

## Joel Luther Thompson MD

April 12, 1947 - December 25, 2025

Joel Luther Thompson M.D.

Was born in north Minneapolis on April 12, 1947. He was the fifth child of his family of eventual eight children of Reverend Alexander and Ruth Thompson. He met his future wife, Patricia Cowgill, in the Moorhead state choir. He was a bass and she was a soprano. From that led a lifetime of music. He was in Alpha Omega Alpha honor society at the University of Minnesota medical school. He was a doctor in Family Medicine. He was also board certified in ER Medicine and worked ERs in Grantsburg, Wisconsin and Two Harbors MN . He was a beloved doctor in Minneapolis for over 45 years. In 2015 a catastrophic aneurysm forced his retirement from daily practice. He still gave advice and periodically helped out a family member with small issues of medicine.

Besides his wife, his great love was his children, grandchildren and the north shore of Lake Superior. Jesus and family were the cornerstones of Dr. Thompson's life along with making up words playing scrabble.

Additionally, Dr Thompson was Sami. He was very proud of his Norwegian heritage and found it fascinating to learn- 30 years ago- that he was of the indigenous reindeer herders. His family recently was making plans for him to visit his homeland.

To quote his niece, he was "a legend". His brother in law called him "biblical in scope."

He died on Christmas morning peacefully in his sleep, listening to hymns, with

his wife and daughter nearby, outliving the aneurysms that were through his body. He was preceded in death not just by his parents but by his dear siblings Edyth, Rachel, Peter and Phillip. He is also preceded in death by his nephew Mark Thomas Cowgill. He spent Christmas Eve surrounded by his family singing carols.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Patricia Anne, his three children, Angela (Abe), Rebeccah and Christopher (Sara) and seven grandchildren (Lukas, Eloise, Katherine, Patrick, Astrid, Frances and Elias) and three siblings: Dr. Michael Thompson , Paul Thompson and Naomi Carlon. He also is survived by his wife's siblings who were so close to him: Thomas (Sandra) Cowgill, Kathryn (David) Dangler, Robert (Nancy) Cowgill and Margaret (Steven) Lambert. The last of whom were so close to Dr Thompson that they lived next door to each other for the last 20 years.  
Hallelujah he is home with his Lord.

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

JAN 6. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Messiah Episcopal Church  
1631 Ford Parkway  
Saint Paul, MN 55116

## Funeral Service

JAN 6. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Messiah Episcopal Church  
1631 Ford Parkway  
Saint Paul, MN 55116

# Tribute Wall

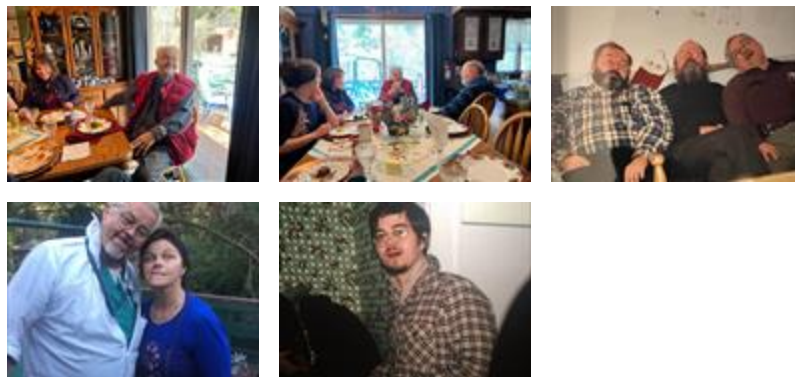


“ *He was my grandpa*

**Astrid Sauer** - March 02 at 03:54 PM



“ *Paul Thompson has some photos of his brother Joel he would like to share.* ❤️



**Amber Nickerson** - January 05 at 02:41 PM

F(

“ For as long as I can remember, Uncle Joel’s presence equaled love and safety.

*I remember on the day of dad’s funeral, he came and sat next to me, gave me a little hug and just was with me during the service. His quiet love and support meant the world to me and I’ve often thought of it in the four years that have passed since.*

*The first time Uncle Joel met my now husband (we were dating at the time), we were up at Honeyrock. Uncle Joel sat down and talked up a storm nonstop for 20 minutes and then paused, looked at my husband and said “So, Jordan, I don’t know much about you”. My husband shared a few things about himself for maybe 3 minutes and then Uncle Joel launched back into his original topic without missing a beat. I’ve often chuckled at that memory. I’ve always loved that about Uncle Joel - he liked to talk, but he did always stop to make sure you remembered you were also a part of the conversation.*

*I’ll miss him in many ways. His warm hugs, deep, rumbling laugh and his ability to see through the noise of many opinions and be the sensible peacemaker in the room.*

*To Aunt Patty, Chris, Angie and Beka - I know you will feel his absence most. We love you all and are here for you in this journey with grief. Below is a poem I came across when processing my own grief when my dad passed. I hope it brings you the same comfort that it did me.*

*“Love Came First”*

*You don’t move on after loss, but you must move with. You must shake hands with grief, welcome her in, for she lives with you now. Pull her a chair at the table and offer her comfort. She is not the monster, you first thought her to be. She is love. And she will walk with you now, stay with you now, if you let her. And on the days*

*when your anger is high, remember why she came, remember who she represents. Grief came to you my friend because love came first. Love came first."*

*Donna Ashworth*



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**Faith Fraijo (Carlton)** - January 05 at 12:32 AM

FF

“Faith, Jordan and Olivia Fraijo purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Joel Luther Thompson MD.



