



## Rev. Dr. Marc Kolden

January 15, 1940 - July 15, 2017

Age 77 of St. Paul

Passed away July 15, 2017. Survived by wife, Sally; son, Michael (Marisa) Kolden; grandchildren, Eres and Asher Kolden; brother, Rolf (Peggy) Kolden and step-brother, Roger (Barbara) Grier; numerous nieces, nephews, aunts and cousins. Funeral Service 11 AM Thursday July 20th (visitation 10-11AM) at the Chapel of the Incarnation at Luther Theological Seminary, 2481 Como Ave., St. Paul. Private Interment Elmhurst Cemetery. Marc was a 1962 graduate of Harvard, a 1966 graduate of Luther Seminary and received his MA and Ph.D from the University of Chicago 1969 and 1976. He joined the Luther Seminary faculty in 1981 assuming the position of academic dean in 1996 and was Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology at Luther Theological Seminary. Marc was an author of numerous books and articles. He enjoyed the outdoors hunting, fishing and canoeing as well as basketball and baseball. Memorials preferred to Luther Seminary.

# Tribute Wall

TM

“ Marc was a wonderful, kind, patient, bright, and caring professor. He had so much patience with us during one of the last classes he taught during his final semester at Luther. We were a group of seniors in our last semester at seminary, too, and many of us were checked out but he was so kind, generous, caring, and had the heart of a pastor even as a bright theologian. He will be greatly missed by the community and I wish I could have been at the service. Peace and prayers to his family and friends and to the Luther Seminary community.

---

**Tasha Genck Morton** - July 25, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ Dr. Kolden helped me connect systematics and my faith in a very special way. I will always cherish my time with him in class. Blessings and peace to his entire family.

---

**Rev. Charles Leonard** - July 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ Thinking of Marc and you, his family, today, as final rites are said. What a nice guy he was. I knew him best from his days at Luther Seminary, when I was a student, two years ahead of him. He always had a smile, and a listening ear. God bless his heritage and all his loved ones.

---

**Lyle Rossing** - July 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Marc interned at my home congregation--Zion in north Minneapolis, so I had him for 7th grade confirmation, as well as Intro to Systematics and the culminating systematics class at Luther. So, he was my teacher, and friend, from the very beginning of my theological education to the final class at seminary. Great teacher. Even better person. Always had a warm greeting for me. I'll miss him!

Mark Hendrickson - July 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Dr. Kolden was a professor for several of my classes. I particularly remember the Constructive Theology class of three students, one of whom was me. Dr. Kolden was very helpful to help me clarify my theology and my sense of call. He was supportive and encouraging and knowledgeable. A great combination!

Diane Shallue - July 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Dr Kolden was a spiritual mentor and reminder of the pastor I hoped to be. Stunned at the news of his death. I'm forever grateful for his ministry at Luther Seminary. God be with the Kolden family

Rev Kris Snyder - July 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ So sorry to hear this news. Marc was one of my teachers at Hamma in the late 70's. I've always felt blessed to have had him as one of my influences.

Scott Cady - July 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM

WA

“ I am very saddened to learn of Professor Kolden's death. Marc was a fine teacher, who wisely sought to help each of his students become better exponents of our own various theologies, rather than impose his own theological perspective on us. He encouraged me to further my education beyond seminary, and I remain indebted to him for his affirmation and counsel. God's peace to Marc's family and to the Luther Seminary community, past and present.

Wesley Aardahl - July 18, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Prayers for your family and friends. I enjoyed working with Marc, when I was on the Board of Regents at the Seminary.

Mary Ann Solmonson - July 18, 2017 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ Dear Kolden Family, I am so sad to learn of Marc's death. I was a student at Luther 1989-1994, and on staff 1993-1995 in ecumenical ministry. While I never studied with Marc in the classroom, I considered him a friend and colleague. He was such a kind man. My heart goes out to you in your loss, and I pray that God's loving care will surround you through all those who love you. I'm sorry I will be in Chicago on Thursday, but will keep you in my prayers. Most sincerely, Kathy Michael

Kathy Michael - July 18, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Marc was a very good mentor to me during my graduate study at Luther. His smile always made a difficult theological thought, at least bearable, if not mastered. I always fondly remember him for his support of me in my work. May he rest in peace.

Scott Frederickson - July 18, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ I entered Luther Northwestern in 1982 and enjoy his classes as well as his good humor our prayers are with you all, but what a wonderful legacy.

Chaplain Gary Bertsch, USAF retired - July 18, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LQ

“ March was an energetic teacher who reached out beyond his comfort zone. Deepest sympathies to the family.

Larry Quanbeck - July 18, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ I am so sad to learn of Marc's death. Professor Kolden was always supportive in spite of my sometimes feeble efforts. He provided so much rigor and depth in the classroom. And he was my friend throughout my stay at Luther Northwestern. Blessings and condolences to all family members.

Jonathan T. Jones - July 18, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Marc was our teacher at Luther Theological Seminary during our student years, and he also became our friend. We mourn his passing and respectfully remember his theological commitments. He served Luther and the wider church faithfully and with distinction, but always with a pastor's touch. We thank God for his life and witness.

Jack and Rachel Thorson Mithelman - July 18, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ I am sorry to hear that Dr. Kolden has passed and I am sorry I can not make the visitation or funeral. I studied Gustaf Wingren with him during my PhD studies and truly appreciated his knowledge as well as his kindness and commitment to me as a student. Many have been blessed by his work.

---

**Jeremy Myers** - July 18, 2017 at 12:00 AM

PU

“ Dear Sally and family, Grace to you and peace. I am so sorry to hear about Mark's passing. Mark was a good friend and a guiding light for me at seminary. I was a business major at Seminary taking his beginning Systematic Theology course and was lost, but Mark was kind enough to help me through his course. I still use his material in the parish on vocation 31 years after I graduated. I loved his smile and his sense of humor. He was often at our District and Synod Assemblies- I remember him during a close Bishop's ballot lobbying for one of the candidates- that was Mark, concerned enough about the church to do the "nuts and bolts" things required. Mark was most of all was a beloved friend and mentor who loved his students, the church and Montana! The pioneering work he did to establish the Northern Rockies Institute of Theology is still going strong, because of the foundation he laid and the vision He had. NRIT remains one of the premier pastoral and lay education centers in the Lutheran Church, thanks to Mark. "Blessed in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones." We have lost a theological giant with the heart as joyful as a child. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. With warm regard and sincere condolences, Pastor Brad Ulgenes, class of 1986 . St John's Lutheran Church . my cell 406-390-4721 . Please call when in Helena!

---

**Pastor Brad Ulgenes** - July 18, 2017 at 12:00 AM