



Pr. Robert M. Nervig

March 9, 2011

Nervig, Pastor Robert M. Age 80, died peacefully March 6, 2011, surrounded by family and friends. Preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Hazel Nervig; and 2 brothers, Edward and Newman. He is survived by a sister, Dorothy Nelson of Brookings, SD and 2 brothers, George of Sun City, AZ and Nordahl of Millville, UT. Bob served Our Savior Lutheran Church in Staten Island, NY for 9 years in the 1960s and as Senior Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, NY for 11 years ('88-'99). He also served as Director of Camp Koinonia outside of New York City for more than 15 years ('72-'88). Earlier in his career he served as President of Augustana Academy in Canton, SD. Throughout his ministry, he was devoted to helping young people in the midst of challenge, having been one of the original founders of Plymouth Christian Youth Center in North Minneapolis and, most recently, serving as the Board Chair of Kinship of Greater Minneapolis. Funeral service 11 AM Thursday, March 10, with visitation starting at 9:30 AM, at Westwood Lutheran Church, 9001 Cedar Lake Rd. S., St. Louis Park. Interment 1 PM Saturday, March 12 at Canton Lutheran Cemetery, Canton, SD. Memorials are encouraged to Camp Koinonia, Highland Lake, NY, or Kinship of Greater Mpls. Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel 952-920-3996

Tribute Wall

AS

“ *PB.... You are Missed! What a wonderful man who was always there for a quick pep talk or one of those amazing hugs! You changed my life and so many others! God Bless you PB and know how much you are loved and missed! Thank you for all that you have done! We all love you! All my love, Amy*

~

Amy Salle,

Westhampton, New York

Amy Salle - July 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DV

“ Thank you, PB. Your confidence and faith made me better. My memories of you remind me to look beyond what I see and think on most days, to a bigger picture and a lot of love. Thank you.

~

David Valentiner,

DeKalb, Illinois

David Valentiner - July 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

WL

“ *you are gone but you will never be forgotten, your memory lives on in all the lives you touched, some words that come to mind, kinda neat, you will always be missed and loved*

~

william larson,

burrillville, Rhode Island

william larson - July 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ good bye, pastor bobi didn't have a chance to say goodbye in person you were such a bright light in my life you were a transfiguration witness and you are now transformed. that witness to the light remains praise GOD! even as that light cannot be experienced as we talk even as that laugh can now only be faintly remembered even as the images bring back our conversation that witness to the light remains praise GOD! there are tears, though... even as i write... i miss having the option to call i miss all the advice you still had to give i miss hearing your confident hope-filled voice, seeing the twinkle in your eye that witness to the light remains praise GOD! you knew. (he knew us all.) your memorial was a fitting good bye you knew who that service was for it was your last gift to us and your last chance to publicly shout that strong witness to the light praise GOD!

~

Alice Loddigs,

Plymouth, Minnesota

Contact Me

Alice Loddigs - May 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *I can't begin to tell you what Pastor Bob has meant to me and my family. He was always so supportive and strong for everyone. His heart was so generous and kind. We knew him from Staten Island and when we were on the Board of Directors when we first bought Koinonia, we enjoy every contact we had with him - my children in camp, us building the Family Campgrounds, painting the 'Carrot' - many great memories. He is home now and I am glad to have known such a blessed man of God. Thank you, Lord, for allowing us to have Pastor Bob in our lives.D. Minot-Whitman and girls*

April 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ *Pastor Nervig was a wonderful pastor, with home I spend many weekends at Camp Koinonia and in Our Savior on Staten Island. We will surely miss him!!!*

~

Carol A. Dilks,

Middletown, New York

Contact Me

Carol A. Dilks - April 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I was two years behind Bob in school beginning as a sophomore at the Academy. I credit him with bringing me into a leadership role at Augustana College while a student there. He was instrumental in helping me in my first venture as Homecoming Chairman in 1951. He was a great friend during those days and I have followed his ministry since through the years. John Knudson, Dana Point, CA

March 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I met Pastor Bob while I was a student at Augustana Academy in Canton, SoDak. He always had a smile, a word of encouragement, and a "word from the Lord," for all of us. He always had time to talk. I was kind of one of the "free spirits" of the late '60s and spent quite a bit of time in his office. That was not really how I had planned to get acquainted with him, but at our 40th year class reunion he still called me by my first name...Hmmm. He was a great servant of the Lord's. I express my deepest sympathy to his family and close friends. But I know now that Heaven is a better place! With loving memories, Peggy Jo Henriksen Gragert, Rocky Ford, Colorado, AA class of '68

[Contact Me](#)

March 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ I met Pastor Bob at River of Life Lutheran Church in North Minneapolis, when I worked there. He was a wonderful man and always had a smile and a good sense of humor. My condolences to his family on his passing.

