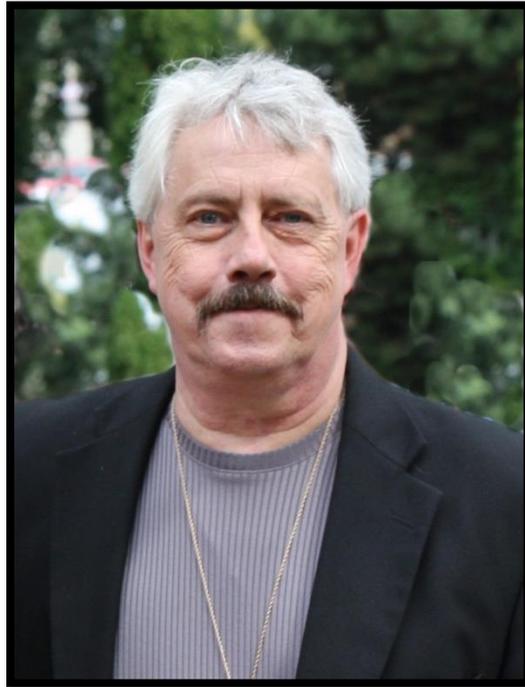

Remembering Pastor Keith



October 18, 1953 – June 13, 2018

Keith Edward Meyer was born in Beloit, WI on October 18th, 1953. He was the fourth son of Dr. Frederick and Ruth (Bachanz) Meyer. He was a member of a large family with his siblings including Karl (Lillian), Ken (Patty), Eric (Beth), Paul (Margarita), John (Ann), Lois (Jim) and James (Jeaneen). Keith lived and grew up in and around the St. Louis, MO area for a large part of his life. There he met his wife Patricia "Trish" Ann (Hibler) Meyer and they were married on May 30th, 1981. They have two sons, Michael and Matthew Meyer. Michael is married to Darla (Atkins) Meyer of Burden, KS. They live in Andover, KS with their daughter Hannah (3). Matthew is married to Kimberly (Boehmer) Meyer of St. Louis, MO. They live in Glencoe, MN with their children Brandon (10), Miley (8), Logan (5) and Roman (2).

Keith holds a Bachelors of Psychology and Political Science from the University of Missouri in Saint Louis, a Masters of Political Science from the University of Missouri in Saint Louis and a Masters of Divinity from Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis. Over the years, he was a city dump truck driver, psychiatric hospital orderly, bartender, service manager at Pella, carpenter and finally a minister.

While raising Michael and Matthew, Keith was an ardent supporter of Christian Education, especially during the time Michael and Matthew attended Washington Lutheran School and Lutheran South High School in St. Louis. It was this involvement that kindled and nursed his faith. Leading first to active involvement in his sons' education as a volunteer and athletic coach, then towards volunteering as an usher and later an elder of the church. With his sons growing older, this faith blossomed into a calling to become a minister. As his faith grew, so did his empathy and connection to children. How he interacted with children showed how he

viewed faith and our charge to share that faith with others. For as Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these".

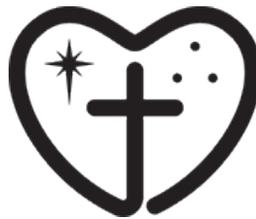
Keith was ordained as a minister in Minnesota on July 24th, 2005 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Claremont, MN. In 2011 he was called to Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN, where he concluded his ministry service.

Keith was devoted and passionate to his family. This was never more evident than when he spent time with his nieces and nephews and after his own children grew up, his grandchildren. Whether you were his Big Guy, Princess, Hannah Banana, Little Guy, Squirt, etcetera, he always had a special nickname for you. He adored his wife Trish for over 37 years of marriage. He loved her, cherished her and cared for her like no other. Whether it was getting ribs for her to eat while pregnant with the boys, or helping her to cope with the challenges of aging, he was always the rock for her to lean on.

He was an enthusiastic follower of the Pittsburg Steelers and Saint Louis Cardinals. Regardless of your affiliation, he would regale you on the woes or joys of how they were performing. Keith also enjoyed cooking and grilling. It was normal to see him grilling no matter the weather, be that in the rain, snow or extreme cold. One of his favorite pastimes was watching the "BBQ U Guy" for new recipes to try and share.

He was preceded in death by both of his parents and his brother Eric.

Please make any donations in his name to St. Jude's Research Hospital.



At the Wednesday service June 6th, we sang
“*I, the Lord of Sea and Sky.*””

The Lord asks the question, “Whom shall I send?”

Pastor was singing while standing in the chancel. He kept singing louder and louder. You could hear him over the organ!

On the way home I was thinking about the words and I realized that Pastor was singing with his heart — **affirming** his Pastoral Call — answering,

“Here I am, Lord.
I will go if You lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.”
Julie Wright

Pastor Meyer and I worked closely on the Holy Cross website. I always admired and appreciated how organized and timely he was. He would give me the Thanksgiving and Christmas service schedule in early October, the Lenten schedule right after the holidays, and the summer schedule right after Easter. We emailed back and forth a lot

– he always ended his with “Have a good day,” or “Have a blessed day.” I will miss our email chats.

I also appreciated how Pastor Meyer would talk to my three kids at communion. He would get down on his knees, put his hand on their heads, look them in the eyes, and talk to them for several seconds about how Jesus loved them. They were special moments that I’m sure the kids will always remember. *Linda McConley*

Pastor was always very supportive of the efforts of our little group to reach out to others by making things with yarn, needles, crochet hooks, and our hands. He even tried to learn how to knit one day.

