Necrology

“On whose shoulders we stand...”

KENNETH R. AHLSTRAND
BORN: December 29, 1940
ORDINATION: May 25, 1966
DIED: April 29, 2017

Pr. Ahlstrand earned a B.A. at Augustana College in 1962 and a M.Div. from Lutheran School of Theology in 1966. Also in 1966 he married Marjorie Thedens, and elementary music instructor, and began a 20 year ministry to congregations in Illinois. After serving a long term pastorate at Bethlehem, St. Charles, IL, Pr. Ken and Marge moved to Tucson, AZ. He quickly became “the” transition pastor in southern AZ. Pr. Ahlstrand was not afraid to go into challenging contexts and was eager to use his well-developed pastoral skills to help a congregation through a time of transition. He was always eager to serve and support others. Pr. Ken is survived by his wife of 51 years, Marjorie, four daughters, several grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

RICHARD ANDERSEN
BORN: August 23, 1931
ORDINATION: June 19, 1960
DIED: April 16, 2017

Pr. Richard Andersen earned a B.A. from Dana College in Nebraska in 1953 and attended Trinity Theological Seminary in Iowa earning a M.Div. in 1960. He married Lois Petersen in 1957 and raised three children. Pr. Andersen served many congregations in California and was the founding pastor of Community Church of Joy in Glendale, AZ. Throughout his many years of ministry Pr. Richard was honored by various organizations and has produced preaching resources and authored many books. He believed the Good News of God’s love offered and found in Jesus is meant to be lived and shared.

ALWIN O. BECKER
BORN: November 29, 1952
ORDINATION: July 27, 1980
DIED: July 27, 2016

Pr. Alwin graduated in 1975 from Texas Lutheran College with a B.A. in Theology. He then attended Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, and graduated in 1980 with a M.Div. Pr. Becker served congregations in Illinois and Texas before relocating to southern Arizona in 1987. Pr. Alwin and his family attended Our Saviour's in Tucson and were very supportive of Bishop Steve Talmage in his position as pastor at American in Tucson. In 1990 Pr. Becker began working for the Department of Corrections in Florence, AZ. He felt it was a good fit for living out Christ’s call to minister to those often invisible or on the margins of society. Pr. Alwin is survived by his son, Richard, and daughter, Callie.
LINDA DAUGS-RENNER, Deacon

BORN: June 18, 1960
CONSECREATED: July 11, 2004
DIED: August 13, 2016

Deacon Linda Daugs-Renner earned a B.A. in Speech Communication at Seattle Pacific University in 1983 and a M.D. in Religion and Theology (with concentration in Youth, Culture and Mission) from Wartburg Theological Seminary in 2004. She served as the Director of Youth and Education at Our Saviour’s, Bellingham, WA, and as an Early Childhood Educator at Gloria Dei, in Lynnwood, WA. From 1982-1985 she served as a Missionary/English Teacher in Nagoya, Japan, and as the Youth Center Facilitator in Hong Kong. In 2009 she transferred into the Grand Canyon Synod from the La Crosse Area Synod. Ms. Daugs-Renner is survived by her adult son, Joseph.

LANE L. KNOUSE

BORN: December 8, 1949
ORDINATION: May 19, 1978
DIED: July 8, 2016

Pr. Lane graduated from St. Cloud State University in 1971 and Northwestern Lutheran Seminary in 1978. Upon graduation he served in the United States Air Force as a weather observer for four years. Pr. Knouse served congregations in Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and most recently served as Pastor of Care at American Lutheran Church in Sun City, Arizona. In one of his reflections he wrote the primary purpose of a pastor is “to equip the saints…which means getting out of the way when those I serve begin to grow and spread their wings of faith and service.” He loved his church, his family, telling jokes, and playing his accordion.

MARTIN E. MAIER

BORN: January 24, 1938
ORDINATION: July 13, 1969
DIED: December 27, 2016

Pr. Maier received his M.Div. from Trinity Seminary at Capital University in Columbus, OH. He also received a Ph.D. in Physics from Ohio State University. From 1962-1964 Pr. Martin was the Assistant Professor of Physics and Math at Muskingum College in Ohio. In 1973 he married Margaret Ann Oakes, an elementary school teacher. Pr. Martin served congregations in Ohio and in 1993 the Grand Canyon Synod issued Pr. Maier a synodical call to serve the Navajo Lutheran Mission in Rock Point, AZ, as Administrator and Spiritual Mentor. He believed his first priority in parish ministry was to help each person become what God intended them to be. Pr. Martin is survived by his wife Margaret and several nieces and nephews.

MATTHEW A. PUSHKAR

BORN: October 19, 1932
ORDINATION: June 16, 1963
DIED: March 3, 2017

Pr. Pushkar was ordained on June 16, 1963, into the ministry of the American Lutheran Church. Just one year prior to his ordination he married Marlene Flora. He served congregations in New York, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, prior to transferring to the Grand Canyon Synod in 1996 as a retired ELCA pastor. Pr. Matthew and Marlene settled in Tucson, AZ, and were frequent visitors to Trinity, Willcox, where he would often preach. In Tucson the couple hosted their friends from all over the world – Korea, Germany, Russia, and the United States. In 2004 Pr. Pushkar would
preach and lead Bible study most Sundays at a Korean congregation (in English). Pr. Matthew is survived by his wife, Marlene, of 55 years.

THEODORE E. SCHROEDER  
BORN: November 16, 1926  
ORDINATION: June 10, 1951  
DIED: January 26, 2017

Following his ordination into the American Lutheran Church in 1951 Pr. Schroeder served congregations in Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, and California. During Holy Week of 1970 Pr. Ted had a severe strep infection but continued his ministry and preaching schedule ultimately causing serious injury to his throat and voice box. Due to his slow recovery he was advised to apply for disability in 1974. Thankfully because of his 25 years of faithful service to the American Lutheran Church and the ELCA his name remained on the roster of Ordained Ministers for the rest of his life. Pr. Schroeder is survived by his wife of 68 years, Alice.

PHILIP G. STEPHAN  
BORN: August 10, 1935  
ORDINATION: May 22, 1961  
DIED: January 12, 2016

Pr. Stephan earned an A.A. from Concordia College, Fort Wayne, IN, in 1955; a B.A. from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO, in 1957; a M.Div. from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO, in 1960; an M.A. from Drake University, Des Moines, IA, in 1961; a Master of Sacred Theology from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO, in 1968; and a Ph.D. Psych from United States International University in 1971. Pr. Philip served as Director of Lutheran Social Services of WA-ID from 1984-1987; a pastoral counselor at the Presbyterian Counseling Services of North Puget Sound Presbytery from 1988-1995 and a pastoral counselor at the Samaritan Counseling Center in Colorado from 1997 until his retirement in 2000.

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Well done, thou good and faithful servant… enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Matthew 25:21