



Rev. Ronald Lavin

January 5, 1936 - August 7, 2018

Rev. Ronald J. Lavin, resident of Bloomington, Indiana was received peacefully into the Lord's loving hands on August 7th, surrounded by family and supported by many dear and treasured friends.

Pastor Lavin was the son of Harry and Alma (Shoemaker) Lavin. He is survived by Joyce (Mehrtens) Lavin his beloved wife and partner in nearly 62 years of marriage and ministry. He is also survived by their three daughters; Dell (Charlie) Hammond, Diane (Steve) Wilkinson, Mary Sue (Greg) Cousler and eight grandchildren; David, Peter, Lydia, Sarah, Heidi, James, Steven, and Thomas.

Pastor Lavin was a graduate of Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary and received his Doctor of Divinity Degree from Carthage College in Kenosha, WI. He served congregations in Lebanon, IN, Muncie, IN, Davenport, IA, Tucson, AZ, and Fountain Valley, CA. He was a strong advocate for church growth through small group fellowship. Pastor Lavin authored 28 books on living and growing in the Christian faith. He was committed to sharing the message of "Jesus is Lord" to all that he knew or met. He remained active in his ministry leading Bible class and sharing the Gospel message until the time of his death. He especially treasured the Bible verse of Isaiah 40:31

A memorial service is scheduled to be held at Faith Lutheran Church 2200 S. High Street Bloomington, Indiana at 3:00pm on August 18th, 2018. Memorial donations can be made to Faith Lutheran Church. You are invited to share a memory or leave an online condolence to Ronald's family at www.allencares.com

Tribute Wall

RR

“ Pastor Lavin was my favorite while growing up at St. Paul Lutheran in Davenport, Iowa. He left around the same time I left for college. I dearly hope to see him again!

Rich R - January 03, 2024 at 01:21 PM

KW

“ Pastor Lavin was our family's pastor while I was growing up in Tucson. My parents switched from Baptist to Lutheran when I was 10. Ron pastored at Our Savior's Lutheran church, there. It was a huge church and the seats were filled every Sunday and I believe not only to worship God, but to hear his weekly sermons. I can tell you honestly that this man was truly a called minister. His sermons would last an our, and they were powerful. He was an amazing man, and I'll never forget him. R.I.P. sir.

Ken Wyvill - July 18, 2021 at 06:07 PM

CH

“ I am just reading this as Pastor Lavin just crossed my mind and I did a Google search. I have fond memories of him and his family and remember Diane being in the Chapel choir that I played for at St Paul Lutheran Church in Davenport Iowa. He was amazing and I cherish the memories of my time with him as Pastor. This was when I was in my first year of teaching and being an adult. I am thankful to God for his guidance.

Charles Thomas Hayes (Charlie)

Charles Hayes - January 29, 2020 at 03:32 PM

JR

“ Jim Ruby lit a candle in memory of Rev. Ronald Lavin



Jim Ruby - August 15, 2018 at 01:05 AM

DT

“ Mrs. Lavin, Del, Diane and Mary...I'm so sorry to hear of Pastor Lavin's passing. He confirmed me during his time at St. Paul's in Davenport, IA and I have such fond memories of him. Just this past June, a few of us, who all attended St. Paul's, had a mini reunion in Davenport and remembered the time we were being a bit noisy in the choir loft. Pastor Lavin stopped his sermon, looked up at us and told us to be quiet. At the time, I'm sure we were all mortified, but now we look back and laugh. Please know I'm thinking of you at this difficult time and have you in my prayers. Diane Lanaghan Turnbull / Edmonds, WA

Diane Lanaghan Turnbull - August 14, 2018 at 10:20 PM

MM

“ Peace be with the Lavin family. We were neighbors of the family in Davenport and attended St. Paul. What a dynamic and impactful man Pastor Lavin was. We will never forget him. Martha Haut Melton and family

Martha Haut Melton - August 14, 2018 at 10:15 PM

DS

“ I knew Pastor Lavin from Davenport, IA. I was in his confirmation class and learned from his great example how to serve others. I remember his warm smile and his ability to tell a funny or meaningful story. His laugh was contagious. When i was in college after my father died, he helped me make a plan to finish school instead of give up. Pastor Lavin was a man of action and a faithful servant. Sending love, comfort, peace/shalom to Joyce, Dell, Diane, and Mary Sue and families.

Debbie Parker Stepp ♡♡

Colorado Springs, CO

Debbie Stepp - August 14, 2018 at 09:24 PM

SB

“ Sandy Olson Bingaman lit a candle in memory of Rev. Ronald Lavin



Sandy Olson Bingaman - August 14, 2018 at 02:53 PM

SB

Memories of my years in Confirmation with Pastor Lavin are forever in my heart. His words still guide me at certain times, yet today. Pastor Lavin married my husband and me in 1972. I am sorry to hear he is gone. My sympathies go to his family. I am so sorry for your family's loss.

Sandy Bingaman - August 14, 2018 at 07:05 PM

SB

Memories of my years in Confirmation at St. Paul in Davenport, Iowa with Pastor Lavin will always be with me. He and his wife, Joyce, were such a big influence on our teenage lives back then! I can still hear Pastor Lavin telling me to remember, it's easy to be a Christian here (in our church, with our Confirmation group and him) but the test is if we could continue His teachings out in the world. I am trying, Pastor. You will be missed. My heart breaks for your family's loss. Peace be with Joyce and family.
Sandy Olson Bingaman/ Greenfield, IA

Sandy Bingaman - August 14, 2018 at 07:13 PM

SO

“ *Pastor Lavin will be missed. I am so sorry for the families loss. You are in my prayers.*

He was my Pastor in Davenport, IA and had a profound influence on my life. I look forward to visiting with him when we are all together again. Steve Olson / Palmyra, NE

Steve Olson - August 14, 2018 at 10:55 AM

RF

Richard Fey, San Francisco: Reverend Lavin was a dynamic minister at my childhood church in Davenport, Iowa. His eyes sparkled when he spoke and he lit up the church and sanctuary. His predecessor, Emerson Miller was also very popular and everyone was shocked when he left the church and Pastor Lavin became the minister. Yet, Pastor Lavin brought even more growth to the church. I often persuaded my family to attend Christmas Eve services or Easter sunrise services which I always loved. One Easter morning, the previous Christmas tree was up denuded and burnt of its foliage draped with a black veil. In the choir loft trumpets range out and Pastor Lavin pulled the veil from the tree in a very dramatic gesture, it was very moving. As a gay man, I have moved away from my roots in Christianity, though I do recognize many Christian values. Coincidentally, as a professional musician I have frequently been employed by Unitarian Universalist congregations and find that spiritual experience more open to my values as a gay man, and I will always remember Pastor Levin With loving feelings.

Richard William Fey - January 31, 2024 at 02:47 PM