

## Pastor Richard O. Dahlke



DAHLKE, Richard O. Pastor Richard O. Dahlke of Round Rock, TX died on July 1, 2017. He served as Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church and Chaplain of Trinity Lutheran Home, now Trinity Care Center in Round Rock. Services will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, 708 Bluff Drive, Round Rock on Saturday, July 22 at 1:30 pm. His life story, at <https://www.forevermissed.com/richard-otto-dahlke/#lifestory>, is below.

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### Richard Otto Dahlke's Life Story

Richard was born to Otto and Helen (Coleman) Dahlke on May 31, 1936 in Buffalo, NY and entered the Church Triumphant on July 1, 2017 in Round Rock, TX. His parents and his sister, Betty Dahlke Donovan preceded him in death.

He is survived by his wife of 54+ years, Phyllis Fonda Dahlke, his sons, Robert (Amy) and Ron (Kirsten). Three grandchildren: Jacob and Jade Dahlke and Kira Klindworth – the apples of his eye. Four nieces and nephews, Cathy (Sandie), Tim (Monny), Pat (Gail) and Deirdra Donovan. Four great nieces and nephew: Lanae (Chuck Imperato) Donovan, Beth (Josh) Hiner, Dustin (Brandy) Donovan and Melina (Clay) Mertz. Along with great-great nieces and nephews.

He was a man full of faith, trivia and a reservoir of jokes.

His early youth was spent in Buffalo, East Aurora, NY, and Savannah, GA. He was baptized at Grace Lutheran Church in Buffalo, NY. In his middle school years the family moved to El Paso, Texas where he was confirmed at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and graduated from Austin High School in 1954.

His father was career Army and after Dick graduated from high school they moved to St. Louis where he attended Harris Teacher's College. His dad's next assignment was to Germany so Dick attended Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania for a year and a half as it was close to the port of call (NYC). In the summers he flew to Germany and his dad always found employment for him. He was Director of the Lutheran Service Center in Kaiserslautern and a Boy Scout leader. On return his dad was assigned to Camp Wolters in Mineral Wells, Texas where Dick was on the helicopter crash crew in the summer. He transferred to Texas Western College (now UTEP) in El Paso and graduated in 1960.



May 14, 1963  
Ordination

Early in life he felt the call to ministry. He attended Central Lutheran Seminary at Fremont, Nebraska. During his field work at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church in Omaha he met Phyllis Fonda of St. Edward, NE whom he married August 11, 1962. He graduated from seminary in May of 1963, was ordained at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Albuquerque, NM and accepted a call from the Board of American Missions to establish a congregation in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. They resided there for two years and one of his last acts was to hire the architect for the building of Christ the Victor Lutheran Church.

In May of 1965 he accepted a call to St. John's Lutheran Church in Donelson (Nashville) TN where he served for three years. During these years he was very active in youth ministry for the Southeastern Synod of the LCA. The model railroad layout was on the second floor. Robert and Ron were born into the family while living in Donelson. What a joy!

The summer of 1968 he accepted a call to Our Savior Lutheran Church in Gatlinburg, TN. The boys were 2 yrs and 5 months old – living in the Great Smoky Mountains was a wonderful place for family life and lots of father-son time. Along with the ministry of the congregation he worked with the local ministerial association to provide summer ministry for summer workers in Gatlinburg. He was on the National Board of Christian Ministry in the National Parks and directed two LCA work camps at the Williams Henson Home for Boys in Knoxville, TN.

In 1973 he accepted a call to Peace Lutheran Church in San Antonio, TX. He served at Peace for 16 years. During these years he was at one time Dean of the San Antonio cluster, Dean of Deans of the Texas-Louisiana Synod of the LCA and served on various synodical committees. He was on the events committee for the first ELCA youth gathering in San Antonio in 1988. He attended summer school at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago for two summers working on his doctorate. He had an ABD (all but dissertation).

Grace Lutheran Church in Round Rock, TX called him as Pastor in 1989. He served Grace for eight years. During this time he served as a “hotel pastor” for four national youth gatherings – Dallas, Atlanta, New Orleans and St. Louis. In the winter of 1997 he accepted the call to be Chaplain at Trinity Lutheran Home where he served for seven years.

During this time Sam, the golden retriever became part of the family. Sam accompanied him to Trinity every day and was much loved by the residents. Sam also slept through the Sunday sermons and as of May 24, 2017 continues to sleep.

Additionally, he extended his ministry as a school bus driver for a few years and an “on-call” Chaplain at the Round Rock Medical Center.

He survived the challenges and enjoyed the fun of raising two sons of whom he was immensely proud.



May 2013  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of Ordination

Retirement arrived and he retired. He had all day to do nothing and he enjoyed every minute of it. The model railroad that he had constructed around the wall of his room was fine-tuned. He constructed a G gauge model train car for every member of the family – that train circles the Christmas tree. Later he was persuaded to clean the garage to provide room for a new model railroad layout.

Earthly life is complete, the jokes have all been told and he has moved on to the Church Triumphant.



October 2012  
Biketoberfest at  
Daytona Beach

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