



Rev. E. Harold Jansen

August 31, 1930 - January 2, 2021

Rev. E. Harold Jansen, Bishop Emeritus, died on January 2nd after a long battle with Alzheimer's. Harold was born on August 31, 1930 in Brooklyn and son of Herman Nicholai and Gesine (Olsen) Jansen. Harold is survived by his wife Patricia and their four children, Daniel, Elizabeth, Nathanael and Mark, as well as his seven grandchildren.

Throughout his life, Harold maintained a deep commitment to witnessing which began when he was a teenager. He told many stories about preaching on street corners in Brooklyn. He was also a youth worker at Trinity Lutheran Church in Brooklyn. He obtained a Bachelor of Civil Engineering from City College of New York and continued his studies at Luther Seminary where he obtained his Masters of Divinity. Harold was awarded Doctorates of Divinity from Capital University, Wagner College and Roanoke College.

Harold led a brilliant life of service to the communities in which he lived and worked. In the early parts of his career, he was the pastor of Eltingville Lutheran Church for fourteen years. He was instrumental in starting Eltingville Lutheran School, a K to 8 parochial school which recently celebrated 50 years of service to the community. During his time at Eltingville, he collaborated with Franciscan priests to open St. Francis High School, an alternative high school, where he was the Lutheran Ecumenical Director. After his call at Eltingville Lutheran Church, Harold was elected the Dean of the Eastern District of the American Lutheran Church until he was elected in 1978 as the Bishop of the eastern region of the American Lutheran Church. In 1979, Harold and his family moved to the Washington, DC, area where he was the first Bishop of the Washington, DC, Metropolitan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America until his retirement in 1987.

As Harold has said to each of us many, many times, we now share with him:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

May the Lord lift up his countenance to you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association

https://act.alz.org/site/Donation2?47319.donation=form1&df_id=47319&mfc_pref=T&_ga=2.93229277.1112079626.1609784996-704859160.1609784996

Tribute Wall

LA

“ Pastor Jansen was an absolute gem. To attend services at Eltingville Lutheran in my youth, to receive such wisdom through his vibrant sermons, to experience the ever-present twinkle in his eye, his hearty handshake at the door, and his warm and personal greeting to each and every person . . . it brings tears to my eyes. How lucky I was to know him and be blessed by his warm nature and his loving presence. I think of him often. Even 50 years later he is still an inspiration and a comfort to me.

Linda Anderson

Linda Anderson - July 11 at 04:11 PM

BS

“ Pastor Jansen was a great friend to (and for awhile interim pastor of) Georgetown Lutheran Church during difficult years. I will always remember him as a particularly good gravy maker for our annual pre-Thanksgiving Dinner for the homeless. He was a gentle and kind man. *Bill Schilling*

Bill Schilling - September 15, 2021 at 09:11 AM

RB

“ Pastor Jansen was a vital part of Lord of Life. Whether he was in the pulpit, participating in a Men's Breakfast, or just socializing after a service, he brightened the spirit of everyone he came in contact with. *What a beautiful man!*

Richard D Broad - February 09, 2021 at 07:03 PM

BS

“ Reverend Jansen was the BEST! While he will no longer be with us, his memory will live on in the thoughts and hearts of all the people whose lives he touched. *Thoughts and prayers go out to all the members of his family.*

Bette Singletary

Bette Singletary - January 20, 2021 at 11:36 AM

MH

“ Prayers of comfort for all the family. I recall our lives on Staten Island as Harold and my late husband, The Rev. John Heller, worked together on the South Shore! Our families shared many happy times together! The world is all the better because of Harold's dedicated service in the Lord.

Mary B. Heller - January 13, 2021 at 09:59 PM

AE

“ Growing up while Pastor Jansen was part of Eltingville Lutheran Church was a delight and continuing unfolding adventure. Luther League trips to Koinonia were always in the company of pastor, driving his inimitable vw bus. He challenged us, was childlike, could be one of the gang yet was indomitable, and a free spirit- always an inspiration. No one could ask for a more idyllic childhood than to be blessed to grow up in rural Staten Island in the 50s and early 60s, and grow in grace and responsibility under such a titan and shepherd. Healing peace and blessings to his family.

Anne Erickson

Anne Erickson - January 11, 2021 at 08:50 PM

JA

“ Jean was confirmed with Harold in 1945 at Trinity, Brooklyn. Sig, a "bit" older, welcomed him into Scout Troop 117, sponsored by Trinity. When Sig Pastored an inner city church in Baltimore Harold was his Bishop. Word was that he would address new pastors to his Synod: "I have two words of advice: 'Show Up'" .

Good advice, for all of us.

We give thanks to God that Harold Jansen showed up in our lives, and the world.
Jean and Sig Arnesen, Lebanon, Pa.

Jean & Sig Arnesen - January 10, 2021 at 01:57 PM

ME

Just heard about Harold from Pastor Gordon Narveson and his wife Bea.....Harold and Pat were very special people to Alan and I.....Have a lot of stories from Al about the Brooklyn days with the "Group from Brooklyn"....Gordon, Stan Olsen, Ed Kise, Harold, K. Roy Nilsen, Hank Johanson and my Al Ericksen were dedicated to their calling and going it together as far as they could.....They all went to Concordia in Moorehead, MN and then on to Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN....

We were privileged to have Harold and Pat to our congregations 40th Anniversary celebration.....Grace Lutheran Church, Bowie, MD....Somewhere amongst my photo files, we have a picture of us.....If you want a copy, please let me know with an email and I can email you a copy.

With my Al's passing in 2007 I have been sort of out of the 'loop' with updates on everyone. I know Hank Johanson passed around 2013.....He was living in St. Paul, MN at the time.

Pat, thank you for who you are in Christ Jesus our Lord and for the wonderful life you were able to have together with Harold.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you travel your faith walk.....I have an email address but I do not think you & Harold were getting my emails.....I have bishopehj@aol.com.....Is this still good to use?

Harold was a very special gentleman and his love for his wife and family continually shined through him.....Even though he was 'the' Bishop' for our congregation, he was to us still 'Harold' a friend, dedicated to doing the Lord's work no matter where he was.....

Pat ,if there is anything that you would need or can be of help to you, please let us know. May the Lord continually bless you and the family with a 'hedge of protection' surrounding everyone.....

Harold has left an awesome heritage for you and the family.....Take the blessings of number 6:24-26, which is in this site, always be with you.....That is the verse Al and I would pray and give to those that we ministered to....I am still doing it.....

Love, Hugs and Blessings my Friend, Muriel & Family

Muriel Ericksen - January 19, 2021 at 06:15 PM

TA

“ *Remembering Pastor Jansen from his time at Eltingville Lutheran Church and Koinonia. He was the best. So sorry to hear about his passing.*

J. Taylor

Taylor - January 09, 2021 at 09:08 AM

HM

“ Pastor Jansen was the reason we came Lord of Life about 20 years ago. His sermons were always the best! He was a blessing to all of us -really felt special to hear him every time - he was always so good at his job. So sad to think he's not with us anymore.

Helen Magee

Helen Magee - January 07, 2021 at 03:12 PM

PN

“ Pastor Jansen was a man of God and he was God's man. He had such wonderful stories to tell one might call them parables in our lifetime; they always expanded on God's love and grace and what our response might be. His kindness, generosity and loving way so endeared him to us. He has been a blessing to us at Lord of Life and to the world at large. Patty and Harvey Nix

Patricia Nix - January 06, 2021 at 10:02 PM

RW

“ Four years into ordained ministry (1978), I served a congregation in Flushing, Queens, in response to a request from Rev Jansen (not yet a bishop). He was kind and supportive and pastoral. It was clearly what God called me to do at the time, a call that came from Bishop Jansen. He didn't know it but I followed his ministry for years. He was a true gift to the church! -- Rev. Robert G. Wollenburg

Robert G. Wollenburg - January 06, 2021 at 09:21 PM

JM

“ I thank God for the life of Harold Jansen and for the many opportunities I had to work with him through the years; and to hear his sermons, always generously seasoned with his rich memories of growing up in Brooklyn. I will always remember his wise and patient counsel, his gentle and warm smile, and deep faith. I hold his family in my prayers send my gratitude for sharing Harold's gifts with the Lord of Life community.

Jim Mueller

Jim Mueller - January 06, 2021 at 08:35 PM

RB

“ *Pastor Jansen added an extra dimension to Lord of Life. My day was always brighter when he was in it. He was a special person, a truly beautiful man. Prayers and condolences to his family. A life well lived RIP.*



Richard D Broad - January 06, 2021 at 05:34 PM

RB

“ *I remember Harold from Luther League days, then some 20+ years later I was organist at Lord of Life in Fairfax, VA and Harold joined the staff. I loved his stories. When we would have 3 services in a row his sermons would get longer with each service. I loved when the spirit would move him to change the hymn after he spoke and would announce to everyone - Ruth could you change the next hymn to ...? No one could say no to Harold because he was so sweet. We will miss you, Harold, but I know you are where you have prepared to go all of your life. Thanks for all you have done for so many people.*
Ruth Bedell

Ruth Bedell - January 06, 2021 at 12:17 PM

HE

“ *My brother and his family used to attend Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Clifton, VA about thirteen years ago. At that time, my family and I were looking for a new church home. My sister-in-law really liked Pastor Jansen and how he preached. She asked us to join them at church one Sunday. We also loved how he preached and we eventually became active members Lord of Life. I was so sad to hear of Pastor Jansen's passing. He is the reason my family calls Lord of Life our church home.*

Heather - January 05, 2021 at 07:30 PM

JS

“ *Bishop Jansen, then Pastor Jansen was the Pastor of Eltingville Lutheran Church here in Staten Island. I was 24 years old when I opened my Funeral Home, He guided me and helped me in many many ways. I was privileged to work with him. He was a real gentleman and a true leader. He will be greatly missed.*

John Vincent Scalia
John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc.
Staten Island, NY

John Vincent Scalia - January 05, 2021 at 11:33 AM

TL

“ Remembering my first Bishop when I was in New Jersey. + Rest eternal grant him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine on him + Rev. Charley Lopez, Jr

The Rev. Charley Lopez - January 05, 2021 at 11:25 AM

GF

“ Ginger Cacciotti and Family purchased the Healing & Hope Sympathy Basket for the family of Rev. E. Harold Jansen.



Ginger Cacciotti and Family - January 04, 2021 at 06:57 PM

GI

“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



Ginger - January 04, 2021 at 06:49 PM

VC

“ Liz told me that right before he walked her down the aisle to me in 1988, he told her "the car is running if you change your mind." Very wise man, but I'm glad she didn't listen. ;)

Vince Calvert - January 04, 2021 at 09:16 AM

VC

“ 14 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Vince Calvert - January 04, 2021 at 09:13 AM