



James Arne Nestingen

November 21, 1945 - December 31, 2022

James Arne Nestingen, 77, of Roseville, MN, and Dallas, OR, returned to Christ Jesus on December 31, 2022. He died of a heart attack while at home. Preceded in death by his parents (Joyce and Ruth Vinge Nestingen), he is survived by his wife Carolyn Storaasli Nestingen, brother Rolf Nestingen, sisters Mary Nestingen and Janann Sims, sons Andrew Nestingen (Karen Baker), Peder Nestingen (Sarah Horstmann), Jacob Ole Nestingen (Sonja Nestingen), and his eight grandchildren. His loss is equally mourned by his loving mother-in-law and extended family of nieces, nephews, cousins and other cherished relatives.

James Nestingen was a Norwegian-American child of the prairie, born of a storytelling tradition that he lived out throughout his life, doing so with joy, skill, and a fair dose of humor. In his profession as a pastor, author, speaker, teacher and Professor of Church History at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, as well as with his family and friends, he enjoyed nothing more than trading stories and laughter - with a rare off-color joke thrown in.

The central story of his life was his belief in Christ's promise that through the grace of God we, though by nature sinful, confess, are forgiven and welcomed into new and eternal life. It is this story that inspired a life of study, teaching, scholarship, and service, following his father Joyce Nestingen and father-in-law Olaf K Storaasli. In this vocation, he took great joy in the colleagues, friends, trouble-makers, and sinners that he met, and with whom he shared a common faith.

Jim graduated from Concordia College, Moorhead (1967), and earned an M.Div. from Luther Seminary (1971). He served as intern pastor in Spokane, WA, as well as pastor in Coquille, OR, and Toronto, ON. He received his Th.D. from the University of Toronto (1984).

He was the author of hundreds of popular and scholarly articles, as well as the books *The Lutheran Confessions: History and Theology of The Book of Concord* (with Robert Kolb and Charles P. Arand, 2012), *Martin Luther: A Life* (2009), *Martin Luther: His Life and His Teachings* (2004), *Sources and Contexts of the Book of Concord* (with Robert Kolb, 2001), *Manger in the Mountains* (2000), *The Faith We Hold* (1983), *Roots of Our Faith* (1978), and *Free to Be* (with Gerhard Forde, 1975).

His life and work was much enriched by his wife, Carolyn Nestingen. They were happily married for 54 years, sharing travel and adventure grounded in their faith. Since 2006, Jim had taken particular joy in his eight grandchildren, Ella, Willa, Ansel, Alida, Harriet, Thore, Caia, and Lilja. He loved spending time with them.

Throughout his life, Jim was an avid collector of music with a soft-spot for Ellington, Bach, Coltrane, Mingus and Sun-Ra. He was also a reader, tool collector and periodic woodworker, fisher and hunter. Always, he was a hockey and baseball fan - passions dating to North-Dakota pond hockey and radio broadcasts of his childhood. Characterized by an adventurous spirit, with a mischievousness as a storyteller, he was often willing to indulge in a bit of hyperbole; he was not always patient, was at times bullish, and was consistently and deeply a loving family-man.

A public visitation will be held on Thursday, January 5th, from 4-8 pm, at Holcomb-Henry-Boom-Purcell Funeral Home, 536 N. Snelling, St Paul, MN 55104. Additional parking is available during the visitation at Dey Appliance (directly across from funeral home on Snelling Ave.) and at Jehovah Lutheran Church, Thomas & Snelling Ave.)

A further visitation will be held Friday, January 6th at 10am at St. James

Lutheran Church, 460 West Annapolis Street, West St Paul, MN 55118.
A service of remembrance will be held at 11am, followed by lunch in the church hall.

Memorials preferred to Lutheran World Relief.

The Funeral Service will be live streamed at the link below....

https://youtu.be/zY5x_NT-Hbg

Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Tribute Video in memory of James Arne Nestingen



December 14, 2023 at 06:24 PM



“ Elizabeth A. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Arne Nestingen.

Elizabeth A. - September 29, 2024 at 08:30 PM



“ Our family has collected additional links to Jim's life here: <https://olaf.tn.com/1945Jim/Jim.html>
Olaf O. Storaasli (Carolyn's brother).
OlafTN.com

Olaf Storåsli - August 15, 2024 at 10:35 PM



“ Jim stood with me when Luther seminary questioned my fitness for ministry. I have just celebrated 30 years in ministry, not possible without his support and guidance. I thank God for Jim.

Alan Daugherty - January 24, 2023 at 12:00 AM

SO

“ Sorry to hear of Jim's passing. We appreciated his visits to us down-under. I especially remember the time he spent with us as our chaplain at a Lutheran Church of Australia College of Presidents (now bishops) Retreat.

