



James Alan Bergquist

February 7, 1932 - February 3, 2021

Bergquist, Rev. Dr. James Alan age 88, died February 3, 2021. He was the son of Elmer C. and Esther M. Bergquist. Born February 7, 1932, in Bertha, MN, Jim graduated from Parkers Prairie High School in 1950, Luther College, Decorah, IA in 1954 and Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN in 1958. He earned his PhD in Biblical Studies from the University of Southern California in 1962. Jim and his beloved wife, Lorraine Genevieve (Herman) Bergquist were united in marriage on May 14, 1955. Their family grew to include children Robert Steven Bergquist (Neena), Kristine Marie Bergquist Haugo (John), Mark Alan Bergquist (Sue) and Kathleen Leilani Ja Sook Bergquist Bilonta (Gary), thirteen grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren, with more on the way. His family was a source of joy and pride. Dr. Bergquist served two congregations, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, CA, from 1958-61 and Calvary Lutheran Church, Honolulu, HI, from 1961-64. He taught Religion at Concordia College, Moorhead, MN from 1964-66 and then taught at Gurukul Theological Seminary, Madras (Chennai), India from 1966-70. James Bergquist was an Associate Director of the Theological Education Fund of the World Council of Churches, based in London from 1970-74. During his years with TEF, he traveled the world with responsibilities in Africa, Papua New Guinea and Southeast Asia. Jim then served as Academic Dean of the Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, OH 1974-80. As Director of the Division of Service and Mission in America of the American Lutheran Church, Dr. Bergquist was based in Minneapolis from 1980-86. Following formation of the

ELCA, he continued in this role at the new headquarters in Chicago 1986-89. A call to be Senior Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church brought Jim and Lorrie back to Moorhead MN from 1989-95. He served Trinity College, Issaquah, WA as president from 1995-99, at which point Dr Bergquist "retired". After retirement, Jim continued to teach and serve parishes and seminaries in Hong Kong, India, South Africa and New Zealand. Throughout the years, and as a retirement home, he and Lorrie found respite at Kabekona Lake. Jim Bergquist was a lifelong scholar and author with immense historical and religious perspective. Relationships with people of diverse backgrounds and cultures were foundational to his journey. As a skilled and avid woodworker, Jim delighted in sharing his creations with those around him. Dr. Bergquist was awarded the first non-national honorary doctorate from Serampore University in India. He received a Distinguished Service Award from his alma mater Luther College. James Bergquist is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, his sister, Mary, and many extended family members. He is also survived by a wealth of friends, former students and colleagues from around the globe. Blessed be his memory. Memorials preferred to the charity of your choice. Washburn-McReavy.com Dawn Valley Chapel 952-941-7686

Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Funeral Service of Lorraine & James Bergquist in memory of James Alan Bergquist



Washburn-McReavy - June 22, 2021 at 10:15 AM

DW

What a beautiful tribute of praise to our Heavenly Father for whom they continually honored with their works. We feel so honored to have been able to know them and be led by their examples. God Bless and comfort you all. Arly and Donna

Donna Wendlandt - July 19, 2021 at 02:08 PM



While preparing my sermon this week, I looked up my notes given by Dr. Bergquist 20 years ago. Sadly, I found this webcast by searching his name in Google. Am sure God is very very pleased with your faithful service, Pastor Jim. See ya in heaven.

Angela Gee - May 14, 2025 at 08:10 AM

BC

“ *Lorraine and family*
Pastor Jim was certainly a busy man in the church. His obituary, I'm sure, tells only a small portion of all he really did. it was a real pleasure for me to get to know both of you during the time you were in Moorhead and I sold you your home. Both of you were so easy to work with. I'm sorry we lost touch these past years, but know now that my family will talk about Pastor Jim and will keep you and your family in our prayers. Bless his memory.

Becky Cusey

Becky Cusey - February 09, 2021 at 01:46 PM

PF

“ *Blessed be the memory of this great servant.*

Paul Friden - February 08, 2021 at 01:52 PM

RG

“ *I remember Jim as a person to seek out at Trinity, Laporte, MN. He was a fine preacher, with an unusual command of theology. In many ways, he was a professor's professor. He will be missed by many people in many places. Blessings to you Lorrie. Sincere sympathy,*
Rev. John Golv

Rev. John Golv - February 07, 2021 at 02:32 PM