



Warren Frank Salveson

June 24, 1936 - May 9, 2025

Warren Frank Salveson

June 24, 1936 - May 9, 2025

Warren Frank Salveson, a pastor, mentor, leader, and friend in Lutheran ministry died on May 9, 2025 surrounded by his loving family, after a short hospitalization at Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Minneapolis, MN.

Born June 24, 1936 in Minneapolis to Rev. Frank and Doris (Froyland) Salveson, Warren grew up in Battle Lake and Milan, MN where his father served Lutheran parishes.

Warren's world expanded when the family moved to Brooklyn, NY. His high school years were focused on cheering for the Dodgers, playing church basketball, and delivering deli food on a bike after school. Warren graduated from Fort Hamilton High School, Brooklyn in 1954. As Warren headed off to St. Olaf College, seven of his church basketball teammates joined him. He loved his time at St. Olaf, playing on the football team and serving as student body president.

Warren graduated from St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN. in 1958. He, and over twenty classmates, went on to study at Luther Seminary, St. Paul. After his internship in Mayville, ND, Warren graduated and was ordained on June 24, 1962. He served in parishes in East Jordan MI (Evangelical Lutheran), Elk

Rapids, MI (Calvary), and Greeley, CO (Our Saviors). He directed Lutheran camps EWALU, Strawberry Point, IA, and Sugar Creek, Ferryville, WI. He served as a member of the Iowa District staff of the American Lutheran Church, and held interim positions in Redwood City, CA (Messiah), Holden Village, Chelan, WA, several congregations in the Twin Cities, and Good Earth Village, Spring Valley, MN.

Warren married Sonja Wold (a fellow Ole) in Blooming Prairie, MN on June 25, 1960, enjoying nearly sixty five years of life together without a day of boredom. They shared a passion for serving others in ministry together. They were also passionate in their life together enjoying travel, biking, camping, reading, skiing, and building community and friendships. Warren and Sonja created a beautiful, loving family. Children Karen (Brooks), Kirk (Bettie Kathryn), Jon (Jennifer), and Mari (Steve). They have twelve grandchildren, Reid (Gaelle), Kira (Peter), Dane, Kael, Jorgen (Sarah), Karsten, Hannah (Lorenzo), Holden, Soren, Grette, Finn, and Astri. Five great grandchildren-Aimee, Sloane, Berit, Teigen, and Owen.

Warren loved the outdoors, working during college summers in Montana for the Forest Service, skiing in Colorado, guiding at Wilderness Canoe Base during its developing years, and later launching innovative camping programs that took youth backpacking, canoeing, and bicycling in Iowa, Wisconsin, Colorado, and Michigan. He was passionate about racial justice, actively working to integrate his camps in the 1960s ensuring access to campers and counselors regardless of race or economic status.

Warren and his parish in Greeley were instrumental in their support of seminary students from seven African countries throughout the 1980's. In the summer of 1986, at age 50, he suffered a debilitating stroke that resulted in a loss of his speech and abilities on his right side. He worked relentlessly to regain his strength and return to his grace-filled congregation continuing his ministries for two more decades.

For the past twenty-five years, Warren and Sonja have embraced life in the Minneapolis area and all it offers: amazing pro and college sports teams, orchestra concerts, theater productions, book clubs, his beloved biking group, riding Ragbrai through Iowa, skiing, having St Olaf nearby, and best of all, proximity to a large swath of children and grandchildren. They also have traveled extensively, including four life-changing civil rights trips to Montgomery and Selma, Alabama.

Warren was known for his sense of humor and love of life. He appreciated people who asked good questions and he asked many in return. His mind was passionate, curious, and brilliant until the day he died. Warren's zeal and optimism in life were infectious. He was unyielding in his belief in human justice, equality and the compassion of the human spirit. He devoted his life to a loving God whose message had the power to heal a wounded world.

A funeral service will be held on June 7, at 1:00 p.m. at St Andrew Lutheran Church, 13600 Technology Drive, Eden Prairie, MN. Visitation will be held at noon prior to the service and an ice cream social fellowship will follow immediately after.