Steen Olsen - January 16, 2023 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ I give thanks to God for Pastor Jim's witness and ministry here on earth.



The Rev Cathy A Fanslau - January 14, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Jim was a blessing on many lives.



Jonelle Fadden - January 12, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ As a lay person, I want thank Jim and his family for nurturing many, many Christians on their journey of faith. Thanks be to God that he proclaimed the Gospel which enlightens us beyond all understanding on our early trek.

Don Haugo - January 09, 2023 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ Thanks for handing over the goods and teaching us how to to the same.



Pastor Bill Crabtree - January 06, 2023 at 12:00 AM

AI

“ I will always remember how much I enjoyed listening to Jim teach when I was in seminary and have enjoyed listening to him ever since. He "delivered the goods" in every sphere of vocation I observed. He will be missed. Peace to the family.

Ann Inoue - January 06, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ Thank you for sharing Jim with us. He was a wellspring of thoughtful conversations and lectures. I remember fondly his lectures in DMin class and at theological conferences, and especially our late night talks at the latter with pipes in-hand.

Mark Edwin Ryman - January 06, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Dear Carolyn and family, We did not hear the new until after the funeral was over, or we would have attended. Our family goes way back with Jim, back to when his dad and Ann's dad (Arnie Blom) were neighboring pastors in western North Dakota in the late 1940s. Ann and he were often playmates as children. (Her parents were Rolf's godparents, and their parents stayed good friends their whole life.) Both of us remember Jim fondly as a beloved teacher and friend and thank God for his rich teaching of the catechism. Our deepest sympathy to you all. You are sustained by the gospel Jim preached so well and so clearly. God bless and keep you,

Jon and Ann Sorum

Jon and Ann Sorum - January 06, 2023 at 12:00 AM

GG

“ Rest in the Lord my dear friend Jim. Rest in his peace. My sympathies to Carolyn and the whole family.

Gordon Gerhardy - January 06, 2023 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ Dear Carolyn and family,
We grieve the loss from this life on earth of Jim. His deep faith, intellect, love and humor will be missed, but his example and memories of him remain. He lived the Gospel. Profound thoughts were delivered with a belly laugh!

Bill and JAnet Decker - January 06, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ I miss knowing Jim is still here with us struggling sinners. But I imagine him in rowdy fellowship with the saints who have gone before, (including my Ron). Soli Deo Gloria.



Jane Harty (Ron Marshall Family) - January 05, 2023 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ Dear Carolyn and family,
My sorrow at your sudden loss of Jim. He was a wonderful person, with love, a clear, thoughtful, and insightful mind, with a warm and loving personality. He will be greatly missed.



Pete Christensen - January 05, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Jim, a true man of God, who showed me the way more than he will ever know.
Thank you.
Joanne



Joanne Balcom - January 05, 2023 at 12:00 AM

NH

“ We first met Jim when he was the Visiting Theologian at St. Mark in Salem. And since he and Carolyn became members of Trinity, we've had good chances to chat when we've attended there.

Such a fine man, scholar, and above all, a shepherd of the flock ... we loved every minute around that gentle giant. The humor, and the amazingly subtle ability to see within one.

And he was always asking about our daughter, a Gettysburg Sem grad, and her posts. Very kind, very thoughtful.

We will miss him terribly.

Neil & Miriam Haugen - January 05, 2023 at 12:00 AM

PT

“ Thanks be to God for His gift of Jim to His church on earth and now in heaven. May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ comfort Jim's family and friends with the eternal promise of the Gospel.



Pastor James L. Cavanah II, Th.D. - January 05, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ We will see Jim soon!

Jon E Jensen - January 05, 2023 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Condolences to the family from Andrew's Seattle Wednesday night hockey club. Jim sounds like an amazing man, father, pastor, professor, and friend. Our thoughts are with the family.



Andrew's Hockey Friends - January 05, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ It was my pleasure and a blessing for me to host Jim for my congregation's 100th anniversary. Wonderful preacher and teacher of the faith. And friend too. A weekend I will never forget. Blessed be his memory.

Dave Finstad - January 05, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ We are very sorry to hear of Jim's passing.
David & Solveig

David E Westgard - January 05, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Our sadness is equal to our hope. A hope reinforced anytime we heard the Good News preached by Jim! We have been blessed to know him not only as a pastor, but as a friend. We give thanks!



John and Janet Beck - January 04, 2023 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ I am so sorry to hear the news. My Prayers are with the Family.



Sheila Anderson - January 04, 2023 at 12:00 AM

WK

“ Your joy will be dearly missed here, but what joyous laughter now spreads across the heavens!

