

Celebrations and Transitions

2023

Anniversary of Ordination to Ministry of Word and Sacrament

15 Years

Pastor Amy Luckey Baughman
Pastor Jennifer Hartweg-Brown
Pastor Joel Brown
Pastor Mary Kay Henson
Pastor Peter Hinrich

20 Years

Pastor William Veith, Jr.
Pastor Gayle Pope
Pastor Julia Rademacher
Pastor Mary Zupansic
Pastor Matthew Geerdes
Pastor Patricia Reep
Pastor Priscilla Geerdes
Pastor Richard Likeness

25 Years

Pastor Catherine Burnette
Pastor Darla Kratzer
Pastor Edward Stone
Pastor Lisa Dietrich
Pastor Mark Hasty

30 Years

Pastor Barbara Ziah
Pastor Barbara Stroud-Borth

35 Years

-None-

40 Years

Pastor Jeffrey Henricks
Pastor Robert Downs
Pastor Steven Mall
(Pastor Thomas Christell, Jr.)

50 Years

Pastor David Deem
Pastor Gary Sproat

55 Years

Pastor Edward Reuter

60 Years

Pastor Emil Blobaum
Pastor Robert Kinas
Pastor Victor Baderschneider

65 Years

Pastor Robert Dirks

Anniversary of Commission, Consecration, or Ordination to Ministry of Word and Service

-None-

Roster Changes Effective...June 1, 2022—May 31, 2023

Ordination to Word and Sacrament

Ministry

Pastor Brett Gosteli
November 6, 2022

Pastor Brian Moeller
December 10, 2022

Ordination to Word and Service

Ministry

-None-

Retirement

Pastor James Davis
July 1, 2022
Pastor Thomas Kratzer
June 2, 2022

Released from Roster

Pastor Tony Metz

On Leave From Call Status

Pastor David Castner
Pastor Adam Connolly
Pastor Nathan Feig
Pastor Jennifer Hartweg-Brown
Pastor Thomas Hillertz
Pastor Becky Swanson

Transfer Received From Another Synod

Pastor Lisa Dietrich
Pastor Nathan Feig
Pastor Cinda Brucker
Pastor Richard Likeness
Pastor Catherine Burnette
Pastor Scott Bacon

Transferred To Another Synod

Pastor Benjamin Stewart
Pastor Pam Mitcham

Congregation Celebrations



75 Years

Faith Lutheran Church, Jacksonville—1948
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Bradley—1948

150 Years

Trinity Lutheran Church, Carthage—1873

175 Years

First Lutheran Church, Beardstown—1848

Congregation Closures

Christ Lutheran Church, Nauvoo
August 7, 2022

Congregation Withdrawals

St. Peter Lutheran Church, Arenzville
September 17, 2022

St. John Lutheran Church, Chester (Bremen)
January 21, 2023

Zion Lutheran Church, Walsh
January 21, 2023

NECROLOGY



The Rev. Gerald Kissell

November 30, 1933—September 26, 2022

Rev. Gerald "Jerry" Kissell, 88, passed away on Monday, September 26, 2022 at Parkway Manor in Marion, Illinois.

Jerry was born on November 30, 1933 in Erie, PA to John Jacob and Helen C. (Miller) Kissell. Jerry married Ruth Newborgh on September 3, 1960 in Maywood, IL.

Jerry attended Colgate University in Hamilton, NY graduating in 1955 with a degree in Psychology. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and captain of the Colgate Golf Team. He then attended Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and became an ordained minister on June 7, 1963 with the Lutheran Church of America. He started his calling as a newly ordained Pastor in Appleton, WI. Later he served at Illinois State University in Normal, IL from 1968 – 1989 where he was the Lutheran Pastor at the Campus Religious Center. He was then called to Carbondale as pastor of Epiphany Lutheran Church until his retirement in 1999.

Jerry is survived by his wife of 62 years, Ruth Kissell of Carbondale; two children, Paul Kissell and Ann Mays both of Carbondale; and nephew, Matthew Kissell.



