



## Sterling Daniel Nelson

February 11, 1938 - July 16, 2025

### Pastor Sterling Daniel Nelson

Age 87 of Hopkins, passed away on July 16, 2025. Preceded in death by parents, Ruby P. and Rev. Ralph A. Nelson; brother, Rev. Hubert Nelson; and grandson, Wyatt M. Olig. He will be deeply missed by his loving wife, Patricia M. Nelson; children, Randal S. (Pam) Nelson, Susan K. Nelson, Katherine S. (Chris) Olig, and Robert S. Nelson; step-children, Tammy Wyche, Rick (Kim) Nelson, and Craig (April) Nelson; sister, Celeste (Jim) Gibson; brother, Rev. Victor Nelson; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at Washburn-McReavy Hopkins Chapel (1400 Mainstreet, Hopkins) on Saturday, August 9, at 11 a.m. with visitation one hour prior. In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to Saron Lutheran Church, Ashland, WI <https://www.saronlutheranashland.org> or Solomon Lutheran Church, Greeneville, TN. Memorials for Solomon Lutheran Church can be mailed to: 670 Cove Creek Rd, Greeneville, TN 37743. Interment Solomon Lutheran Church Cemetery, Greeneville, Tennessee at a later date.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Hopkins Chapel  
1400 Mainstreet  
Hopkins, MN 55343

## Memorial Service

AUG 9. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Hopkins Chapel  
1400 Mainstreet  
Hopkins, MN 55343

# Tribute Wall

KJ

“ Kaitlyn Jordan purchased the Simply Elegant Spa thiphyllum for the family of Sterling Daniel Nelson.



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**Kaitlyn Jordan** - August 08, 2025 at 12:38 PM

TG

“ We will miss Pastor Sterling at The Glenn Hopkins where Sterling and Pat lived and presided at our weekly Interfaith Service. Pastor Sterling and Pat were a wonderful team when they shared the Word, its meaning, and their experiences. A highlight was when Pastor Sterling dressed as John the Baptist. We will miss Pastor Sterling’s witty sense of humor and his singing voice. We are all better people for have known Sterling!

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**The Glenn** - July 29, 2025 at 05:51 AM

SC

“ There will never be another Pastor Nelson. We had the pleasure of having him serve as an interim pastor at Peace Lutheran Church in Knoxville, Tennessee. He & Pat were so fully invested in our congregation and in our community despite it being a temporary position. The only problem we had with him was that no one on the Call Committee was in any hurry to find a full-time pastor because we all loved and enjoyed him so much. He had a true servant heart and was so full of love. He made everyone feel so loved and special. He will be sorely missed. Rest in peace, Pastor. Until we meet again. Sue, Eric, Katie and Kristen Carlson 🙏🙏🙏

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**Susan Carlson** - July 25, 2025 at 11:42 PM

DK

“ We have many good memories of the time you served at Peace, Knoxville. You and Dale teased each other about being from Finland and Sweden.

*Dale and Mary Ellen Kangas*

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**Dale H Kangas** - July 25, 2025 at 04:40 PM

PR

“ So very sorry to learn of Pastor Sterling’s passing. He was the mission pastor at our church (Messiah Lutheran, Montgomery Al) and I remember how hard he & Pat worked to get it started. He will be remembered for his kindness, his sincerity and his sense of humor. My heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones, as I’m sure he was loved and will be missed by many.

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**Patt Riggins** - July 25, 2025 at 01:37 PM

LK

“ Pastor Sterling was one of the best friends anyone could ask for. Pastor Sterling always Practiced what he Preached. He was kind, honest, caring, sincere, loving, and had quite a sense of humor with a smile on his face. We will miss him forever. May he rest in peace.

*Bob and Lynnette* 🙏🏻



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**Lynnette Kluver** - July 25, 2025 at 10:31 AM

RP

“ I am sorry to hear of Sterling’s passing. I met Sterling through my parents in Ashland, Wisconsin. He was my godfather. I remember him as a wonderful man and pastor. I give my best to all his family through this difficult time.

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**Ryan Peickert** - July 24, 2025 at 05:00 PM

MC

“ When we were both serving churches in Montgomery, Alabama, Sterling and I became good friends. We would often go out to lunch together and it always impressed me how Sterling treated the waiters, taking an interest in them as individuals rather than mere servants. He treated everyone with respect and dignity. I am grateful for his witness and his friendship, especially when he preached for my son’s funeral. ~Pastor Mark Cerniglia

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**Mark Cerniglia** - July 24, 2025 at 02:42 PM

CE

*Pastor Nelson was such a inticate part of my Life,Being there for my Wife Lisa,Jillian,and i.He came to the house at 5:am the morning she passed.His main concern was to make a list to see what Jillian would need.Then he went with us to make the Funeral Final arraingements for Lisa .He was so loving,so caring he was a true deciple of Jesus.He will be sorely missed.May he rest in Peace*

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**Charles Evans** - July 25, 2025 at 07:32 AM