



David Luther Sorbel

February 16, 1943 - December 13, 2015

Rev. David Luther Sorbel went home to be with his Lord and Savior on December 13, 2015.

Born in Tracy, Minnesota to Otto and Dolores Sorbel on February 16, 1943. David first lived in Walnut Grove with his mother, sister and maternal grandparents (Emma and Swen Swenson) while his father served in the U.S. Army Air Force as a B-17 pilot.

After the war, his parents and sister moved to Minneapolis where his father became a grocer. In the summers he still enjoyed visiting his cousins who lived on a farm. We believe this is where he, at an early age, learned the importance of hard work and responsibility. Traits that remained with him for the rest of his life. Farm life was fun but to earn some extra money he picked up work as a paper boy and a dishwasher. While attending Patrick Henry High School, he was a drum major for the marching band and president of the Hope Lutheran Church youth group. Summer now included trips to Mt. Carmel on Lake Carlos near Alexandria, Minnesota. It was at this beautiful Bible camp that he met the daughter of Reverend Arnie and Evy Stone. Her name was Dodie, and they eventually fell in love.

After high school, Dave attended the University of Minnesota for two years and then transferred to, and graduated from, Mankato State with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He went on to marry Dorayne (Dodie) Stone on August 27th, 1966. While attending Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary, he took a job as the night manager at the newly built

Ebenezer Tower (Minneapolis) where he enjoyed visiting with the residents. His seminary internship was at St. Paul's in White Center, a suburb of Seattle Washington, where he actually enjoyed the rainy weather. Later in life, he often mentioned returning and rooting for his second favorite (we think) professional football team (the Seahawks).

While completing his final year of seminary, Dodie gave birth to John David in December of 1970. The young parents were so proud and felt very blessed to start building a family. It was a great time in their lives, but also the beginning of a lot of firsts as a family.

The spring after John was born Dave earned his Master's in Divinity, Dave received his first call to St. James Lutheran Church in Minneota, Minnesota. At that time he also served Spring Creek Lutheran Church of Normania Township near Clarkfield, MN. It wasn't long before the arrival of their first daughter Karen Dorayne in March of 1974. That summer they moved to Bloomington, MN.

While in Bloomington, Dave served as associate pastor at St. Luke's Lutheran Church alongside senior pastor Paul Werger for seven years. One thing that was always on his mind was how much he enjoyed administration and working with the elderly, so he went back to school and earned a Master of Public Health at the University of Minnesota. Soon after graduation, he moved his family to West Union, Iowa, where he was the administrator at the Good Samaritan nursing home. In the summer, he and members of his staff played on a softball team they called "The Turkeys."

In 1984 Dave and family were able to come back to MN where he became the administrator at Knute Nelson Memorial Home. One year later, Andrew Lee was born. This might have been too much for a lesser man but he always trusted that God had a plan. Raising a son in Alex often means thousands of trips to and from daily hockey practices, and thousands of miles to and from dozens of towns, small and large, across the state for games and tournaments.

In 2004, after Andrew left for college, Dave entered semi-retirement to

contract with other homes and assist them with transitions. Now with more free time on his hands, Dave enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, playing golf, reading books, leading Bible studies, sending hand written letters in his unique "all caps" font, taking trips up the north shore of Lake Superior, and eventually learning how to carve and paint wooden figurines. He was always ready to sit down with a cup of coffee and discuss theology, home repair or any other subject. But above all else, he enjoyed visiting with and doing things for the people he loved.

Dave was preceded in death by his parents Otto and Dolores Sorbel, and sister Vonne Jenson. He is survived by his wife Dorayne Sorbel, children John (Theresa) Sorbel, Karen (Ryan) Tollefson and Andrew Sorbel, grandchildren Erik Sorbel, Kate Tollefson and Annika Tollefson, and siblings Steve (Barb) Sorbel, Marilyn (Kal) Bergstrom, and Jonathan Sorbel and brothers in law Gordon Jenson and Dale Stone.

Visitation will be held Friday, December 18, 2015, 5-7 PM at the Anderson Funeral Home and one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday. Funeral service will be held on Saturday, December 19, 2015, 11:00 AM at Living Word Lutheran Church in Alexandria. Burial will be at Kinkead Cemetery.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **18**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Anderson Funeral Home
659 Voyager
Alexandria, MN 56308
<http://andersonfuneral.net>

Visitation

DEC **19**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Living Word Lutheran Church
1722 16th Ave E
Alexandria, MN 56308

Funeral Service

DEC **19**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Living Word Lutheran Church
1722 16th Ave E
Alexandria, MN 56308

Tribute Wall

BV

“ I am the Activity Director at Pipestone Good Samaritan and had the privilege of getting to know Dave "a little" in the time he was here. We appreciated his leadership! He was such a kind soft spoken man with a big caring heart for others!! My sympathy goes out to each of you even though this is late! I know the grieving continues as your life has been changed immensely! But praise be to God Dave is celebrating in heaven today!



Bev Veltkamp - January 11, 2016 at 10:17 AM

PS

“ I attended many meetings with Dave, and respected his quiet being. He was an encouragement to those of us who were new to Long Term Care.