~

Dan Koopmans,

Roseville, Minnesota

Dan Koopmans - March 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *It's with a heavy heart but pride that I ad my own condolences here to the family and many friends of Pastor Bob. The thousands of connections we share to Bob are amazing. We mourn, God and the Angels and all the Saints are rejoicing. I worked one summer at age 18 as a C.I.T. at Koinonia in 1980. A big experience it was! He joins Pastor Bob Wandersee and many other Saints gone before. I have much more on this grand man of vision,peace, wisdom,hope, a youthful heart, and lasting legacy on Koinnonia's Facebook page: Koinonia-Summer Camp,Highland Lake,NY*

~

Steve Saetre,

Bayfield, Wisconsin

Contact Me

Steve Saetre - March 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *Pastor Bob came to Trinity in Brooklyn in the late 1950's as an enthusiastic intern. In those days Trinity had a Wednesday Release Time School. He helped my mother, Sylvia Heiberg and other volunteers immeasurably as they worked to make the program a real adventure in faith for the children including my brother Glenn and me. I was a pest to him, but he knew how to turn that around in a jovial loving way. After ordination, he was called to Trinity as Youth Pastor and made such a difference in young people's lives, creating a haven in the basement of the Church office building where we had our gatherings. He overseed a regular publication called IXTHUS that was read by the teens with great interest. He had a tremendous gift interacting with young people that never ended. He was always a young person at heart. He came back to Trinity as senior pastor in the late 1980's with that same enthusiasm and smile for new generations. Well done thou good and faithful servant!*

~

Beverly Heiberg,

Huntington Beach, California

Beverly Heiberg - March 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ My connection to Pastor Bob began in the early '60's. He welcomed my mixed religion parents into Our Savior Lutheran, on Staten Island and confirmed me soon after. I'm so glad I recently reconnected with him even if it was just a phone conversation. He as still the warm caring person I remembered. Whether it was riding shotgun in his silver Buick Riveria up to Camp Greenkill, or arguing his Sunday sermons afterwards, he was always a great guy. I think I disappointed him by not following him into the ministry, but he wished me well in my life's endeavors and I'm thankful to have known him. Go with God as you always have.

~

Ron Baglio,

Lynbrook, New York

Contact Me

Ron Baglio - March 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ *Bob was such an amazing person and touched so many lives in such a positive and loving way. He will be dearly missed.*

~

Andy Sudbrock,

Fairview, Tennessee

Contact Me

Andy Sudbrock - March 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ So few leave so many to testify to the impact on their lives. Thank you Pastor Bob.

~

Mark Daniels,

Brandon, South Dakota

Mark Daniels - March 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ I first met Pastor Bob when I was 11 years old, over 50 years ago, He introduced me to my first real girlfriend, and I was with his Luther League at Koininia for a week just after it was purchased, Only the farmhouse and the lake were there. He presided at my Mother's Funeral. I have never met anyone else that came close to the inspiration he gave to so many people over the Years. Anyone who attended camp at Koininia will never forget the Frosty Frog, or the Chapel overlooking the lake. I will never forget you Pastor Bob, you are home now.

~

Allan Bjorkman,

Staten Island, New York

Contact Me

Allan Bjorkman - March 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *His reach extended so far and to so many. Blessed are the dead, for they rest from their labors. He is now in the company of heaven. God bless. Tracy Wilson, Becket, Massachusetts*

March 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *I meet Pastor Bob when I attended Our Saviour Lutheran Church. I am so grateful to Pastor Bob for all the great times that he gave us kids and for giving me the foundation for my christian beliefs. You will be missed.*

~

Diane Koerner Anton,

Bayville, New Jersey

Diane Koerner Anton - March 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“*Earth's crammed with heaven and every bush a fire with God and those who see take off their shoes the rest sit around and pluck blackberries.*” How many times did we hear that on Sunday morning worship at Koinonia? Thank you God for this wonderful servant in the church, for Pastor Bob's 80 years of life and love! Pastor Peggy Suhr-Barkley (Pathfinder Peggy)

March 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ You were the first Pastor who I actually didn't feel awkward talking to about 'real life' issues, and you always gave the best advice. You shared your beautiful soul with everyone at Koinonia, and gave a smile to each and every one of us, no matter what was going on. And, I'll never forget the Frosty Frog story - I even told it to my daughter. Rest in peace, Pastor Bob. You're deeply missed.

~

Robert Piazza,

Hawley, Pennsylvania

Contact Me

Robert Piazza - March 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I am grateful for Pastor Nervig's attempts at keeping Augustana Academy alive. He creatively attempted to rescue a school that was well worth rescuing. St. Paul said, "Whether we live or whether we die, we belong to the Lord." I thank God for the gift of faith, and for giving this gift to Pastor Robert Nervig who served ably and well in the years I was a student at Augustana Academy. Jimalee Jones, Pastor (Hancock, MI).

March 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Pastor Bob confirmed me when I was a kid on Staten Island, attending Our Saviour Lutheran. Aside from my father, he most certainly had the greatest influence and impact on my life. He was strong, always the teacher, never judgemental and always there to help. He will be sorely missed.

