

Reverend Harold K. Gronstal

August 8, 1932 - October 10, 2015

Reverend Harold K. Gronstal, 83, of Grand Island, formerly of Kearney, died Saturday, October 10, 2015 at Country House Residences in Grand Island, with his family at his side.

Funeral services will be at 10:30 am Friday, October 16, 2015 at First Lutheran Church in Kearney. Reverend Rebecca Craig will officiate. Burial will be at 2:30 pm Friday at the East Cemetery in Eustis, Nebraska with Kathy Gundell officiating. Visitation will be from 5-7 pm Thursday at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney and will continue one hour prior to service time at the church.

Memorials are suggested to Lutheran World Relief or the Alzheimer's Association. Condolences may be shared with the family online at www.osrfh.com.

Harold Knute Gronstal was born on August 8, 1932 in Council Bluffs, Iowa to Joseph and Elvira (Hoff) Gronstal. He grew up in Treynor, Iowa where he was baptized and confirmed in the Christian faith at St Paul Lutheran Church. Harold graduated from Treynor High School in 1950. He then attended Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. Following graduation he entered Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa.

He was united in marriage to Edith Voss on June 2, 1956. The couple lived in Houston, Texas for Harold's year of internship and in Dubuque, Iowa for his final year of seminary. In 1958 Harold was ordained at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Treynor, Iowa.

Following graduation from seminary Harold accepted a call to American Lutheran Church in Adams, Nebraska where he and Edith lived for six years. Subsequent calls were to Abiding Savior Lutheran in Independence, Missouri for 12 years and St. John Lutheran in Eustis, Nebraska for 17 years. In 1994 they moved to Kearney where they became members of First Lutheran Church and spent their retirement years. Mrs. Gronstal preceded him in death on December 16, 2009. Harold moved to Country House Residence in Grand Island in February of 2015.

Harold was a member of First Lutheran Church in Kearney where he was active in HATS (Helping Another To Smile) and the Sunrise Group. He loved every aspect of his ministry and always looked forward to visiting and praying with those who were homebound, residents of nursing homes or hospitalized. He continued his call to serve the Lord in his retirement years, serving as interim and supply pastor at several Nebraska churches. He also enjoyed fishing, reading, traveling with Edith and gardening. Throughout the years one of his greatest joys was caring for his rose garden and sharing the fruits of his labor with family and friends alike.

Harold is survived by three daughters and their spouses; Laura and Gary Buehner of Kearney, Kathryn and John Keller of Eustis, and Jane and Jay Blake of Plymouth, MN; grandchildren, Angela (Patrick) McKee, Christopher (Lindsay) Buehner, Amanda (Andy Barner) Buehner, Bryant Keller, Leah Keller, Ashley (Craig Jaynes) Blake and Kathryn Blake; a brother Bob (Janice) Gronstal of Gastonia, NC; and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Donald (Lois) Voss of St. Joseph, MO and Virgil (Dorothy) Voss of Abbeville, SC.

He is also survived by several nieces, nephews, friends, neighbors and his compassionate caregivers at Country House Residences.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, a grandson, Patrick Blake, and an infant sister, Joan Rachel Gronstal.

Cemetery Details

East Cemetery

Eustice, NE

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **15**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations
4115 Ave N
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 234-3500
info@osrfh.com
<https://www.osrfh.com>

Funeral Service

OCT **16**. 10:30 AM (CT)

First Lutheran Church
3315 Ave G
Kearney, NE 68847

Graveside Service

OCT **16**. 2:30 PM (CT)

East Cemetery
Eustice, NE

Tribute Wall



“ Reverend Harold K. Gronstal

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ I just saw online where Pastor Gronstal passed away 5 years ago. I will always be grateful for his integrity, quiet sense of humor, and sincere love for the Lord. (His patient love toward us junior high age confirmation class members at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in the late 1960s pointed me toward the Lord Jesus.)

I remember an illustration he used to explain how God's commandments were for our benefit. He compared them with the instruction manual that came with the little VW Beetle he used to drive around. "The manual says I should use gasoline of such and such an octane. But what if I reasoned, 'I want to put a milk shake in my gas tank. After all, it's my car.'" He gave us one of those pauses between his sentences, giving us time to think. I still remember and benefit from his words 50 years later. Ken Chapin

Ken Chapin - December 11, 2020 at 09:17 PM

KJ

“ Pastor Gronstal, was a deeply influential person and much loved inspiration in my young teen Christian life. He lead our Confirmation studies at Abiding Savior in Independenc, Mo. He set alite a love for Paul and met frequently with me to answer and explore my personal spiritual questions. I was very sad to see him leave Abiding Savior, but he has been with me throughout my walk of Faith. I have a beautiful relationship with our Father as a result of what I learned from Pastor. He gave freely out of his own deep love for God. I will look forward to meeting Pastor again one day in heaven. He was a truly great man! And I love him! Kihm Dodson Jones

Kihm Dodson Jones - December 21, 2019 at 02:13 AM

WD

“ I had the privilege of following Harold in ministry at American Lutheran in Adams. I would see him and Edith at Synod events and occasionally at anniversary celebrations in Adams. The two of them were always so gracious and encouraging to me and to my wife. I had one last opportunity to celebrate shared ministry at ALC's 75th anniversary last November. I am so very thankful for this predecessor and partner in ministry who served congregation and colleagues so faithfully. May Christ's peace and hope be with you, his ongoing legacy!

Pastor Wade and Holly Dutton, Detroit Lakes, MN

Wade Dutton - October 27, 2015 at 02:45 PM

ME

“ Dear Laura, Kathryn and Jane and families,

I want you to know that I have been thinking of you and hope that you will find some comfort with knowing how special your parents were to me, my family and countless others. They will never be forgotten.

I remember the wonderful times we had on the farm when we were babysitting "the Gronstal girls"! You were all so cute!

Your mother was a lovely role model for me! I remember the "butterfly" cake she made for my birthday, taking me to Starlight theatre in Kansas City, and all the times I would listen to her and my mother talking. She was a such a gracious lady! Your father helped shape my Christian life. I remember several of his sermons to this day! And, of course I will never forget how kind he was to give the sermon for Brady's memorial service. I just meant so much to me! Your parents were wonderful lifelong friends to my parents and I will treasure their memory forever..

Fondly, with thoughts and prayers for comfort,

Merideth Eldridge (Meri Lea)

Merideth Eldridge - October 19, 2015 at 02:52 PM

MA

“ *What wonderful memories I have of your father "Hod", going back to when he was dating your mother. He had such a kind and gentle spirit and this made him a special person and pastor. I'm thankful our paths crossed in this life. Laura ,Kathryn, and Jane, my prayers are with you. Mary Anna*

mary anna anderson - October 16, 2015 at 12:21 PM

KE

“ My deepest sympathies to all of you as I learn of the passing of a "great" pastor and friend. To Laura, Kathryn and Jane and your families, I am saddened , but rejoice that he is now once again reunited with your dear mother, Edith along with other family members and friends. So MANY fond memories of our times together in Adams, NE. and the always appreciated Christmas letters received. God's Blessings to all of you and my prayers that God will keep you in his care. My Sympathies. Kathleen Epp

Kathleen Epp - October 16, 2015 at 09:58 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Reverend Harold K. Gronstal.



October 16, 2015 at 07:45 AM

LM

“ Our sincere sympathy to the Gronstal family.

Russell and Lisa Miller and family

Lisa Miller - October 15, 2015 at 11:24 AM

SB

“ We pray that the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will comfort you in this time of your loss. May grace, mercy and peace be with you this day and in the days to come.

Respectfully yours,
Steve and Kathy Blake

Stephen Blake - October 14, 2015 at 09:52 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Reverend Harold K. Gronstal.*



October 14, 2015 at 09:37 PM



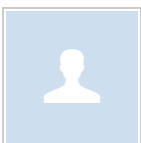
“ *God's peace be with you, Gronstal family. Your dad was my confirmation pastor and he also performed Orville's and my wedding ceremony.*

He and your mother were gentle, loving people. When I was in high school, they took four of us Adams high school girls with them to Wartburg College to tour the campus. What an experience that must have been for them.

My last visit with your dad was at Kearney at the Synod Assembly where he was honored for 50 years of service. He blessed many lives.

Orville and Bev (Baehr) Buss

Beverly Buss - October 14, 2015 at 10:55 AM



“ *Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Reverend Harold K. Gronstal.*



October 13, 2015 at 03:18 PM



“ *Rose Romanesque Bouquet was purchased for the family of Reverend Harold K. Gronstal.*



October 13, 2015 at 10:02 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss. Have many fond memories of spending time with your family! Hugs of strength and support . Eldon Ideus*

eldon ideus - October 12, 2015 at 09:54 PM



“ *I had the privilege to work with Harold when he was in Eustis and we were in Gothenburg. I remember his care for people, his support of the youth and encouragement for them to be involved, his humor, his gentle ways, and his willingness to serve. He was an inspiration to me. Our prayers are with you.
Pastor Gretchen Ritola*

Gretchen Ritola - October 12, 2015 at 08:49 PM



“ *Laura, Kathryn, Jane and families, my sympathy to you and your families. I was confirmed and married by your Dad in Adams. He was a wonderful Pastor and a wonderful person. I was so glad I was there when he had his 50th anniversary for ordination in Kearney and also got to visit him at our church's 75th anniversary. He was truly a remarkable man. God's Peace and Understanding to all of you. Karen Page*

Karen Page - October 12, 2015 at 06:03 PM

TH

“ Our deepest sympathies to the Gronstal, Keller, Buehner and Blake families. You are in our thoughts. The Pates - Lowell, Tracey Hoy, Weston and Casen

Tracey Hoy - October 12, 2015 at 05:34 PM



“ I much appreciated Harold and Edith Gronstal as partners in ministry and friends. He was a fine pastor.

Richard Jessen
Nebraska Synod Bishop, 1990-2000

Richard Jessen - October 12, 2015 at 04:29 PM

RS

“ We send our sympathy and condolences to the family of Rev. Howard Gronstal. We remember him well from when he was pastor at Eustis NE, and St. John congregations was one of our sponsors while we werved as missionaries in Papua New Guinea. On several occasions when we came on leave and visited St. John, Pastor Gronstal was so friendly and helpful making our brief visits very enjoyable. May our resurrected Lord bring you all hope and joy as you celebrate the life and service of Pastor Gronstal.

Sincerely,
Rev. Ron & Ms. Else Schardt

Rev. Ronald & Ms Else Schardt - October 12, 2015 at 03:58 PM

CE

“ Thinking of you and praying you have peace as you remember your father in the coming days and weeks!

Chuck and Carol (Berke) Edwards

Carol Edwards - October 12, 2015 at 03:12 PM

DF

“ Over the years Harold has always stood as the most lovely example of a man of grace. His open smile was always a gift to me and lives on in me even now. I am thankful to God for having imagined him into being and shown his love through him for so many people over the years. May he dance with all the angels in light until we all dance with him. Pastor David Folkerts, Apple Valley, MN

David J. Folkerts - October 12, 2015 at 01:18 PM