Warren and Bernadine Kannarr - January 04, 2023 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ We admired Jim soo much and could feel how much he loved the Lord and life. So grateful to have known him

Shirley and Don Hess - January 04, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ Jim has been an inspiration and man of humble rock solid faith. His insights into the faith delivered with a sense of humor was a once in a life time experience that was a true blessing. everyone was his best friend. May the hope and promise of Jesus fill one and all with comfort and the peace that passes all human understanding. In Christian love, Doug and Terri Gast

Doug Gast - January 04, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KA

“ Thanks for being a lively example of a grand sinner! John and I learned a lot from you! My parents also enjoyed your lay school classes!

Kelly Ahola - January 04, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ Carolyn, love you and wishing I could take your hand...hold your loved ones close...and I'll hug you when you're here. I so enjoyed your wonderful man...what. Joy he provided us all. He and I recently (well, last fall) discussed our last 'song fest' around Carolyn Thelin's bedside. His humor was amazingly needed in our world.



Judy Luther - January 04, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Jim was an encouragement to me, even though he didn't know me personally. He was a fresh voice for the truth of the gospel in the midst of changing winds theologically in the ELCA. His sense of humor was refreshing and life-giving. He buoyed my spirits by his folksy, in-depth presentation of the gospel.



John Saethre - January 04, 2023 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ I am so saddened to hear of Jim's passing. He was my favorite professor at Luther (class of 86) and loved to hear him present at the Lutheran Chaplain's Conferences. He is a model of the faith and will be sorely missed by all who knew him or read his works. Peace be with his family.

Gary Bertsch - January 04, 2023 at 12:00 AM

RJ

“ Remember well how engaging he was as a teacher of church history, particularly reformation history, when a student at Luther Seminary.

Rev. Julie Johnson - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ Dear Carolyn,
Mike and I are stricken to learn of Jim's death! Please accept our heartfelt condolences. We share your sorrow -- and we share your hope. You are in our hearts and in our prayers.
Pastor Mandy Grimmer and Pastor Mike Tavella

The Rev. N. Amanda Grimmer - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ This hits hard. I've never known one whose faith was so joyous. He was a huge part of my spiritual journey, and I can confirm his gift as a story teller. We told stories when my mom died, and again when my brother-in-law died. Jim always "delivered the goods".

Kurt Sunderbruch - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ We real missed our teacher, counselor, and brother in christ in whom we saw and learned Jesus love in action.
My condolences is to Carolyn and the whole family. RIP brother Jim.

Pastor Tsena Dinssa



Pastor Tsena Dinssa - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ My favorite teacher at Luther Seminary. God blessed us with a brilliant man who was born to be a teacher that inspired all in his presence, a great sense of humor who loved to tell jokes, especially Norwegian but most of all, like Martin Luther himself, at his heart he was a pastor who cared very, very deeply. Well done, God's faithful servant! Live in the Promise of the Resurrection!

David Grant, retired pastor - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Thanks for that I met you i Bergen, and since than could find you and hear the unbelievel Gospel threw your mouth.



jostein figved - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

TV

“ Please accept our condolences from the Tim Vinge family in Alberta. Reading about Jim's faith was truly inspiring. It has been many years since I have seen Jim in Torquay Saskatchewan. What a legacy he created for all of us.

Tim Vinge - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ Jim is home with the God he loves. He was an inspiration to us all in the tumultuous times and the starting times of the NALC ! Onward Christian Soldier !

Don Limmer - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ He will be missed by all of us. One of the most sincere, knowledgeable, quick-witted men I ever knew. May his family and those close to him be blessed by his memory.

James Shears - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ Life in Christ is life never lost.
As the tradition goes "death is feared by the world without Christ but death is a friend to those of us within Christ".

The Rev.Dr.Nestinggen has joined the saints preparing the way for all of us .May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest peacefully and to rise graciously in eternity. My very condolences reach the family especially Carolyn and all. The Rt.Rev. Akologo Dominic Alale Azumah of the Orthodox Anglican church of Ghana.
Shallom and +Blessings.



Bishop Akologo Dominic Alale Azumah of the Azumah - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

CO

“ Our memories of Jim will remain with us forever.

Connie and Rod Olson - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ I was at many pastoral gatherings and conferences where Jim spoke and taught. I first met Jim in Kalispell, Montana in the early 80's when I was the Associate Pastor for Bethlehem Lutheran. I know Jim was great friends with Pete and Grace Waldum, and it was through Pete that I first met Jim. From that time on I was a fan. May God's peace and grace enfold you as you grieve, even as who came to love Jim grieve with you. Matt

Matthew Cox - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ My prayers go out to the family of Jim Nestingens Family! I remember him well from Trinity Lutheran Church in Jamestown! His dad confirmed me! Lots of good memories! Rest In Peace Jim!

Donna Rude Fischer - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ Carolyn, our love and prayers are with you.