~

William Salt,

Stockdale, Texas

William Salt - March 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ *Bob was always rich toward people. He modeled "love of Christ" well. Can't attend his funeral as I prepare to preside at another. But in spirit I join many today who learned from him to love carefully, to enjoy ice-cream, be gentle toward all and love Christ our Savior and brother through whom we have fellowship and the gift of one another. Peace to you who grieve.*

~

Peter Rosenkvist,

Cass Lake, Minnesota

Contact Me

Peter Rosenkvist - March 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ *My father served with Bob at Trinity in Brooklyn. We renewed that friendship when Bob retired to Minneapolis. I remember Bob being the same to everyone, never singling anyone out to be greater or less than others. Go in Peace Bob. Thanks be to God.*

~

Berit Aus,

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Berit Aus - March 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ *Pastor Bob was a man of extraordinary character, a man of faith and purpose. A man that will forever be engrained in the memories of those that had the privilege of knowing him. To know Pastor Bob was to love him. The time that I was able to share with Pastor Bob at Trinity Lutheran Church is time that will endure forever in my heart. Every moment was a teachable moment; his lessons did not begin and end at the pulpit. He was a constant teacher, a never ending channel of knowledge, love and support. Thank you god for allowing such a man to touch so many lives.*

~

Alfredo Roman,

Brooklyn, New York

Alfredo Roman - March 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

IR

“ *Rest in peace, my gentle giant. Blessed are we who have known you. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my Soul! And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be; And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on. With love, Ingrid*

~

Ingrid Richardson,

Richmond, Massachusetts

Ingrid Richardson - March 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *My aunt, Audrey Miller of Metuchen, NJ, knew Bob in the early 1960s when she worked at a Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, NY. In spring 1980 I contacted Pastor Bob asking for information about a summer experience. Since I had an Urban Studies degree from Augsburg College, Pastor Bob referred me to Pastor John Backe of Trinity Lutheran Church in Manhattan -- where I had an interesting summer experience in the big city -- quite a change for a native Minnesotan! I finally met Pastor Bob at Koinonia in August 1980. Thanks to Pastor Bob, my horizons were broadened and I deepened my relationship with the Millers. May his memory be eternal.*

March 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ During his short 4 year tenure as President of Augustana Academy, Pastor Bob created a legacy of love being present among all peoples that continues to impact new lives today. He was a courageous and powerful source of change and inspiration for many. His beaming countenance, brilliant insight into human beings, and his personal integrity will be remembered by many. I am so very honored to have been among those influenced by him during my years at Augustana.

~

Rolf Peterson,

Hugo, Minnesota

Contact Me

Rolf Peterson - March 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AO

“ *Bob Nervig, while the President of Augustana Academy when I attended there from 1967-70, was one of the most extraordinary souls I had met in my life. He inspired me to believe in people when it may have been easier to give up. He helped me understand the value of work and of self-sacrifice. May his memory be a blessing to others as much as it will be to me.*

~

Arden Olson,

Eugene, Oregon

Arden Olson - March 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ You will be missed buddy. He was the first person I called before asking my girlfriend to marry me. He was always there for me throughout the years. He was like a father and an awesome friend. Rest in peace...

~

David Pulido,

Round Rock, Texas

David Pulido - March 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Pastor Bob was certainly a man of great character and a person I respected for his commitment to people and his caring manner. I had the pleasure of having Bob live at Calhoun Beach Apartments while I was General Manager for seven years and I spent quality time talking and visiting with him. His big smile, humor, commitment to the wrong party in politics, and his constant threat to take up a collection if I did not lower his rent, were all things that I loved about him. The world has lost a gracious and good man, but heaven has gained a new celebrity!!*

~

John Munkelwitz,

Eagan, Minnesota

Contact Me

John Munkelwitz - March 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DI

“ I will never forget your big smile and your wide open arms whenever we met. You would always speak to the campers in Koinonia like they were the most important people in the world...and to you , they were. You will be missed by many.....God Bless Bob.

~

David Isaksen,

Staten Island, New York

David Isaksen - March 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Bob was an inspiration to this young pastor in Brooklyn in the 60's and what a joy it was to work with him at Koinonia when he returned as Director while I was on the Board. Norm Braatz, Bonners Ferry, ID

March 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ Bob was an outstanding mentor of us and many others. he touched so many lives. He co-officiated at our wedding and has been a prayer force throughout our life together. He will be missed.

~

Alan & MaryJeanne Schaffmeyer,

Appleton, Wisconsin

Contact Me

Alan & MaryJeanne Schaffmeyer - March 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *God bless the memory of Bob to all who knew him!*

~

Jim & Aggie Sandum,

Macungie, Pennsylvania

Jim & Aggie Sandum - March 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ We are so sorry for the loss of Pastor Bob. God Bless his family and friends.

~

Milford & Diane Mork,

Dexter, Minnesota

Milford & Diane Mork - March 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM