Joanne Chadwick

March 4, 1937 - March 3, 2024

“And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” Matthew 25:40

Joanne Chadwick died peacefully in her sleep March 3, 2024. She was born March 4, 1937, to Herbert John and Karen Emilia (Nielsen) Chadwick in New York City. Growing up in Nutley, New Jersey, Joanne graduated from Nutley High School in 1955. She then went to Grand View College in Des Moines, Iowa, a two year college, and finished her Bachelor’s Degree at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. Later in life, Joanne earned a Master’s in Counseling Psychology at San Francisco State University.

From this launching pad, Joanne rocketed across the country and around the world reflecting the Lord Jesus Christ wherever she went. Joanne served with the then Lutheran Church of America’s Board of American Missions, counseled at Jamestown Learning Center in San Francisco, was the Downtown Director for San Francisco’s YWCA, Executive Director for Suicide Prevention in San Francisco, was the Assistant to the Bishop of the Southeast Michigan Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, for Justice and Advocacy, and finished as the Executive Director of the Commission on Women, ELCA Churchwide. Her ministry took her from China to Jerusalem and all points in between. Throughout her life, Joanne was passionate about

assisting women to have their voices heard. She mentored women from all walks of life, especially those in the ministry. Joanne stood with, and for, all people on the margins. A staunch activist, Joanne participated in Pride, Justice and Civil Rights Marches.

Joanne is preceded in death by her father, mother, one aunt, two brothers-in-law, three cousins, and one great nephew. She is survived by Karen Mary (Chadwick) Berg, Margrethe (Chadwick) O'Connor, Peter John (Charry) Chadwick, six nephews, three nieces, eleven great nephews, and five great nieces.

Funeral services in Bloomington, Indiana will be held at St. Thomas Lutheran Church, 3800 E. 3rd St. on March 15. Visitation will be at 10 am and service will begin at 11 am, Pastor Adrianne Meier presiding. Funeral services at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell St., San Francisco will be held April 13, with visitation at 10 am and service at 11 am, Pastor Lyle Beckman presiding.

In lieu of flowers, donations should be made to St. Mark's (St. Mark's Lutheran Church San Francisco (https://www.stmarks-sf.org) or San Francisco's Night Ministry, 1031 Franklin St. San Francisco, CA 94109 (Donate Now | Joanne Chadwick Remembrance Fund by San Francisco Night Ministry (https://secure.givelively.org/donate/night-ministry/joanne-chadwick-remembrance-fund).

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory (4155 South Old State Road 37) is handling the arrangements. Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at www.allencares.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **15**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Thomas Lutheran Church
3800 E. Third Street
Bloomington, IN

Funeral Service

MAR **15**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Thomas Lutheran Church
3800 E. Third Street
Bloomington, IN

Visitation

APR **13**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1111 O' Farrell St.
San Francisco, CA 94109

Funeral Service

APR **13**. 11:00 AM (PT)

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1111 O' Farrell St.
San Francisco, CA 94109

Tribute Wall

JR

Ruth and I first met Jo in San Francisco, probably in 1974 when we arrived at St. Francis Lutheran Church. Jo quickly enlisted Ruth as a member of the first board of the local Lutherans Concerned chapter which was often hosted at St.Francis which helped move us along as a congregation in our welcome and advocacy for glut folks. Our next rendezvous with Jo was in Michigan where we found ourselves in 1990 in campus ministry in A2 with Jo as the newly named bishop's assistant for justice and advocacy. We worked closely with Jo in helping make the SE Michigan Synod one of the leaders in justice issues in the ELCA and especially welcoming to glbt folks. A strong memory is our attending with Jo the downtown Detroit Jazz Festival one summer which featured Dave Brubeck and his crew. Once relocated to the Commission for Women job in Chicago we saw less of Jo though we were fortunate to be the internship site for her nephew Dave Berg out of LSTC and featured her as a resource for the churchwidje Knutson Conference "The Gifts We Offer, the Burdens We Bear" in 1997 which our campus ministry, synod glut task force,and local LC chapter hosted in Ann Arbor. That same year Jo and I reuned in Hong Kong of all places where she served as ELCA staff and I as a delegate to the Lutheran World Federation Assembly (just a week after the "hand-over" from UK to Chinese sovereignty. She and I also made a memorable quick ferry trip to Macao! After her retirement to SF and ours a bit later to SLO we would see Jo (and Chuck) occasionally on our periodic trips to the City and they even once were able to visit us here on the Central Coast. Jo was a beautiful friend to us both from beginning to end, a person who brought out the best in those she knew, putting us to work in the cause of Jesus' justice and the networks (religious and secular) of which she was a leading contributor. Thanks be to God for her life and witness and for allowing us to have a part in it! Ruth & John Rollefson, San Luis Obispo, CA

john rollefson - March 12, 2024 at 02:52 PM

KB

Thank you John for sharing your memories. You certainly have a long history with Jo - and she valued your friendship! She was especially happy to share David with you.. His internship with you was integral in shaping his ministry. I did not remember that you went to Hong Kong with you. Blessings to you and Ruth. Karen Berg

Karen Berg - March 13, 2024 at 11:27 PM