



Lorraine Brugh
1952—2025

Lorraine Smith Brugh died at her home in Peoria, AZ, on January 25, 2025, of complications from pancreatic cancer. Born on March 20, 1952, in Elmhurst, IL, to Elbert and Marjorie Smith, she graduated from West Aurora High School in 1970, where she met her future husband, Gary Brugh. Lorraine and Gary were married on June 16, 1973, in Aurora, IL. Lorraine was preceded in death by her parents and her brothers Lee and Noel. She is survived by her husband, Gary; their son Joshua (Shannon) Brugh of Seattle, WA, and two

grandchildren, Elliott and Wren; sisters- and brothers-in-law Patricia (Brugh) and Keith Auberry, and Darolee (Brugh) and John Nielsen; and nephews and nieces Rick Smith, Peter Smith, Shawna (Auberry) Slack, Ryan Auberry, Ilyana (Nielsen) Fitzsimmons, Preston Nielsen, and their families. The service of remembrance and thanksgiving for Lorraine's life will take place on Saturday, February 22, 2025, 10:30 a.m., at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, 25150 N. Pima Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85255, followed by interment in the church's memorial garden. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be directed to the Institute of Liturgical Studies at Valparaiso University or to the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians.

Lorraine graduated with bachelor of music (1973) and master of music (1974) degrees in organ performance from Northwestern University, studying with Karel Paukert and assisting Grigg Fountain in Millar Chapel. Receiving a Fulbright-Hays award, she studied in Essen, Germany with Gerd Zacher and Gisbert Schneider during the 1974–75 year. Additional private study in 1978 included lessons with Jean Langlais and Michel Chapuis in Paris. She pursued her education also in theology, receiving a master's in theological studies from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (1994) and a PhD in religious studies (systematic theology, focusing on responsive contextualization for multicultural worship) from Northwestern and Garrett (1998).

An outstanding cantor of the church, Lorraine was engaged for more than two decades in music ministry at Chicago-area congregations, including Resurrection Lutheran in Franklin Park; Faith Lutheran, Glen Ellyn; and Wilmette Lutheran, Wilmette. In 1998 her vocation took her to Valparaiso University in Indiana, where she held the Frederick J. Kruse Endowed Chair in Church Music and was University Organist and Director of Chapel Music, retiring from full-time teaching in 2020 as Senior Research Professor of Music. At Valparaiso Lorraine taught studio organ, church music classes, and music theory, in addition to planning and leading campus worship and conducting the Kantorei (chapel choir). In 2017–2019 she directed the university's study abroad center in Cambridge, England. Her legacy is manifested in the hundreds of students whose lives she touched and whose vocations in music and other disciplines she helped to launch.

Along with her faculty responsibilities, in 2004 Lorraine was named director of the university's Institute of Liturgical Studies, with its longstanding mission of enlivening the church's worship in theology, music, and practice. Clergy, church musicians, and worship leaders from across North America experienced her leadership and vision through this annual event. She presented plenary addresses at the 2003 and 2017 meetings, and she received the Institute's 2022 Christus Rex award for her

contributions to Lutheran liturgical scholarship and renewal. The second recognition given annually by the Institute, the Brugh Emerging Leader award, is named in honor of Lorraine.

A rostered deacon (minister of word and service) in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Lorraine contributed in various ways to the ongoing renewal of its worship life. In the 1990s, she served with the ELCA's worship team at the Lutheran Center in Chicago as director of the Lutheran Center chapel, and she assisted in developing *With One Voice* (1995), a Lutheran worship supplement. She composed psalm settings for the related *Psalter for Worship* (1996–1998) and contributed a chapter on Asian music for *Leading the Church's Song* (1998). After the ELCA launched the Renewing Worship project that led to the ELCA's current principal worship book, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW, 2006), Lorraine was deeply involved in its development, serving on the music consultation that crafted principles for worship, on the liturgical music editorial team, and on the project's overall steering team. With the Valparaiso Kantorei, she led interpretive workshops for the new resources. She was co-author with Gordon Lathrop of *The Sunday Assembly* (2008), a guide to help church leaders use ELW's resources in their settings. She was a regular contributor to the *Sundays and Seasons* resource family (1995–), particularly in offering guidance for using music from across the world church. Lorraine was a consultant for the most recent Lutheran worship supplement, *All Creation Sings* (2020); she also wrote descriptive entries of its new hymn selections for congregational use.

Lorraine's vocations as cantor and deacon extended beyond her various appointments. She was a charter member and served as president of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM), in addition to presenting at conferences, working on committees, and leading workshops and worship along the way. She received ALCM's Faithful Servant award in 2023. She served on the faculty of Lutheran Summer Music and Academy and fashioned a church music curriculum for its students. She was also active in the American Guild of Organists and was a member of the Liturgical Theology Seminar of the North American Academy of Liturgy. In the 2019 book *Fully Conscious, Fully Active: Essays in Honor of Gabe Huck* (Liturgy Training Publications), Lorraine contributed the chapter "Where Do We Go from Here?"

In 2021–2022, Lorraine served as artist in residence at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church in Scottsdale, AZ. That experience led to Lorraine and Gary's relocation to Arizona in 2022, where she shared worship leadership in various locations on occasion, including gatherings of the Grand Canyon Synod, ELCA.

In her 2024 Advent letter, a few months after receiving her diagnosis, Lorraine quoted "Canticle of the Turning," a hymn based on Mary's Magnificat: "Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn," and she wrote: "How our worlds have indeed turned over the past months! . . . We couldn't have imagined all the changes in store for us as a nation, as a family, and as individuals." She concluded: "We wish you and yours the peace that surpasses all understanding, the love that enfolds us all."

We now entrust Lorraine into the arms of the loving God who claimed her as beloved child in her baptism, the Love who enfolds us all. Thanks be to God for the life, the faithful witness, and the generously shared gifts of Lorraine Brugh.