

Rev. Emerson Urelius

Emerson Urelius departed this life on January 25, 2011. He was born on August 21, 1916 in the farm home of his parents, Clara (Anderson) and Luther Urelius, in Burnside, Iowa. His two brothers, Glen and Vincent preceded him in death. His sister, Marilyn Sandholm survives, in Dayton Iowa. His grandparents were all immigrants from Sweden and were founding members of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Burnside. That church was the center of spiritual and social life for the entire family.

Swedish was the language spoken in the home until the older brothers brought English home from the public school. After eight years at that school, Emerson enrolled in and graduated from the Waldorf Lutheran Jr. College in Forest City Iowa; then from Augustana College and Augustana Seminary in Rock Island, IL. His intern year was spent in Wichita, Kansas, training at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

There he met Lois Jenkins, whom he married at Messiah Lutheran Church in her home town of Lindsborg, Kansas on June 24, 1944. His 36 years as parish pastor, with Lois helping at his side, were spent in Savonburg, Kansas; Fridley, Minnesota; Round Rock Texas; Alexandria, Louisiana; Weesatche-Ander, Texas; and Houston, Texas. After retirement at age 65 he worked for Lutheran Social Services as a chaplain in the Medical Center in Houston, for four more years. They then moved to Austin, Texas for full retirement.

Surviving, are his wife, Lois; son Don (wife Sandy) Urelius; daughter Mary (husband Pat) O'Brien. Their oldest child, Dwight, died in '09 of pancreatic cancer. Their second-born child, Jean, died at age 2 of leukemia. Jurgen Jack (wife Myrlene) at age 15 came as an immigrant from Germany and became a foster son.

Mary along with her brother Don were adopted when they were very young. Over the years Emerson and Lois have included in their home several children who needed care and love. Emerson is also survived by six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

He was a kind and gentle man. He lived a long and good life and now is at rest with God. The funeral service will be held 2:00 p.m., Saturday the 29th at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 3525 Bee Cave Rd. Austin with burial following at 4:00 p.m. at Palm Valley Lutheran Cemetery at 2500 Palm Valley (Hwy. 79, Round Rock) with Rev. Stephen Youngdahl officiating.

For those desiring, suggestions for memorial contributions are: Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church; Odyssey Hospice at 4201 W. Parmer Lane, Suite 100, Austin, TX 78727; or a charity of your choice.