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**Faith, Jordan and Olivia Fraijo** - January 05 at 12:11 AM



“ Forever in our hearts. I will miss you so much Uncle Joel Thompson. Your smile, your deep voice, your jokes and childish ways that were so endearing. You were there when anyone needed you, you cared so much about us all. You always picked up the phone, as a doctor you always made sure we were okay.. You meant so much to me. ❤️🙏 Rest in peace sweet uncle. Love you so much. 💔 Sending all my love to my family at this time, as we are just hurting to lose such a vital thread in the fabric of our family. 💔🙏



Amber Nickerson - January 04 at 06:15 PM

EB

“ Dearest Auntie, my heart is with you during this incredibly difficult time. I’m so deeply sorry for your loss. One of my favorite memories of Uncle Joel was how he would always recite Bible verses—his love for God’s Word was so strong. I remember as a young girl hearing him say his goal was to memorize the entire Bible. You and Joel and your entire family have always played such a big part in our lives. Please know you are surrounded by love, and I’m holding you and your family close in my thoughts and prayers. ☐

Esther Baxter - January 03 at 10:51 PM

LA

“ Linda A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joel Luther Thompson MD.

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Linda A. - January 03 at 04:04 PM

ME

“ Patty, and all your family, you know how treasured Joel was in so many people's lives, including Tess and mine.

*From when I first began as rector, back in 1994, Joel was an integral part of our worship, our faith, our house groups and our healing ministry.*

*I remember Sunday after Sunday, seeing Joel, a physician, uphold the faith of prayers for healing.*

*Joel was also my own physician while I was with you, and I knew his professional care and skill.*

*In our later years it has been a privilege to retain our pastoral friendship. He would often call me in the early mornings while I was walking, and we would talk and share together.*

*He knew this time was coming and he upheld his faith, his own grieving, and his hope.*

*He is with our Lord and we shall all be together again soon, and very soon!!*

*Lots of love to all of you from our family.  
Malcolm and Tess*

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Malcolm Ellis - January 02 at 09:35 PM



*Thanks for sharing Malcolm, I didn't realize he had been in contact after you retired!*

**Chris Thompson** - January 03 at 12:56 PM

SS

“*Joel filled a room. His booming voice and laughter are what I'll especially remember--oh, and his fine singing at church. He was a special friend and I treasure our shared memories over almost 40 years. His presence is greatly missed!*”



**Steve Robert Simmons** - January 02 at 12:42 PM



“*I've been thinking a lot about Uncle Joel and how difficult it is to sum up all the things that made him special. What keeps hitting me is how well he emulated the Bible passage on the “fruits of the spirit.” (Galatians 5:22-23). He led with love and was gentle, kind, patient, faithful and good to all. You could see his love for Jesus reflected in how he treated others. You could feel his joy in his wonderful sense of humor and his ability to tell a great story. I had a dream a couple days after he passed of a memory where I woke up at Honeyrock to the sound of him loudly singing hymns in the kitchen while he got his morning coffee. It made me smile. He will be missed.*”



**Sarah Thompson** - January 02 at 11:58 AM

BK

“ Joel was such a dear friend to me. There is so much to say that I wouldn't even know where to begin. My life was blessed when I met Joel in 2003. We became business partners in renting HoneyRock, but quickly became good friends. I will miss him so dearly. What a beautiful man of God. Brian (and Sandy) Kelly

Brian Kelly - January 02 at 11:55 AM



“ Dad taught me many things one of which was how to start fires - and he enjoyed sitting and enjoying the warmth and crackle with good conversation. It may have been one of his most content places of recent years and he definitely passed that on to me.



Chris Thompson - January 02 at 11:03 AM

AS

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Ann Schwarz - January 02 at 10:32 AM

LF

“ I have lived in Duluth for three years now, and every time I pass the Grantsburg exit (on 35) on my way to the Twin Cities I think of Joel and the stories he would tell of his ER shifts there. He had such a lovely way about him, with his booming bass voice and the nearly ever-present twinkle in his eye. May his memory be a blessing. 💜

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**Liz Fleming** - January 02 at 09:28 AM

ML

“ The loss to our family, and the community is profound. His strong faith, brilliant mind, and love of family were the core of his amazing life. He lived largely, yet always humbled himself before God. He was greatly loved. I have missed his presence on this earth every moment since his death. Until we meet again...

*Meg Lambert*

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**Meg C Lambert** - December 31, 2025 at 01:57 PM

KD

“ I lost my "Birthday Buddy" . Joel,Connie(,a college friend who has died),and I shared a birthday on April 12th.So, for over forty years we would sing ,"happy Birthday to us". I will still sing to you Joel on our day!! I will forever hear your voice. cousin Karen Daly

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**Karen Daly** - December 31, 2025 at 11:35 AM