



## Sunthi Paul Chookiatsirichai

April 22, 1945 - July 10, 2024

Chookiatsirichai, Sunthi P.

An incomparable, original force. Born Fu HePing in Bangkok, Thailand to Chinese parents Tse Yok Eng and Fu Fok Chung. He moved back to Hainan Island at age 3, then back to Bangkok again around age 8.

Sunthi immigrated to Seattle where the McLeod family adopted him. Their love and generosity influenced so much of how he lived. He studied at Lutheran Bible Institute (Seattle, WA), Bethel College for a B.A. (St.Paul, MN) and received a Masters of Divinity and ordained at Luther Theological Seminary (St.Paul, MN).

He was called to Pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (North Mpls, Mn) He founded SE Asian Ministries at Redeemer Lutheran on the Northside of Mpls . He passionately served the Twin Cities Lao, Thai and Chinese communities. Sunthi was an advocate, a teacher, a mover and a shaker. His unending optimism for the goodness within humanity lit a fire with anyone he met. He never forgot a face.

In his lifetime he won many awards for his good work, and served on numerous councils, organizations some of which included:

A Governor Rudy Perpich Certificate of Commendation for serving on: the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans and a 1994 Outstanding Leadership Award; a Governor Arne Carlson Certificate of Commendation for: Leadership with the Thai Community in MN; served as a member on the Hennepin County Board of Aging (1986); Thai Association of MN Secretary; Chinese Senior

Citizen Society Secretary; Mn Dept Health Alcohol and Drug Cultural Diversity Committee Member, He also served on the Mpls City Council Police Misconduct Board (1989); He presented on "SE Asians Fight Racism: The Changing Mood in the Twin Cities" for "The Militant" publication; The Hawthorne Neighborhood Group; and many more organizations promoting diversity, inclusion in the conversations, and dignity as human beings.

We lost our dearest papa peacefully on Wed. July 10, 2024, at age 79. He will be fiercely missed. Survived by children: Laura (Dan) Morlock, Mark Chookiatsirichai, Chris Chookiatsirichai (Matt), Matthew Chookiatsirichai, Amy Chookiatsirichai, and Val Young; grandkids: Jaime and Trina Morlock; the Seattle McLeod Clan, innumerable friends, parishioners, and clients.

Celebration of life: St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church 2323 Como Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108 [www.saplc.org](http://www.saplc.org) on Sat. July 27 (Visitation 12PM; Service 1PM; Reception 3-5PM). Inurnment: Mon., July 29 [2PM] at Washburn-McReavy Crystal Lake Cremation Garden. 3816 Penn Ave. N., Mpls., MN 55412 [www.washburn-mcreavy.com/obituaries](http://www.washburn-mcreavy.com/obituaries)

Buddhist Memorial Service for Sunthi Chookiatsirichai (<https://youtube.com/live/h7e89AyIYWM?feature=share>) and Christian Memorial Service for Sunthi Chookiatsirichai [https://youtube.com/live/hKjViJv\\_l8I?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/hKjViJv_l8I?feature=share)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 27. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church  
2323 Como Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55075

## Church Service

JUL 27. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church  
2323 Como Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55075

## Reception

JUL 27. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church  
2323 Como Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55075

## Graveside Service

JUL 29. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

Crystal Lake Cemetery  
3816 Penn Avenue North  
Minneapolis, MN 55412

# Tribute Wall

MD

“ A bit of light went out of the world when Sunthi left us. He was so full of hope, good cheer, and kindness for everyone. I was only five years old when our family met him, but 40 years later, he and his family are still present in our lives.

When he was asked to leave our Church because he was providing neighborhood kids a safe place to go after school in the evening, our family left as well. He taught me that you can do good and be good without following all the rules. It seemed he never followed the rules!

He officiated at my parents' commitment ceremony, came to many of our family get togethers and was always the life of the party.

All my love to my longest friend, Chrissy and her partner Matt, and the only tattoo artist I trust, Mark, and all of Sunthi's children, family, and friends.

Love, Melodie DeMulling and Jeff Dickson  
along with Val and Bud DeMulling, Jenny and Chris Merkl, DeeDee DeMulling and Coni Terhark

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**Melodie DeMulling** - July 25, 2024 at 05:54 PM

JS

“ 1 file added to the album Services Flyer



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**Jordan Seitz** - July 23, 2024 at 11:23 AM

MY

“ I met Pastor Paul about a year ago. I found him to be fascinating to talk to. He had a very full life and probably made an impact on many people through his ministry.

I'm so glad I got to meet him through the Chinese Senior Citizens Society.

My condolences to his family. Where he is now, there is no more pain or suffering, just peace and joy in the presence of our Lord.

MJ Yue

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**Mary Jane Yue** - July 21, 2024 at 10:38 PM

TC

“ The Choys purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Sunthi Paul Chookiatsirichai.



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**The Choys** - July 20, 2024 at 04:17 PM

TC

“ The Choys planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sunthi Paul Chookiatsirichai.

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**The Choys** - July 20, 2024 at 04:17 PM