



James Elliott Olson

January 6, 1943 - October 7, 2024

James Elliott Olson passed away on October 7, 2024, at the age of 81. Jim was the Senior Pastor of Faith Church in Fort Collins for 21 years. He is preceded in death by his wife Carol Frances Strohm Olson. He was born on January 6, 1943, to Milford and Mildred Olson in Milaca, Minnesota. The small hospital was behind the very church where he would become the pastor 25 years later.

Jim's family moved to Polk, NE and then Chicago where his father pastored Evangelical Free Churches. To pay for school, Jim worked at the Wisconsin steel on the south side of Chicago. Jim felt called to be a pastor at an early age, so he attended bible school in Chicago where he met Carol. They served together in the youth ministry at his father's church. Jim and Carol were married in 1964 and then he attended seminary at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (TEDS). Joy was born during this time. He later received a Doctorate of Ministry (1992) from TEDS where he graduated in the same ceremony as his daughter Joy.

Jim's first church was in Milaca, MN where he preached Sunday morning and evening, Wednesday night, and ran the youth group. He was a big homerun hitter on the church softball team. Thea was born during these years. Jim then served at Montview Evangelical Free Church in Aurora, CO and later pastored Crystal EFC in New Hope, MN. In 1985, he became the Senior Pastor at Faith

until he retired in 2006.

Jim is survived by his two daughters, Joy Fea (husband Dr. John Fea) and Thea Jensen (husband Dr. Brad Jensen). He has four grandchildren: Emily Jensen Feilmeier (husband Austin Feilmeier), James Jensen, Allyson Fea Warners (husband Emmett Warners) and Caroline Fea. He has one great-granddaughter Adelaide Feilmeier. Jim has three siblings, sister Marilyn Stranberg and brothers Eugene and Dan.

Jim enjoyed birding and was often found walking on the bike path near his home pointing out Burrowing Owls or Cedar Waxwings. He loved to give his photo cards with words of encouragement or scripture verses.

Jim loved Jesus and the great passion of his life was sharing the gospel in sermons and with individuals. Thousands of people gave their lives to Jesus because Jim showed them the way of salvation.

The refrain from one of his favorite hymns, "It Will Be Worth it All" highlights how he chose to live his life in light of eternity:

It will be worth it all when we see Jesus,
Life's trials will seem so small when we see Christ;
One glimpse of His dear face all sorrow will erase,
So bravely run the race till we see Christ.

The memorial service will be held Friday, October 25, 2024 at 11am Faith Church, Fort Collins, CO.

Memorial contributions may be made to Faith Church, Fort Collins to the Beyond Fund.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT **25**. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (MT)

Faith Church
3920 S Shields Street
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Tribute Wall

MM

“ *Pastor Olson was my pastor in Aurora 1972-1973. I was assigned at Fitzsimons Army Hospital. I will never forget him.*

Michael MacDonald - December 21, 2025 at 02:55 PM

GO

“ *Our sympathies to you, Joy and Thea. I am Louella Pearson Olson, husband Gordy Olson, both originally from Milaca EFC. We just heard about Pastor Jim's passing. We were shocked and so saddened. Jim and Carol (esp Carol with me) were instrumental in Gordy and I getting together (a story for a different time). Pastor Jim married us in 1968. We will forever remember them both and they remain in our hearts. We did hear about your Mom's passing and sent a note to your Dad.*

Gordy & Louella Olson now living in Eden Prairie, MN.

Gordy & Lou Olson - February 21, 2025 at 02:32 PM

MU

“ *Thea and Brad- Just learned of Pastor Olson passing. My wife Sandi and I came to Faith E Free when located on W Drake after moving back home from Arizona. His message and delivery became a weekly source of encouragement for us. We so enjoyed listening to him preach and play his character during the Christmas program. How did he memorize all his lines? After making the decision to accept Christ into my life, I had the honor of being baptized by Pastor Olson. He was truly a servant of Christ and we know he is dancing again with Carol. Love to all the family.*

Michael Urbom - February 09, 2025 at 10:23 AM

KS

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Olson family at this very difficult time. In April of 1987 the Schneider family (John and Karla) was in search of a new church home. After attending a Sunday Service and filling out the visitor card we had a Wednesday evening visit from Pastor Olson and Carol. Had a very nice visit and a question Pastor Olson had for us was—He wanted to be sure that we were making a church change for the right reasons. That has resonated with us since.

Fast forwarding to 1993 Pastor Olson summoned Karla and myself to his office and asked and invited us to be part of a team of 3 John's, to be Host and Hostess Directors, for the upcoming “Faith Building The Vision” program for the new Sanctuary at the Drake Street church.

The 3 John's were John Lichtenwaller and Eve, John Marvin and Martha, and John and Karla. We at the time were the 3 John's. We do need to say that being part of that program gave us a tremendous boost to our personal tithing.

Karla Schneider - October 20, 2024 at 10:03 AM

TH

Such good memories! Thank you for sharing, Karla! The 3 Johns--I love it!
Thea

Thea - October 23, 2024 at 06:55 PM

JD

“ May our LORD and Savior bring all of HIS comfort peace and rest to each member of Pastor Jim's family. All our sympathy, love and prayers to you all.

Like so many people I have a book full of precious memories from having come to know Pastor Jim and family. I will treasure his friendship, love and prayers. Praise be to God!!

Jerry Dolph - October 17, 2024 at 12:41 PM

TH

Thank you Jerry! I have a sweet memory of the night Brad and Dad stopped by your house and met you on an EE visit.

Thea - October 23, 2024 at 06:54 PM

LC

“ My wife and I did not know Pastor Olson as well as most respondents here, but well enough to experience his contagious love for his wife, his "flock," and his God. Our daughter Rachel and son-in-law Tony introduced us, newcomers to northern Colorado, invited us to worship, and shared sermon tapes over the years. What a gift! Such a blessing was the life and faith of this humble, good man. May his soul rest in peace.

Lou Cartier - October 17, 2024 at 11:18 AM

TH

Thank you for your kind and thoughtful message!
Thea

Thea - October 23, 2024 at 06:53 PM

RB

“ How do I even describe what pastor Olson has meant to me and my family? I first got to know when I moved to fort collins in 1997 and started attending faith. i loved his sermons and grew in my faith because of them. After my husband Tony and I got married, we got to know both pastor Olson and Carol on more of a personal level. After Carol passed away, pastor Olson remained a special friend to our family. often We would surprise him with his favorite cherry pie! And he would bless us with pop in visits, and we always had his prayers whenever we needed them. As our daughter, Leah grew, pastor Olson blessed her with many special birding photos and special cards. even after we left faith, pastor olsen continued to be a very important part of our lives. three or four years ago, he showed up on our front porch, just because he missed us and wanted to see how we were doing. He was a dear man and will be deeply missed.

Rachel Blandin - October 16, 2024 at 07:00 PM

TH

Thank you Rachel! Your family was indeed special to him!
Thea

Thea - October 23, 2024 at 06:52 PM