



Rev Neal A Olson

February 11, 1927 - July 24, 2015

Neal Arden Olson spent his boyhood on his parents' dairy farm west of Little Falls, Minnesota, and his future life was a calling to serve in the ministry. After graduating from high school he attended St. Olaf College and Luther Seminary to begin life as a Lutheran pastor. Neal was born in Little Falls February 11, 1927 to Marion Johnson and Otto Olson. Neal died on July 24, 2015 in Alexandria surrounded by a circle of love.

Words in Philippians tell us that whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, commendable, and worthy of praise should be thought about and lived. All who knew and loved Neal could see how this guided his whole life.

Neal and Dorothy Gilbertson were married on August 5, 1950, and they spent 63 years together before her death in 2013. They served churches in Dunbar, IA, Becker, Clarissa, Maynard, Lowry and Alexandria, MN, living for the last 20 years on Lake Carlos. Neal also pursued many passions: photography, building furniture, choral music, collecting stamps, traveling, reading and fishing. Always giving his time, he volunteered as a fireman in Lowry, a mentor in the Alexandria Literacy Project, a visitation pastor, and much more throughout his life. A husband, dad, grandfather, friend, and pastor, we remember Neal as a man who lived what he believed with quiet strength and acceptance of all and good humor.

The most important part of Neal's life was his family—his dear wife Dorothy, Becky Olson of Fridley MN, Dan Olson and Ron McClellan of Iowa City IA, Naomi and Bart Stroupe and Will of Seattle WA, and Sharon Olson and Dana

Cosler of Duluth. Neal and Dorothy's daughter Judith Lynn died in infancy. In honor of Neal's commitment to others, memorials may be made to the Alexandria Literacy Project or Habitat for Humanity. Services will be held at Bethesda Lutheran Church on Monday, July 27, 2015 at 11 am. Burial will be at the Carlos Prairie Cemetery. Visitation will be at the Anderson Funeral Home on Sunday, July 26, 5-7 pm.

Cemetery Details

Carlos Prairie Cemetery

Co Rd 42
Carlos, MN 56319

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **26.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Visitation

JUL **27.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Bethesda Lutheran Church
1204 N. Nokomis
Alexandria, MN 56308

Funeral Service

JUL **27.** 11:00 AM (CT)

Bethesda Lutheran Church
1204 N. Nokomis
Alexandria, MN 56308

Tribute Wall

JR

“ Neal was a dear friend and mentor for me when I was in Kensington and he in Lowry. We enjoyed a deep collegueship and friendship together whether playing volleyball, grappling with scripture at text study, or chatting together over coffee over over a delicious lunch at the Great Hunan. So glad I could touch base with him there one last time a little over a year ago. Well done good and faithful servant, I shall deeply miss you.



Jim Radatz - July 31, 2015 at 06:34 PM

KS

“ Both Neal and Dorothy were special friends to me. I first met Dorothy when we shared rides to the Lutheran Coalition on Public Policy Board meetings in the mid-late 1980's. She was a passionate advocate for those in need. I was blessed to have Neal as a colleague on staff in the later years of my tenure as Pastor of Bethesda Lutheran Church. I treasured his kindness and strong sense of the good news of God's love. We kept in touch up through last Christmas. May they both rest in God's peace; the same peace they brought to so many in their lifetimes.

The Rev. Dr. Karen Soli

Karen Soli - July 27, 2015 at 01:57 PM

SL

“ Steve & Holly Lenarz lit a candle in memory of Rev Neal A Olson



Steve & Holly Lenarz - July 27, 2015 at 08:13 AM

PM

“ We were saddened to learn of Neal's death. Neal and Dorothy were friends and colleagues in ministry during the years that we served together at Bethesda Lutheran in Alexandria. We remember Neal and Dorothy both as persons who showed unconditional love to everyone and ministered with the love of Christ in their hearts. I especially appreciated Neal's commitment to working together, as well as his quick wit. We are so sorry that we are unable to come to Neal's funeral on Monday. We are on a bus trip out west and will not be home until the middle of the week. Our deepest sympathies to all of you in the family. Sincerely Pastor Pete and LoAnn Martinson

Pete and LoAnn Martinson - July 26, 2015 at 12:04 AM

DR

Dawn and I were also saddened to hear about Neal's death, but are reassured that he is now with his beloved Dorothy in God's heavenly home. I was privileged to work with Neal at Bethesda Lutheran in Alexandria while I served as the Intentional Interim Pastor there for 36 months. Neal was such a supportive and encouraging person for me. I will never forget his kind, quiet, loving demeanor as he helped me in making hospital and home-bound calls. Our deepest condolences to his family as we not only mourn his loss, but celebrate his victory as well. To God be the glory!!!!!! Pastor Don and Dawn Reisig

Donald Reisig - July 26, 2015 at 04:56 PM