Pat Shafto - December 27, 2015 at 03:13 PM

MC

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you. I had the opportunity to work with Dave at a Good Samaritan Center while he was serving as interim administrator and I was serving as interim Director of Nursing. I was honored to get to know him and work with him.
Marlene Christman

Marlene Christman - December 23, 2015 at 02:00 PM

TS

“ Dear Dodie and family,
Please accept Jane and my sympathy at the loss of Dave. Dave was a friend, colleague and mentor in my life and I will miss him. Jane and I enjoyed our memories of family time with you and Dave while living in Postville while you were in West Union. We ask for God to give you and your family peace and strength in this time of loss.

Tim and Jane Samuelson

Tim Samuelson - December 18, 2015 at 02:33 PM

CF

“ Jon, I am saddened by the loss of your dear brother. Just know that your "precious gems" all offer sincere condolences and prayers for safe travels. I am hopeful that each day is less difficult than the day before, especially for Mrs. Sorbel.
God bless each of you.

Carolyn F. Roberson, Restland FD - December 18, 2015 at 12:57 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of David Luther Sorbel.



December 18, 2015 at 11:28 AM

RW

“ *Rita Winters lit a candle in memory of David Luther Sorbel*



Rita Winters - December 18, 2015 at 08:37 AM

WF

“ *Please know I'm thinking of you today and sending my condolences to you on Mr. Sorbel's passing. His obituary is beautifully written -- a tribute to what was obviously a remarkable life.*

*Warren Fenske
Jonathan Sorbel's friend
Concordia, Missouri*

Warren Fenske - December 18, 2015 at 07:24 AM

AS

“ *Dave was one of the most generous people I've had the privilege to work alongside and learn from. He was kind, wise and generous with a story, but he also recognized the best way to teach wasn't always to talk, but to ask questions and listen... drawing out the very best from all of us.*

Adam Suomala - December 17, 2015 at 09:44 PM

KN

“ *Deepest sympathies to the family of David. I am thankful for the time I had to be with Dave and to be associated with the care and compassion he gave to those elderly he served in his career. I will miss you David, but await the day when we will meet again. Thank you good and faithful servant.*

KYLE Nordine - December 17, 2015 at 07:54 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David Luther Sorbel.*



December 17, 2015 at 05:51 PM



“ *Beth Aaberg lit a candle in memory of David Luther Sorbel*



Beth Aaberg - December 17, 2015 at 05:48 PM



I enjoyed visiting with Dave while woodcarving.

Beth Aaberg - December 17, 2015 at 05:51 PM



I had the great privilege to work with Dave early in my career when he was elected by his peers to the Board of what was then the Minnesota Association of Homes for the Aging, now LeadingAge Minnesota. He was so admired and respected by his colleagues in aging that when he did (sort of) retire, they elected him an honorary, life-time member of the Association. On the day that he received his honorary membership award, I remember he said that his work on behalf of seniors across the state and the fellowship he enjoyed with others in our field helped "fill his bucket". Indeed, it was he who filled ours -- with wisdom and leadership, kindness, friendship and warmth. Seniors live in a better world because of Dave. We will miss him so but we honor his memory and legacy. Our thoughts and prayers are with you,

Gayle Kenvold

Gayle Kenvold - December 18, 2015 at 08:36 AM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of David Luther Sorbel.*



December 17, 2015 at 03:55 PM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear of your loss of Dave. He was a leader in our industry and obviously lead with compassion as he served. To John and the rest of the family, I'll be praying for you all during this difficult time. Todd Lundeen, Elim - Princeton*

Todd Lundeen - December 17, 2015 at 08:29 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David Luther Sorbel.*



December 16, 2015 at 10:51 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of David Luther Sorbel.*



December 16, 2015 at 08:56 PM



“ *Rose Tribute was purchased for the family of David Luther Sorbel.*



December 16, 2015 at 04:54 PM



“ *I have not talked to Dave for many years but I knew him from when I worked at Knute Nelson. I worked with him for almost 5 years and have tremendous respect for him . A very quiet man with a big heart. My condolences to your entire family.*

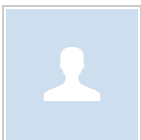
Pamela Habberstad

Pamela Habberstad - December 16, 2015 at 04:39 PM



“ *It has been many years since I have seen Dave, but I have fond memories of the years I worked with him at Knute Nelson. A kind, gentle man with a quiet sense of humor. A great mentor. I am honored to have worked under his leadership. He will be missed. My condolences to the family.*

Holly Running - December 16, 2015 at 09:08 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David Luther Sorbel.*



December 15, 2015 at 06:34 PM

SB

“ My relationship with Dave Sorbel goes back to the days that he was Administrator at Knute Nelson. Knute Nelson donated the land that The Senator Condominiums now occupy. I was hired by the developer to coordinate and sell The Senator units. I had many meetings with Dave and found him to be a very supportive, kind individual. So sorry to hear of his passing.

Sheryl Bakewell - December 15, 2015 at 06:12 PM

KH

“ So sorry for your loss. What a wonderful man he was. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Kim Shelstad Hawkinson

Kim Hawkinson - December 15, 2015 at 05:17 PM

RH

“ David was an extraordinary wonderful man, a great mentor, respected by all, and helped many people be successful. Our prayers are with the family.

richard hardine - December 15, 2015 at 03:16 PM

GB

I worked with Dave to set up interim work for the Good Samaritan Society. What a gracious man and so many wonderful comments back for All the centers he worked with. He touched many lives!

Gail Blocker - December 15, 2015 at 11:42 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of David Luther Sorbel.



December 15, 2015 at 10:19 AM