



Pastor Robert Louis Larson

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April 3, 1938 - July 8, 2020

Robert (Bob) Larson passed away suddenly of a heart attack on July 8, 2020. He was born in Bismarck, North Dakota, to Robert Lloyd Larson & Esther Kremer Larson. Bob grew up in Mandan, North Dakota, and Cody, Wyoming. In 1961 he married Joan Kesselring. He had 3 brothers, one sister, children Erik Larson of Aspen, Colorado (daughter Anja and son Luke) and Heidi Klonoff (Robert) of Portland, Oregon (daughters Emily & Olivia Fouser), step-grandson, Joshua Klonoff, one niece, and 2 nephews.

Bob graduated from Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma Washington, and Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. He served in Pollock, South Dakota, for four years, moving to Medford in 1968, where he was pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church for 34 years, retiring in 2002. Bob also served as a Lutheran Chaplain, first in the Army Reserves, then in the National Guard, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel.

His grandchildren say it best: Emily - "He gave the best hugs. He'd wrap you in his arms, squeeze tight and stay there for a good long while. And then he'd pull away and say, 'Hey, look me in the eyes. I love you.' It just simply felt good to be around him." Anja - "Grandpa never failed to bring love, light, and laughter to all facets of his life. His smile and belly laugh were infectious and his playful nature wrapped you in warmth." Olivia - "You let me be me, without comment or criticism. Even though you still had so much life that you wanted to live, your life is the definition of a life well lived." Luke - "You were a beacon of joy, hope and happiness in my life, and so many others'."

In addition to inspiring his children, Erik and Heidi, in countless ways, Bob touched the lives of thousands through his sermons, weddings, baptisms, and funerals. He loved his family more than anything. He loved spending time with them, his nightly game of Rummy Cube with Joan, going to movies, a good cup of coffee, his morning walks, retirement, gardening, playing games, cooking, singing in the Rogue Valley Chorale, vacationing at the beach, savoring a gin and tonic, and going to Fred Meyer (for socializing as well as shopping). He will be greatly missed by so many. In honor of his life, donations can be made to the Medford Food Project (medfordfoodproject.com).

And you can celebrate his life and values by voting in November -- but not for Donald Trump.