The family encourages any donations be given to the Southern Poverty Law Center, St. Olaf College, Luther Seminary, or the National Park Foundation.

www.Wasburn-McReavy.com

Edina Chapel 952-920-3996

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 7. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Andrew Lutheran Church (Eden Prairie)
13600 Technology Drive
Eden Prairie, MN

Memorial Service

JUN 7. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Andrew Lutheran Church (Eden Prairie)
13600 Technology Drive
Eden Prairie, MN

Tribute Wall

RG

“ *Solver and Gundy have opened a new repair shop just inside the Pearly Gates. Nothing ever really gets fixed, but the stories and the laughter are non-stop!*

Richard Gunderson - June 07, 2025 at 07:31 AM

KL

“ *We are so very sorry for your loss. So many wonderful memories of our time shared with Warren and many of you. One of my favorite memories is his love of ice cream. I can still see him on the steps of the ice cream shop in Holden, laughing and holding his cone. Then there was him racing by on his bike when riding Ragbrai, yelling, next stop the Dove tent. Our warmest wishes for you to find comfort in your memories and continued love for each other. Karen and Ken Lockman*

Karen Lockman - June 06, 2025 at 09:36 AM

CK

“ *Coach Kilian purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Warren Frank Salveson.*



Coach Kilian - June 02, 2025 at 02:49 PM

PF

“ Piper Sandler Family purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Warren Frank Salveson.



Piper Sandler Family - June 02, 2025 at 01:13 PM

PF

“ Piper Sandler Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Warren Frank Salveson.

Piper Sandler Family - June 02, 2025 at 01:13 PM

SH

“ SO MANY GOOD MEMORIES OF PASTOR WARREN AT OUR SAVIOR'S;
HE WAS THE BEST!!
MAY GOD GIVE EACH OF YOU HIS EVERLASTING PEACE.
OUR LOVE, BOB, SHIRLEY, DENISE, AND BRIAN HART

SHIRLEY HART - June 01, 2025 at 05:28 PM

MJ

“ Worldly, witty, wise. Before a Sunday service in Greeley, when an acolyte asked "But, what do I do?" Warren replied without thinking about his microphone, "You light every \$%)@ candle you see!!!" Fortunately only Kirk, running the sound system, heard his response. Worldly? Without question. As we laughed together, "Michael, remember, participation is more important than performance . . . unless you are paid." Wise? Insightful, committed beyond the obvious.

Michael Jothen - May 22, 2025 at 10:20 AM

LC

“ Warren was one of my favorite people 🙏. He helped me through difficult times in my life and I had the privilege of working with him at the church. His love for all people and for the Lord was so inspiring. He was one of a kind and will be missed! My love to Sonja and the family ❤️

Linda Carey - May 21, 2025 at 09:37 PM

JK

“ If we are lucky in life, we get a chance to meet and feel the warm presence of a truly magnificent person like Warren. He not only practiced his own insightful preaching but naturally brought light and optimism into the world every day. The shine will never fade from the glory of Warren's work in this world.

Jon Kramer - May 21, 2025 at 08:27 AM

MM

“ Warren was my godfather, a role model, and later in life, my friend. I cherish every conversation, hug, and story. The world is better for him living in it and I am better for him being my godfather. May we carry forward his curiosity, love for people, passion for Justice, and belief that the gospel can transform lives.

Meggan Manlove - May 20, 2025 at 07:32 PM

MA

“ Warren was a native Bay Ridge Brooklyn boy, a fellow “Ole”, an executive director in Outdoor Ministries, a neighboring clergy colleague in Colorado and a cherished friend. “Salvo” would light up a room! May God’s peace & blessings rest upon Warren’s memory. Gud velsigne deg, Warren 🇳🇴🇳🇴
Maynard Atik

Maynard Atik - May 20, 2025 at 12:00 PM



“ Warren was one of those people who seemed larger than life and made those around him better people. I’m proud to have enjoyed his faith and life and the opportunity to work together for one chapter.

Matt Bersagel, Eagle Colorado

Matt Bersagel - May 19, 2025 at 09:22 AM



“ No words can express how sorry Pastor Joseph & Jessica Bocko are for your loss. Our hearts are heavy knowing the pain that you must be feeling. May God bless you with healing and strength. Shalom.

Joseph Bocko - May 19, 2025 at 12:45 AM