



Celebrating the life of

Anna Maxine Schell Podoll

July 30, 2009

Village Lutheran Church

Bronxville, NY 10708



Romans 5:1-5

Anna Maxine Schell Podoll

8 May 2009 – 26 July 2009

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

OPENING HYMN O God our Help in Ages Past **LSB 733**

INVOCATION & REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM LSB 278

PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. Amen.

ANTHEM Psalm 23 R. Wilson

KYRIE, SALUTATION AND COLLECT LSB 278

THE READINGS Romans 6:3-4, 8-9; Romans 14:7-9, 10-12
2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1, 6-10

ANTHEM The King of Love My Shepherd Is

APOSTLES' CREED LSB 279

HYMN Children of the Heavenly Father LSB 725

SERMON

HYMN Love Divine, All Loves Excelling **LSB 700**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & LORD'S PRAYER **LSB 280**

NUNC DIMITTIS **LSB 281**

CONCLUDING COLLECT

BENDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN *Abide With Me* **LSB 878**

POSTLUDE

Officiants: Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell, Senior Pastor

Rev. Deric Taylor, Associate Pastor

Musicians: Ms. Deborah Reiss & Mr. John Strybos, organ

Ms. Jenny Pyne, flute

Mrs. Deanne Schultz & Members of VLC Chancel

Choir and St. Joseph's Parish Choir, singers

+ANNA MAXINE SCHELL PODOLL+

8 May 2009 – 26 July 2009

The last six weeks with Anna have been amazing. Anna packed in a lot of living. She traveled to Jersey, Connecticut, and Long Island, took a boat ride, went to the pool and the beach, attended an Independence Day parade, saw fireworks, tasted ice cream, went to the play ground and the park and the zoo, had a tag sale (that girl could sell sand in the desert), and ventured into the big city for a full day of meetings -- of course we took the train and walked to the office like regular commuters. She witnessed our rainiest June and joined the whole family in bed for the biggest storm we've ever seen in Westchester. She saw her first movie (Up!) and made herself a local celebrity at the diner down the hill. She went to confirmation and birthday parties, shopped at Home Depot and Costco. She even enjoyed two pedicures with Mommy. Because Steve and I have both been home this whole time, we took lots of walks together, often with Nora and Henry in the stroller and Anna in the sling. She was the only one who didn't have to bail out for the trudge up the steepest hill in Westchester at the end of our walks. Nora and Henry earned a quarter for walking up under their own power.

It was amazing how quickly we became a family of five and forgot all about Life Before Anna. Nora and Henry continued to shower her with affection. Henry called her "gorgi" and Nora asked daily when Anna would get to sleep in her big crib in "the girls' room." Steve took Anna to the pediatrician after having a low-grade fever Wednesday that went up to 101.1 on Wednesday night. What we thought was going to be "give her Tylenol and come back if anything changes" turned into a trip to the pediatric emergency room at Columbia. Everyone worked hard. Everyone prayed. Everyone cried. But we didn't get Anna back. Before she was gone, we were able to go in and say good bye, hold her hands and kiss her. We will never forget those moments.

After she was gone we held her for hours, remembering her life and trying to figure out what was next. How to breathe. How to stand. How to think and talk. We were surrounded by the family and friends who could get there in time, and were lifted by prayers and messages from those near and far. Steve and I said good bye to her. Or, more accurately, we said, "We'll see you later." Because we believe that she is in the arms of our Heavenly Father. We believe that she was carried to heaven on the wings of an angel and placed in Jesus's arms. We picture her being rocked by her Great Grandma Maxine, and cooed over by Great Grandma Schell. Her great grandfathers are standing by, delighted that Anna is with them. We pray for solace. I don't know what's next. We never in a million years imagined this. We want her back. I want to hold her and nurse her. It is not right for parents to lose a child. We will never be the same. Because grief has changed us. Because Anna changed us. Our hearts are bigger ... and broken. But we have each other, and we have Nora and Henry. And we have all of you. We are going to be better people and live better lives because Anna made us better than we were before.

We don't know how any of this works but we're figuring it out moment by moment. How to breathe. How to stand. How to think and talk. Nora and Henry make it easier. And Steve and I are committed to each other and entwined in this heart break together. Even though I am writing the words, they are our shared thoughts.

God bless each of you.

Jenn (and Steve, Nora and Henry)

+BLESSED ARE THE DEAD WHO DIE IN THE LORD+