



## Walter Emil Schultheiss

October 29, 1918 - January 5, 2015

Fort Collins, CO – Rev. Walter E. Schultheiss, age 96, passed away peacefully on Monday, January 5, 2015, after a full and remarkable life. Walter was born in Arlington, South Dakota, on October 29, 1918, to German immigrant parents, Rev. Lorenz and Margaretta Schultheiss. His father was one of the first Lutheran ministers to serve parishes of settlers on the prairies of Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota. The family later moved to Oconto Falls, Wisconsin, where as a high school student Walter excelled in speech, drama, and a bit of mischief. Walter followed in his father's footsteps to become a minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), celebrating the 70th anniversary of his ordination in 2014. He attended Wartburg College and graduated from Capital University and Trinity Theological Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. He interned at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Toledo, Ohio, where he met his future wife, Ruth Theone Siewert, whom he married in 1948. His first call was to St. Luke's Mission in Greendale, Wisconsin, a federal WPA built village and Milwaukee suburb. He subsequently served rural western Wisconsin churches in Alma (St. John's), Pepin (Immanuel), Little Plum, and Arcadia (Christ Lutheran). His final call was to Faith Lutheran Church in Marshfield, Wisconsin, where he served as pastor for 21 years. Walter and Ruth together raised six children, and with their characteristic warmth and good cheer, devoted their lives to family, faith, and service to others. Walter was active in the ecumenical movement of the 1960s and a leader in many other community ventures, including refugee sponsorship programs, mission

church development, Lutheran World Relief, and the Lion's Club Eye Bank Program. He tirelessly attended to the needs of others, whether spiritual, socio-economical, or medical, and was known for his hospital calls and home visits to those living in isolated rural areas. The lives of countless parishioners were touched by his comfort and pastoral care.

After retiring from full time ministry in 1984, Walter and Ruth traveled the country in their motorhome, making friends wherever they traveled, and eventually settling in Tucson, Arizona, and Eagle River, Wisconsin. Walter remained active as a communion and visitation pastor at Streams in the Desert Lutheran Church in Tucson. In 2005, Walter and Ruth moved to Fort Collins, Colorado, to be closer to family. They enjoyed new friends at The Winslow and New Mercer Commons residential communities and were members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Walter loved family, music, and travel, and was a master gardener known for growing fruit trees and cultivating beautiful rose gardens. Indeed, his family teased that he missed his true calling as a farmer.

Walter is survived by his children, Mark (Barbara) and Jonathan (Pam) of Fort Collins, Colorado, Lynne of Madison, Wisconsin, Carol (Bob) of Batavia, Illinois, Peter (Terri) of Laurel, Maryland, and Joel (Kathy) of Hudson, Wisconsin; 12 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Ruth in 2010.

Funeral services will be held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 2000 S. Lemay Avenue, Fort Collins, Colorado, on Saturday, January 10, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the church.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Walter Emil Schultheiss*

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October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss, I will always remember Walter, I went to Church in Marshfield, Wi. as a young girl. Lynn and I graduated in 1970 from Marshfield Senior high. He was a wonderful person.*

*Audrey Spencer (Burow)*

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**Audrey Spencer** - April 07, 2015 at 10:47 AM



“ *I was fortunate to meet Walter at New Mercer Commons where our Mother, Freddie Van Cleave, resided the last three years of her life. Walter, being a minister, had all the friendliness, and warm spirit of the nicest human being you'd ever meet. He was a joy to always say hello or goodbye to as I would visit mother during their meal-times. I am so honored to have met him.*

*Too bad all men are not like, Walter. He will be missed.*

*My deepest sympathy for the loss of your dearest family member.*

*Wendy Van Cleave*

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**Wendy Van Cleave** - January 22, 2015 at 09:52 AM

MH

“ *Walter will be missed at NMC. I loved his smile and to just visit with him He was always very nice to me. God has a new Angel for sure. Blessings to his family*

Michele Hanna - January 14, 2015 at 07:16 PM

AK

“ *I served as Secretary of the Marshfield Conference of ELCA Churches with Pastor Schultheiss for several years. He was a joy to work with.*

Alice Abel Kennedy - January 10, 2015 at 10:29 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Walter Emil Schultheiss.*



January 08, 2015 at 04:30 PM

CH

“ *Chrissy lit a candle in memory of Walter Emil Schultheiss*



Chrissy - January 08, 2015 at 02:40 PM