – be glory and honor, forever and ever. **Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Amazing Grace

ELW #779



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.

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 brother, Brent. 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.**

FAMILY REMEMBRANCE

Emily Cloninger Slagle

✠ WORD ✠

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: JOHN 3:16

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

SECOND READING: PSALM 23

¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

SOLO

It is Well with My Soul

Valerie McRorie & David Mills

GOSPEL: JOHN 14:1-6

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

“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.**

HOMILY

The Reverend Matt Hansen



1 On a hill far a - way stood an old rug - ged cross,
 2 Oh, that old rug - ged cross so de - spised by the world,
 3 In the old rug - ged cross, stained with blood so di - vine,
 4 To the old rug - ged cross I will ev - er be true,



the em - blem of suf - f'ring and shame;
 has a won - drous at - trac - tion for me;
 a won - drous beau - ty I see;
 its shame and re - proach glad - ly bear;



and I love that old cross where the dear - est and best
 for the dear Lamb of God left his glo - ry a - bove,
 for 'twas on that old cross Je - sus suf - fered and died,
 Christ will call me some day to my home far a - way,



for a world of lost sin - ners was slain.
 to . . . bear it to dark Cal - va - ry.
 to . . . par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.
 where his glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.



So I'll cher - ish the old rug - ged cross, till my



tro - phies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rug - ged



cross, and ex - change it some day for a crown.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole Church, we confess our faith:

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 THE PEOPLE

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

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

✝ SENDING ✝

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

COMMENDATION

Let us commend David Brent Cloninger to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Brent. 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.**



RECESSIONAL HYMN

I'll Fly Away

Brumley

1. Some glad morn-ing when this life is o'er, I'll fly a-way.
 2. When the shad-ows of this life have grown, (I'll fly a-way,) (fly a-way.)
 3. Just a few more wea-ry days and then

To a home on God's ce-les-tial shore, I'll fly a-way.
 Like a bird from pris-on bars has flown, (I'll fly a-way,) (fly a-way.)
 To a land where joys shall nev-er end,

CHORUS

I'll fly a-way, O glo-ry; I'll fly a-way. When I die, hal-le-
 (I'll fly a-way,) (I'll fly a-way,) (in the morn-ing.)

- lu - jah, by and by, I'll fly a - way.
 (I'll fly a - way,) (fly a - way.)

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in peace, in the name of Christ. Amen.



The mission of St. John's Lutheran Church is to share God's love through revitalization, community, and outreach.



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