The Rev. Eimo Hinrichs

November 14, 1930—October 24, 2022

Rev. Eimo E. Hinrichs, age 91, of Bartonville, passed away on Monday, October 24, 2022. He was born on his parent's farm in Pocahontas County, Iowa on November 14, 1930, to Juliane (Cirks) and Ommo Tjarks Hinrichs. He attended Wartburg College graduating in 1952. He continued his education with a year at UC Berkley and then earned his MDiv at Wartburg Seminary in 1957.

In 1972 he completed a MST at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. He married Patricia Ann Sim on June 29, 1958. They first made their home in St Donatus, Iowa, the location of his first parish. After accepting a position at Peoria State Hospital as a Psychiatric Chaplain the family moved to Bartonville, Illinois in 1962.

While working as a chaplain, Reverend Eimo also served most ELCA congregations in the Central IL region as either a fill-in or Interim minister including Bethel Lutheran Church. He retired from Zeller Zone Center as a Chaplain in 1997.

He is preceded in death by his parents and sisters, Marie (George) Peters, Helen, Grace (Merritt) Porath and Pauline (Harold) Maas, and his daughter Susan.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia (Sim) Hinrichs, Children, Peter (Amy) Hinrichs, Rebecca (John) Glimco, David (Susan Protzner) Hinrichs. Grandchildren Jacob (Emily) Glimco, Myra (Nathan Friedman) Hinrichs, Chris (Alyssa) Glimco, Caitlin (Ben Pfeifer) Glimco, Dominic Glimco, Andrew Hinrichs, Isabelle (Danny Tomazin) Glimco, Great-grandchildren Oliver, Grayson and Rosalind, and many loved nieces and nephews.



The Rev. Lisa Goodwin
February 24, 1959—January 4, 2023

Rev. Lisa Goodwin, 63, of Bloomington, passed away on January 4, 2023, at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center.

Lisa was born on February 24, 1959, in Pana, IL, the daughter of Theodore and Georgia (Evans) Klein. She married Stephen Goodwin on February 17, 1996, in Benton, KY.

Lisa was raised in Port Huron, MI, graduating Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1981. She earned her master's degree at The Lutheran School of Theology in 1987. Lisa was ordained as a pastor of the Lutheran Church in 1987. She has served as a pastor in Iowa, Virginia, and Illinois; having most recently served at St. John's Lutheran Church in Hartsburg.

She is preceded in death by her parents and brother, Mark "Markie" Klein.

Lisa is survived by her husband, Pastor Stephen; sister, Kathy (Steve) Lange; brother, John (Janice) Klein; her nephews, Justin Klein, Jacob Klein, Alex (Rachel Gordon) Lange, Chris (Jenna) Lange; and great-niece, McKenzi.



The Rev. Albert W. Weidlich
September 1929—January 13, 2023

Rev. Albert W. Weidlich, 93, of Decatur, passed away on January 13, 2023. He was born in Chicago in September of 1929 to parents William Weidlich and Emma Weidlich. He married Judith Linnea Holmgren in August of 1953. Albert graduated from Augustana College and Seminary where he met Judith. He served God and others for nearly 70 years as a Lutheran minister, and was known to many as Pastor Al, throughout central Illinois.

He touched the lives of thousands of people during his long career in the ministry and established or grew Lutheran churches in Michigan and Illinois. He was Pastor Emeritus of First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Decatur, and after retirement served as visitation pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Bloomington and as an interim pastor in churches throughout central Illinois.

He also put his faith into action and shared his compassion as a fire chaplain, volunteer firefighter, member of the Decatur Human Relations Commission, and Lt. Colonel in the Civil Air Patrol. His impact on victims of fires and disasters spread beyond his local community. Through the Federation of Fire Chaplains, he helped fire departments across the country begin or expand fire chaplaincy programs. He served as President of the national organization and was also Chaplain of the Illinois Firefighters' Association.