He saw the importance of reaching out beyond the walls of this building into the neighborhood and that inspired us to start “Yarn Bombing” the pillar outside the downstairs door. You might have noticed that the pillar has been bare since the weather warmed up this spring and we put the remaining hats, scarves and mittens from the Pillar of Warmth and Love away. That’s because we decided our next project would be to decorate Pastor by making him a stole in appreciation for all he has done at Holy Cross.

We chose a design that we all agreed suited him – not too showy, not too modern, but reflecting the appreciation he had for the traditions of the church. The colors are the liturgical colors of the Church Year, which starts with blue during Advent, and purple during Lent. We used gold for Easter, green for the long season after Pentecost and so on, ending with the last Sunday of the Church Year. He would have matched the altar cloths no matter when he wore it. The main focus, of course, is the cross at the top on each side and on the back– reminding

us always of God’s great love. We didn’t finish it in time to give it to Pastor, but Mary worked hard and got it done in time to give it to his family.

We greatly appreciate Pastor’s service here at Holy Cross and will surely miss him. *Hands in Ministry Group*

After visiting several churches in the area, in 2012 I attended an LWML gathering at Holy Cross and spoke to Pastor Keith about membership. He was so kind and welcoming, as were many of the Holy Cross members, some I already knew. Pastor Keith helped me with my decision and it’s been a real blessing. Pastor loved the cinnamon rolls I brought to Bible class on Wednesdays, and the little furry jackets I wear in the wintertime. *Gloria Groenke*

It was sweet music to our ears when we heard “I know I’m going to like working here if there’s a dog in the office!” Pastor loved his family, he loved God, and his faith was deep and abiding. He was inclusive and accepting, and deeply appreciative of those men and women who serve our country and our communities. He tirelessly did God’s work. He was a man of his word, loyal and tenacious. His work was on time and he was an efficient manager. Thank you so much for always letting me do whatever I wanted! Pastor was a doer. He wasn’t a fan of long-winded meetings, slow computers or paying for parking. He loved baptisms, and had fun at Bible class and with friends at Carbone’s. He was happy with his job, and happy being with Trish, the Steelers and an occasional sip of single malt scotch. He was our Pastor, his chair is empty, and we miss him. *Shelley and Gordy*

Pastor Meyer was one of the reasons we joined Holy Cross. We had been searching for our church home for over a year, and we liked Holy Cross when we visited, but meeting with Pastor really sealed the deal for us. We appreciated that he felt that Holy Cross should be visible and play a role within the community as well as supporting other local ministries. He was also very vocal about welcoming everyone into the church. That he was a second-career pastor, leaving a successful secular profession, showed how devoted he was to serving Jesus's church, and that made a big impression.

He was very supportive of us during our journey to parenthood and took the time to write a letter of recommendation for us to our adoption agency. (He also let us proofread it ahead of time, even though I'm pretty sure he wasn't supposed to.) He, along with much of the church, prayed for us to have a child either naturally or through adoption. Once Esther was here he told us repeatedly how excited he was for her baptism.

It was clear how much he cared about our church and our neighborhood. He understood that when the world is turning more and more from Christ, we as Christians must be boldly proclaiming the Gospel with our words and lives, bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to a world that needs it as much as ever. This was more and more prominent in his sermons over the last year, and I believe that Holy Cross should focus on that as we enter this uncertain time. *Ralph and Lynnae Asher*

We know Pastor Keith was very fond of dogs. Back when Pastor and Trish had their dogs, Prince and Princess, they would ask

Anneliese to come to dog and house sit for them when they went on vacation. It was fun for her to stay overnight away from home and it was always an adventure. She would raid their refrigerator and cupboards to find the treats they had left for her before browsing the music and movie selections, which included a large John Wayne collection among many other genres.

As many people know, Shelley takes care of our dog, Gemma, when we travel. Gemma is a quirky, high strung dog who is certainly not the perfect office dog. Pastor Keith allowed her to come to the office with Shelley and Gordy throughout the years, and for that we are extremely grateful. *Darcy Tatham*

I just miss seeing him when I come in the door, and hearing him saying, "Hi, Sheila". I know for sure he loved God, Trish and his family, and John Wayne plus all of us at Holy Cross. *Sheila Platt*

One of the first times I met Pastor I was in the church alone and he spooked me. He thought it was hilarious, and I loved that very child-like sense of humor he had.

I often think of things early in the morning or right before I fall asleep that I need to follow up on. I used to call the church at 7 am to leave a message for Pastor. He would answer the phone and say, "I knew it was you, Roberta". I always meant to show up and go to coffee with him on my way to work, I often saw him on the patio outside his office as I drove by.

When I was on the Call Committee, I was looking for one word in the profiles: **Love**. Love was all over Pastor Meyer's profile, and he brought that love to share with our

church. He was constantly doing for others.
I will miss him. *Roberta Brooks*

Pastor Meyer and I had a strong relationship, and we both enjoyed good natured teasing. He always called me “The Old Lady”, and I’d give it right back to him. When Hands in Ministry made the black and gold (Pittsburgh Steelers) Prayer Shawl, I was the one who presented it to him, and his eyes filled with tears. He was a strong man with a tender heart. *Carol Anderson*