



Pastor Walter E. Hermanns

May 19, 1959 - December 12, 2013

Pastor Walter Hermanns

RACINE-Pastor Walter Hermanns, 54, passed away with his family by his side on December 12, 2013. He stared MS in the face and won-- with bravery, grace, and dignity. Walter was born in Mineola, New York on May 19, 1959, the son of the late Edward and Claire (nee: Vandewater) Hermanns. He graduated from Wantagh High School in 1977 and furthered his education with a degree in biology from Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA in 1982. Walter then obtained his Masters of Divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, PA in 1987. He was called to Holy Communion Lutheran Church in Racine, WI and served the congregation there for 21 years including two years as Pastor Emeritus. Walter also served at Emmaus Lutheran Church and Lincoln Lutheran of Racine. He was involved in many community organizations and outreach programs including BONK!, YMCA, Gentle Worship, Halo, and All Nation's Church.

Walter is survived by his wife of 30 years Lynn Helmke; children, Shawn (Kayla) Hermanns, Laura Hermanns; brother, Peter (Barbara) Hermanns; sisters, Nancy (Charles) Clancy, Janet (Wayne) Smith and Sally (Richard) Hatt. Walter is also survived by brothers-in-law, Randy Helmke, Mark (Sherri) Helmke; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Rod and Lorraine Helmke. He is further survived by nieces, nephews, friends, and a loving congregation at Holy Communion.

Funeral services honoring and celebrating Pastor Walter's life will be held at

Holy Communion Lutheran Church on December 18, 2013 at 11 a.m. with Bishop Jeff Barrow, Rev. Mark Doidge, Rev. Bill Grimbol, Rev. Mary Janz and Rev. Kris Capel officiating.

Visitation will be held at Sturino Funeral Home on Tuesday from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. and will continue at church on Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. until service time at 11 a.m. All Clergy are invited to vest in white and process during the service.

In keeping with Walter's wishes, please omit flowers. Those wishing to remember Pastor Walter in a special way may direct memorials to Holy Communion Lutheran Church or Emmaus Lutheran Church Outreach Program. Walter's family would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to all of his friends, caregivers and church family for their love, care and devotion over the years.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 17. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sturino Funeral Home
3014 Northwestern Avenue
Racine, WI 53404
(262) 632-4479
info@sturinofuneralhome.com

Visitation

DEC 18. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Holy Communion Lutheran Church
2000 W. 6th Street
Racine, WI

Funeral Service

DEC 18. 11:00 AM (CT)

Holy Communion Lutheran Church
2000 W. 6th Street
Racine, WI

Tribute Wall

VK

“ Lynn,

My thoughts and my prayers are with you and your family through this heartbreaking time. Nothing I can say will ease your pain but just wanted you to know I am thinking of you.

Love to you and the family!

Vicki Brockmiller Kinney

Vicki Kinney - December 19, 2013 at 07:00 AM

KM

“ *Pastor Hermanns was a very special person, setting a great example of how we should all be living our lives. Even as his health made it difficult to do all the things we wanted to do, he continued to be involved in helping less fortunate people throughout the community. What a wonderful legacy he has left for his loving family, as a dedicated pastor and a caring community leader.*

Frank and Kathy Martin, Emmaus

Kathy and Frank Martin - December 18, 2013 at 08:54 PM

KM

“ *Pastor Hermanns was a very special person, who set a great example of how we all should be living our lives. Even as his health made it difficult to do all of the things we would have liked, he continued to be involved in helping other people to have better lives. What a great legacy he has left for his loving family, as a dedicated pastor and a caring community leader.*

Kathy and Frank Martin, Emmaus

Kathy and Frank Martin - December 18, 2013 at 08:36 PM

MW

“ *Dear Lynn & Family;
Walter was an inspiration to all of us working on rehab. Always asking how you were, being positive, even on the days he was not feeling so well. His words to people, kindnesses, activities and caring for others will always live on.*

Mauri Waisman

Mauri Waisman - December 18, 2013 at 02:59 PM

KL

“ *Dear Lynn and Family*

Pastor Walter was such a tremendous person. Words are inadequate to say how he touched us in so many ways. He is certainly a role model for all that is right in the human race.

We send our prayers of peace and comfort and whatever else you may need as you deal with his loss now and in the future.

Ron and Karen Larson

Karen and Ron Larson - December 17, 2013 at 03:03 PM

JH

“ *Pastor Walter was a big part of our family while our boys were growing. He was patient, kind, had a good sense of humor and always gently moved the boys in the right direction. Besides being a great pastor, he was a special human being and we are better for knowing him. He will be missed.*

Tom and JoAnne Hansen and Family

j Hansen - December 17, 2013 at 01:54 PM

PB

“ *Dear Lynn and family,
Walter was an example to all of us of compassion, empathy, strength, courage, faithfulness...and all the qualities that emulated the love of Jesus Christ. We have all been blessed with his presence in our lives and the life of our community. Our hearts and our prayers go out to you and your family.*

Paulette Berggren

Paulette Berggren - December 17, 2013 at 09:13 AM

KK

“ *Dear Lynn and Family,*

May the precious memories of Walter be a comfort to you now and forever. Walter brought so many gifts into our lives. He will be missed by all of us, but he will not be forgotten.

*Sincerely,
Kay Krause*

Kay Krause - December 16, 2013 at 08:15 PM

SB

“ Lynn and family -

Walter was a caring and giving gentle soul. His unconditional acceptance of all people will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Bill & Sue Beckett

Sue Beckett - December 16, 2013 at 02:46 PM

SR

“ Dear Lynn & your Family, I've known Walter since we moved to Wantagh in 1971. I watched him grow (& grow & grow) into the wonderful man you married & led off the Wisconsin. I spoke to my parents this weekend, my Dad was his minister & said that Walter was such a great kid & he always knew he would do great things-- and he truly did . My Mom & Dad join me in extending our deepest sympathies.

Susan Reisch

Susan Reisch - December 16, 2013 at 02:12 PM

CO

“ Beautiful Video Tribute... Lynn just want you to know i feel for you.. Its never easy losing a loved one.. My thought and prayers are with you in this time of your loss... Just know that he is looking down on you and your children, and always cherish the memories the 2 of you had together...



colleen - December 16, 2013 at 02:11 PM

JF

“Walter was so good to my mother in her final years. They were good friends and enjoyed many meals together at Bay Point assisted living after he gave the worship service. At my mother's funeral, Pastor Walter said "the relationship doesn't end" after a death. This thought is so true. Walter was an inspiration to so many people. His strong spirit, his faith, his smile, his humor and his determination to live life to the fullest, no matter the circumstances, made a strong impact on so many lives. Blessings to the Hermanns family. In living memory, Joan Fergus

Joan Fergus - December 16, 2013 at 07:55 AM

JB

“Dear Lynn and family,
I am so sorry for your loss. I know nothing I can say can ease the pain you must feel right now, but know that I am better for having known Walter. I pray for your comfort and peace.
Jan Behrens

jan Behrens - December 15, 2013 at 08:30 PM