

We are here to honor the memory of Joann K. Lamia ... wife, mother, grandmother, great-grand mother, sister, and friend.

She sang with the Saginaw Choral Society for 52 years ... and sang in this choir. Just last year, I would take her communion in those seats ... right there.

But more than honoring a life well-lived, we come together this morning to accompany her with our prayers as she assumes the final portion of her life's journey into eternity.

Joann was born in 1930, into a world very different than our own, yet in many ways very similar.

Born that same year were Roy Disney, Buzz Aldrin, Joanne Woodward, Pat Robertson, Sandra Day O'Connor, Clint Eastwood, H. Ross Perot, Neil Armstrong, Don Ho, Sean Connery, Warren Buffet, Ray Charles, That year, Mickey Mouse made his first appearance on the silver screen as did Betty Boop ... India declared its independence, much to the surprise of Great Britain ... Scotch Tape was sold for the first time ... Clarence Birdseye marketed the first frozen foods ... Hostess Twinkies made their debut ... Construction of the Hoover Dam began ... and the Chocolate Chip Cookie was invented by Ruth Wakefield at the Toll House in Whitman, Massachusetts.

Indeed, the more things change, the more they stay the same. And for those of us who mourn Joann, life will go on.

But the bonds of love and affection that we knew in this life unite us with those who have gone before us. And so let us take comfort in our Faith, as trusting in God's mercy, we take our leave of Joann.

Eternal rest ...