He traveled throughout the world both as a minister and for pleasure, including trips to India, Russia, China, Africa, East Germany, Cuba, and the Holy Lands.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Judith, and his brothers and sisters.

He is survived by his loving children and their spouses: Ruth (Dale) Nihiser, Beth (Jack) Roegner, Jonathan (Shawn Smith) Weidlich, Mary (Michael) Wolf, and Sara (Gregory) Nave. He is also greatly missed by his grandchildren and their spouses: Kelsey (Rudy) Zucker, Christopher Nihiser, William Roegner, Jeffrey Roegner, Kaitlin (Jeff) Jones, Dylan (Katherine Howard-Weidlich) Weidlich, Lukas Wolf, Rebecca Wolf, Cary (Rebecca) Nave, and Graham Nave, as well as great-grandchildren Henry Zucker, Kendra Howard-Weidlich, Owen Howard-Weidlich, and Brooks Nave. He and Judith were foster parents to more than 20 infants.



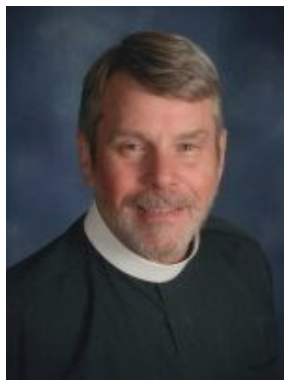
The Reverend Raymond Heilener
August 6, 1929—February 15, 2023

Rev. Raymond Walter Heilener, age 93, of Germantown, Tennessee passed away on Wednesday, February 15, 2023. Raymond was born in Emerson, IL to the late Walter and Gesine Heilener.

Raymond was a long time minister in the Lutheran Church, his home church was St. Johns Lutheran Church in West Genese, IL, and St. Paul Lutheran Church in Sterling, IL, while attending Wartburg College in Waverly, IA. He interned at Trinity Lutheran Church in Oak Lawn, IL, where he met his wife. He attended Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, IA and attended American Lutheran Church in Gibson City, IL. He was Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church - County Line in Peru, IL, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Galena, IL, Stavanger Lutheran Church in Seneca, IL, St. John's Lutheran Church in Metropolis, IL, and Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in DeSoto, IL.

He and his wife were members of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Marion, IL, and Epiphany Lutheran Church in Collierville, TN.

Raymond is survived by his daughter; Beth Schnitkey, a sister; Lorraine (Bob) Kniel, one granddaughter; Alaina (Tyler) Adams and two great-granddaughters; Riley Emerson and Peyton Avery.



The Reverend Thomas Christell, Jr.
May 16, 1951—April 14, 2023

Rev. Thomas Christell, Jr., 71, of Springfield, IL, died on Friday, April 14, 2023 at his home. He was born on May 16, 1951, in Chicago, the son of Thomas B. and Viola Arline (Evans) Christell. He married Patricia Chelgren on June 16, 1973.

Tom graduated from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He did his internship at Ridge Lutheran Church in Chicago. He was called to serve at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Arenzville, IL from 1983 to 1990. From 1990 to 2019 Tom served as Senior Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, Springfield, IL. During the time he served at Grace Lutheran Church he was committed to working with the youth of the church. He provided oversight of the Central/Southern IL Synod Lutheran Youth Organization. He was an integral part of the Leadership Lab program for youth for decades.

The Grace Lutheran Food Pantry was always a special part of his ministry. He expanded the food pantry to be one of the largest in Springfield. He participated in many local organizations and charities. He retired in July 2019.

He is survived by his wife of 49 yrs., Patti; four children, Thomas (Erica) Christell, Amy (Jason) Harshman, Stephen (Katie) Christell, and Katie (Gabriel) Gonzalez; twelve grandchildren, Collin, Nathan, Addison, Chase, Owen, Emily, Max, Jacob, Hallie, Sofia, David, and Benjamin; one great grandson, Zane; two brothers, Kevin (Linda) Christell, and Craig (Michelle) Christell. He was preceded in death by his parents and a son, Matthew Christell.