Jeff Neller - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

GA

“ *The first time my wife and I met Dr. Nestingen was by one of his welcome new Lutherans training VHS tapes. On that short intro lesson, he introduced us to "Law and Gospel" and Luther's understanding, Human's do not have free will, but are in constant bondage to sin.*

One may say, Dr Nestingen is one of many Lutheran pastors to preach "Having the correct church doctrines are the foundation of the Christian Faith". We are sadden by his death.



Gilbert and Karen Alphin - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ *My sincere condolences to Carolyn and family at the loss of such a dear soul and rock of faith. I treasured my time as a student of his Reformation class at Luther and took every opportunity to hear Jim speak at conferences and classes. He was a joy to be around in every venue. His deep faith and joyful spirit will be deeply missed.*



Rev. Carol George - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ *Earth hath no sorrow that heaven cannot heal... Even so, we pray every consolation of the Gospel "Goods" for Jim's family and the many-many who mourn the loss of this bright light and witness. Epiphany is, indeed, a right day to mourn and yet, give thanks for Jim's transfer to the Church Triumphant.*

Rev. Jack and Joneen Richards - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *May God comfort you. Jim was one of my favorite professors at Luther.*

Mary A. Schave - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

PE

“ *I had met and heard and talked and socialized with Jim many times during NALC events; in all of them his faith was infectious and overflowing with humor and pure joy. I will miss him deeply until the Resurrection we all will share.*
Pr. Keith Eslinger



Pr. Keith Eslinger - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ *Carolyn & family, our sincere condolences at Jim's passing. He will certainly be missed terribly at Trinity, and by everyone who knew him. We treasure the memories of his visit to our home, the last being just before he left for Minnesota in November. Rest in Peace, Dr. Nestingen.*
Laurel and Barry



Barry & Laurel Konsor - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

VB

“ *From Volker and Christiane*



Volker Pritzlaff & Christiane Botticelli - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

EE

“ I never met him, but I heard how influential he was on his disciples. And I the church with his teachings. I am sorry the church lost a great man of God.



Enrique Estrada - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ Condolences to the family! He will be missed by all who loves the Lord!

Billie Wagner - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Loved hearing him laugh and speak



Judi Reeder - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ We send our love and sympathy to Jim's family and friends relying on the promise given us in Romans 8:38/39

Lawrence & Carolyn Lystig - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ May perpetual light shine upon Jim and may the peace that passes understanding hold his family and loved ones fast as they cling to the Gospel that Jim proclaimed.

Jeff Morlock - January 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ As a simple layperson, I had lunch and an in-depth discussion about discipleship and the Holy Spirit's sanctification. His shared beliefs and theology were laced with the sure knowledge of scriptures and always delivered with gentle humor. He will be missed.

Craig Wheaton - January 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

OS

“ Our dear Jim, stalwart of our Family, Faith & Church

Olaf & Barbara Storaasli - January 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ It was a privilege to meet Pastor Jim on several occasions, to hear The Word from his heart to mine. He was an outstanding teacher, homilist, and Bible Study leader.



Lisa Peterson - January 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ I will always remember Jim and remember having him as an instructor of Church History in 1980 when he returned to Luther Theological Seminary. I was a freshman barely out of Summer Greek. May the Healing and Eternal Light of our Lord perpetually shine upon his face, and comfort all in this time.+

Rev. Win Belcher - January 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ *Our prayers are being given for family and friends.*



Pastor Bob Deobald (retired) and Deanna - January 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ *Prayers with the family and friends.*



Diana Ciementsscott - January 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ *My family and I would like to express our deepest condolences to Jim's family, friends, and colleagues. He always made time to listen to anyone who had questions and always had encouragement and words of support for all who were in ministry. Mike and Elizabeth Warfel*

MICHAEL WARFEL - January 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

PK

“ *I was blessed to know Jim during the NALC years and he acted as if we were long time friends in the faith.
Rest eternal O Lord and let light perpetual shine upon him.*



Pastor Mark Knappe - January 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ James Nestingen was an amazing inspiration to many of us around the United States and his passion for a radical wild relentless shown in Jesus Christ - helped our generation of pastoral leadership stay the course of love without compromise.



Pastor Scott Berner - January 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

PK

“ How blessed to call Jim my friend and fellow disciple of our precious Savior. A blessing to the church in so many ways. He will be missed by all.

Paul Krueger - January 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

PQ

“ Jimi has been the inspiration and foundation of Grace Alone for my life and ministry. Hi influence has impacted all 41 years of my ministry. I thank God for his faithful and loving witness.

Pastor Bob Quaintance - January 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ What an awesome servant and instructor! Well done good and faithful servant!

Bjorn Lervik - January 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ I learned so much from Jim. He was a mentor and a friend. We will all miss him!

Rev. Rafe & Teresa Allison - January 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ *Legend! Great professor and a warm approachable man. Great sense of humor. Blessed to know him.* ”

Douglas V Hedman - January 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM