

Harold J. Laursen

April 30, 1934 - March 9, 2020

Rev. Harold J. Laursen, 85
Kearney resident

Rev. Harold J. Laursen, 85 of Kearney passed away Monday, March 9, 2020 at his home. Memorial services will be held 11:00 a.m. Saturday, March 14th at Family of Christ Lutheran Church with Pastor John Gosswein officiating. Inurnment will take place at Spring Creek Cemetery in rural Ruskin, NE. The family will receive friends 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. Saturday at the church. A time of fellowship and lunch will follow the service at the church.

Harold James Laursen was born April 30, 1934, to Chris and Tora (Goldbeck) Laursen, at the farm residence south of Ruskin. He was baptized and confirmed at Bethany Lutheran Church, Ruskin.

He received the "call" to the ministry as a youth in that congregation. He attended Prairie Home District 29 School through the eighth grade and graduated from Ruskin High School with the class of 1952. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Dana College, Blair, NE in 1956 and Master of Divinity from Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, IA in 1960. In May of 1960, he was ordained into the ministry of the American Lutheran Church at Bethany Lutheran Church, Ruskin NE.

Harold was married to Barbara Whiteside July 28, 1956 at Atonement Lutheran Church, Chicago IL. To this union three children were born. Kathryn, Elizabeth, and James.

Over the years, Harold served parishes in Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas and Colorado.

Harold retired from the active ministry in 1997 and they moved to McCook NE and later to Kearney, NE. They spent the winter months in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. He continued to enjoy serving as Interim and Supply Pastor in several congregations throughout Kansas, Nebraska and Texas.

Harold served on various boards and committees in the ALC and ELCA Synods and Conferences and in other helping organizations. He always emphasized Christian life and the grace of Jesus Christ in his ministry and he had great concern and love for his congregations. He was a loving husband and father and loved his wife and family very much.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Barbara Laursen; children, Kathryn (Craig) Fulwider, Elizabeth (Jon) Laursen-Roesler and James (Rischa) Laursen; grandchildren, Megan (Justin) Alvis, Nick (Holley) Laursen, Marco Laursen, Matthew Laursen, Jeremiah Laursen, Julian (Liese) Laursen, Davina James, Tiana (Robert) Brown, Erica (Darrell) Yelder; great grandchildren, Lilly & Olivia Alvis, Roudmaline & Roudly Roesler-Lundy, Robert Jr. and Brysen Davis, Ellia Yelder; sister, Elizabeth Kaldahl. Nieces and nephews.

Harold was preceded in death by his parents; and his brother-in-law, Vernon Kaldahl. Sister in-law Ellen Crum.

Memorials are suggested to Family of Christ Lutheran Church Building Fund or Oaks Indian Center. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and

Cremation Services.

Previous Events

Family receiving friends

MAR **14**. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (CT)

Family of Christ Lutheran Church ELC
1319 5th Avenue
Kearney, NE

Memorial Service

MAR **14**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Family of Christ Lutheran Church ELC
1319 5th Avenue
Kearney, NE

Tribute Wall



“ *Harold J. Laursen*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *Dear Barbara and Family,
I remember so fondly from our days in Northwest Kansas when Missouri Synod Pastors and ALC Pastors gathered twice a year for fellowship and study. I remember distinctly his teaching about ego and humility, using himself as an example. "Things will be different now, Laursen is here," he told himself in his first parish. This was similar to the self-talk I used. Only, when he set ego aside and let our Lord be the guide did "things become different." It was a powerful lesson for a young Pastor.*

God bless his memory and you in your time of loss.

*Otto B. Schultz
Lincoln, NE*

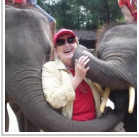
Otto B. Schultz - March 16, 2020 at 09:58 AM



“ *We pray for comfort and strength to Barbara and all of Pastor Laursen's family. We also rejoice that he is now in the most perfect place, forever. Pastor Laursen married us in Deshler 31+ years ago; we admired him much and were so blessed to have him officiate the ceremony.*

God's blessings and peace to all - Rod & Patty Grove

Rod & Patty Grove - March 15, 2020 at 11:02 AM



“ Oh, Barb - I was so saddened to read of Pastor's death. I am so sorry. I remember him so well - he was someone who was so comfortable being a pastor. His sense of humor & laugh - the best sermons - he would lean on the edge of the pulpit & preach so well. Please extend my sincere sympathy to your family - blessing & prayers to you all. Sending my love, Edie Rosenbaum

Edie Jensen-Rosenbaum - March 14, 2020 at 09:58 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Harold J. Laursen.



March 13, 2020 at 04:32 PM



“ Our sympathy to you, Barbara. We remember our visits with you and Harold, especially when we connected with you down in the Rio Grande Valley. We wish you God's blessings and strength as you continue your life's journey. We hope you are in good health.

Keith & Ruth Pearson - March 13, 2020 at 02:48 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy to all of the family. You are in our thoughts and prayers
Trinity Lutheran Church, Hildreth, NE

Mary Bunger - March 13, 2020 at 11:56 AM

CC

“ Barb & family I send my deepest sympathy to all. You know he holds a special spot in my heart. My first job was his secretary at Emmanuel. So glad we saw you in McCook on Kids anniversary. Love & prayers to All

Connie Cole - March 13, 2020 at 10:47 AM

HD

“ Hugs and love from, Angie , Phyllis, & Dee purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Harold J. Laursen.



Hugs and love from, Angie , Phyllis, & Dee - March 13, 2020 at 10:30 AM

PD

“ Phyllis Darby lit a candle in memory of Harold J. Laursen



Phyllis Darby - March 13, 2020 at 10:28 AM

AB

“ Dear Barbara: Know that I'm keeping you in my thoughts and prayers. With deepest sympathy. Ann PMA and Gerald Bairn.

Ann Bairn - March 13, 2020 at 09:12 AM

RW

“ I will always remember standing at the pulpit before a confirmation class having some fun, and your dad walking into the church-he simply smiled and things continued as normal. What a great person he was. My sympathy to you and your family.

Randi Wolf - March 13, 2020 at 12:15 AM

BC

“ Barb and family you have my prayers at this time of your loss. Harold was a friend and a great Pastor. He but up a great fight. Now he can rest with the Lord.
Bonnie Cahoon

Bonnie Cahoon - March 12, 2020 at 09:58 PM

DM

“ My heartfelt condolence to your family. I will never forget the great days with this family in Goodland, he was one of a kind and have never forgot the value that he spoke to us in confirmation. Thanks be to God and blessings to him.
Deb Spomer Martin

Deb Martin - March 12, 2020 at 01:23 PM

FM

“ Fred and Ardie Maschmann purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Harold J. Laursen.



Fred and Ardie Maschmann - March 12, 2020 at 11:49 AM

YD

“ *Your family at Peace Lutheran Church, Deshler purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Harold J. Laursen.*



Your family at Peace Lutheran Church, Deshler - March 12, 2020 at 11:02 AM

SS

“ *Our deepest sympathy. Sending thoughts and prayers!* 🙏🌸🙏
Mike & Sharon Shull

Sharon Shull - March 11, 2020 at 12:34 PM