



## Rev. Hubert John Arthur Nelson

October 8, 1935 - November 7, 2023

### REV. HUBERT J. NELSON

Hubert (Hub) Nelson, age 88, went to be with the Lord on November 7, 2023. He is now at peace in the arms of his Savior.

Hub was born in Rockford, IL, the second of the four children of Rev. Ralph and Ruby Nelson. His school years were spent in Kirkland, IL, Hector, MN, and Dalbo, MN. He graduated from Cambridge High School, Lutheran Bible Institute, Augsburg College, Augsburg Seminary, and Princeton Theological Seminary. He loved parish ministry, and that became his life's calling. He served at Bethany Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Rockford, IL, Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, and Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Edina. He later was interim pastor at churches in Minnesota, New Jersey, and Florida. He was a talented preacher and teacher, and he was devoted to sharing in the joys and sorrows of his congregants. A highlight of his ministry was co-pastoring with his lifelong friend, Rev. Loren Nielsen.

Hub was a lifelong learner and an avid reader. He was thrilled by "continuing education" and spent many happy hours in coursework. He studied Dietrich Bonhoeffer and led tour groups to Germany, Italy, the Middle East, and Turkey. He served on many church and civic boards over the years and was

known for his collaborations and friendships with clergy of many faith traditions. Hub was a scholar who loved people. He'd worked at jobs such as nighttime bank security guard, bricklayer's assistant, and nursing home attendant, and these experiences shaped him.

Hub was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph and Ruby Nelson and by his former wife of 37 years, Joan Nelson. He is survived by his sister Celeste (James) Gibson; his brothers Victor Nelson and Sterling (Pat) Nelson; five children and their spouses, Laurie (Steven) Orlow, Bruce (Hilary) Nelson, Denise (David) Eibel, Mark (Stefanie) Nelson, and Joel (Elizabeth) Nelson; his ten grandchildren, Jeremy Orlow, Nathan Orlow, Anna Pierce, Louis Nelson, Matthew Eibel, Jordan Eibel, Daniel Eibel, Brittany Nelson, Ryan Nelson, and Hayley Nelson; seven great-grandchildren Leela and Vera Orlow, Carter and Luke Eibel, Emma and Kyler Eibel, and Rogan Pierce; loving friend Lillian Tushie, and many extended family members.

A memorial service of worship will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 11, at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Edina, MN. A luncheon will immediately follow the service. Visitation with the family will be held at Shepherd of the Hills on Friday, November 10 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm and at 10 am prior to the service. Memorials may be given to Plymouth Christian Youth Center, Minneapolis or Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church Foundation.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **10.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Shepherd of The Hills Lutheran Church (Edina)  
500 Blake Road South  
Edina, MN 55343

## Visitation

NOV **11.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Shepherd of The Hills Lutheran Church (Edina)  
500 Blake Road South  
Edina, MN 55343

## Church Service

NOV **11.** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Shepherd of The Hills Lutheran Church (Edina)  
500 Blake Road South  
Edina, MN 55343

## Reception

NOV **11.** 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Shepherd of The Hills Lutheran Church (Edina)  
500 Blake Road South  
Edina, MN 55343

# Tribute Wall

SB

“ *The Leonard & Betty Wojtowicz family will forever be grateful to Hub for his wisdom, spiritual counsel, and sharing his gift of storytelling. We are just now learning of Hub's passing and want to send the Nelson family our love & prayers. Since Hub's first calling to Bethany Lutheran Church, he became a friend to our father and a pastor to our family for decades to follow. Heaven has gained an angel and there is no doubt his light will continue to shine bright. With love and God's blessings, The Wojtowicz Family*

---

**Sarah Bazey** - January 09, 2025 at 06:05 PM

KJ

“ Dear Hub’s family, I just now found out about Hub’s death by checking the obituaries because I had not yet heard from this Christmas season. He always sent his out early! He was a dear friend to me. I wish I would have known so that I could have celebrated his life with you in November. I am sending love and prayers to you all as you grieve together and remember your wonderful father and grandfather. I worked for Hub as church secretary secretary at Our Savior’s Lutheran in Rockford, Illinois. I remember you as children growing up there. I lived with my grandparents, Margit and Ed Garmager. After a year working there, I decided to go back to college at Augsburg. A few weeks after I started Augsburg, my dad suddenly died of a heart attack at 50 years old. It was a very difficult time for me. Hub became my mentor and rock as I worked through my grief and direction for my life. We wrote many letters back and forth and had many phone conversations. He became like a second father to me. Five years later, Hub gave the meditation/message at our wedding. We got together for coffee/lunch over the years to catch up on our lives. I consider him a dear friend. I am sorry that we didn’t get a chance to connect this past year one last time. Hub was a wonderful, caring human being that I will miss dearly. Sending love and prayers your way. May god surround you with his love and care in the days ahead. Love, Kathleen Johnson

---

**Kathleen Johnson** - December 12, 2023 at 04:44 PM



“ Hubert and my husband & I were classmates at Hector High School. He most always made our classes interesting because of his being so inquisitive. His family left Hector before graduation, but we always included him when sending out notices of reunions. He didn't miss those in later years and especially after retiring. There was most always a spark of that inquisitiveness and he showed his interest in the "old" classmates. The caring was evident from us as well. Our later reunions were not formal, and we met yearly for lunch in Waconia. His last attendance was in September of 2022. Each of us developed health issues and he was no exception and probably should not have been behind the wheel of a vehicle that year, but he was determined to join us. His love for his family, traveling to wherever he could be with them, was of great importance to him as with most of us. He was filling in at Shepherd of the Hills in Edina at one time and a few of us went there and enjoyed hearing him and having him serve us communion. As director of a senior group that met weekly for exercise and guests that gave us information pertinent to seniors, I invited him to come and speak on whatever he chose. He accepted and the group of about 30 enjoyed hearing from him, especially his humor that seniors need. He was a special friend and will be missed - especially by the Hector class of '53. To his family I send our deepest sympathy and please know he will not be forgotten. Hang on to your memories.

---

**Pat Johnson** - November 13, 2023 at 05:08 PM



“ Love, Andrew, Madison and Cassidy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rev. Hubert John Arthur Nelson.

---

**Love, Andrew, Madison and Cassidy** - November 10, 2023 at 10:04 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Rev. Hubert John Arthur Nelson.*



---

November 10, 2023 at 10:04 AM