

March 9, 2024



HE ALONE IS MY
ROCK AND MY
SALVATION....

PSALM 62:6, NIV

Funeral of Stanley Vetsch

The Christian Funeral
of
Stanley Ralph Vetsch

Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 11:00am
Salem Lutheran Church ~ Stillwater, Minnesota

We Welcome You In Jesus' Name

Preservice music for meditation & prayer

Remembrance of Baptism

M: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: In Holy Baptism, Stan was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all his sin. St. Paul affirms, *"In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."*

The apostle also writes, *"All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his."*

M: Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen, indeed!**

Hymn: Amazing Grace

CW 576

**Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.**

**The Lord has promised good to me, his Word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.**

Psalm 23

M: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside the still waters, He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

C: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

God's Comfort

M: We have come together to seek God's comfort in our sorrow and to rejoice in the promise of the resurrection. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."

M: The wages of sin is death,

C: but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

M: Death has been swallowed up in victory! Thanks be to God!

C: He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

M: When Christ, who is our life, appears,

C: then we also will appear with him in glory.

M: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, you wept at the grave of your friend Lazarus, and you consoled Mary and Martha in their distress. Draw near to us who mourn the loss of Stan, and dry the tears of all who weep. Calm our troubled hearts; dispel our doubts and fears. We thank you for bringing Stan to faith and giving him the gift of eternal life. Strengthen us with your Word and sacraments, and keep us in the saving faith until we are united with you and all the saints where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn: The Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary. (*Refrain*)

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
a wondrous beauty I see,
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
to pardon and sanctify me. (*Refrain*)

To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
where his glory forever I'll share. (*Refrain*)

Scripture Reading

John 3:14-16

¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Scripture Reading

Romans 5:1-11

¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Scripture Reading

John 14:1-3

¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ²My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Hymn: My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

CW 563

**My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare to make no other claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.**

**When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.**

**His oath, his covenant and blood support me in the raging flood;
when ev'ry earthly prop gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.**

**When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before his throne.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.**

Sermon Reading

Psalm 4:6-8

⁶Many, LORD, are asking, "Who will bring us prosperity?"

Let the light of your face shine on us.

⁷Fill my heart with joy when their grain and new wine abound.

⁸In peace I will lie down and sleep,

for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety.

"Stan now rests in peace"

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn: On Eagle's Wings

CW 821

**You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in his shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"**

Refrain **And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.**

**The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no
fear; under his wings your refuge, his faithfulness your shield. (Refrain)**

**For to his angels he's given a command to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a
stone. (Refrain)**

Prayer of Comfort

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, you are always with us, especially when our hearts are heavy with grief. Send us your Spirit so that even as we grieve we are filled with hope. You have convinced us that your Son Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that our loved ones who have fallen asleep in Christ are resting in peace with you. Let nothing shake our confidence in your promise that we will be united with you and them in glory forever. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

M: What great mercy you have shown us, Father in heaven! Through your Son's resurrection, our hope is alive and our inheritance is certain. The bliss and security we will enjoy in your presence are blessings that will never perish, spoil, or fade. Shield us with your power and give us faith to trust in you in every trial until we inherit the glorious riches you are keeping for us in heaven. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

M: Gracious God, we see your abiding love in the kindness shown to us by family and friends. As we receive comfort and encouragement from others, we are experiencing your care. Help us bear all our burdens patiently. Be the strength of your people, now and in difficult days to come. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

M: O Lord, support us all day long, till the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn: God Loved the World So That He Gave

CW 570

**God loved the world so that he gave
his only Son the lost to save
that all who would in him believe
should everlasting life receive.**

**Christ is the solid rock of faith,
who was made flesh and suffered death.
All who confide in him alone
are built on this chief cornerstone.**

**God would not have the sinner die;
his Son with saving grace is nigh.
His Spirit in the Word declares
that we in Christ are heaven's heirs.**

**Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
forgives the sins that you have done.
You're justified by Jesus' blood;
baptized, you are a child of God.**

**If you are sick, if death is near,
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death;
this is the anchor of my faith!**

**Glory to God the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity,
be praise now and eternally!**

Announcements

Recessional

Military honors observed outside

Service Participants

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Organ: Robyn Stoller

Fellowship

After the service today, family and friends are invited to a luncheon in the church fellowship hall downstairs.

Paschal Candle

The large candle next to the baptismal font symbolizes Christ, the Light of the World; its large size symbolizes Jesus as the mighty Victor over death and sin. It is lit at every baptism, for *“we are buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”* (Romans 6:4) It is kept burning throughout the Easter season and always lighted for Christian funerals to show the close connection between Christ’s resurrection and the Christian’s resurrection to life eternal.

Our Prayer for Each of You

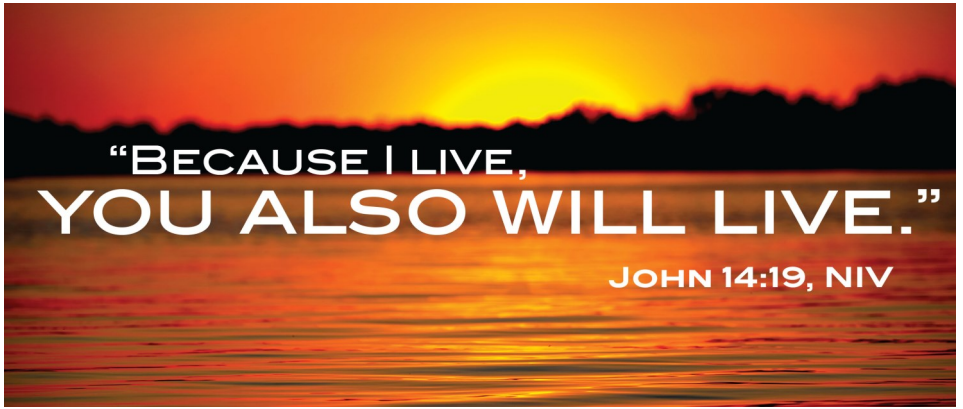
It is our prayer that the Word of God which brought so much comfort to Stan also brought you comfort today. The message of our Savior who lived, died, and rose again leads us believers to mourn not like the rest of the world, but as people who have the sure hope of a reunion because of Christ. If we can comfort or guide you in the future with this same life-saving message, please do not hesitate to contact us. God be with you.



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Remembering Stan...

Stan was of a generation of men for whom it was difficult to express and verbalize their emotions. Although he did not often tell them directly how he felt, he frequently shared with others the love and appreciation he felt for Sharon and Jennifer and the pride he had in their strengths and accomplishments. He expressed his love through acts of service; building a beautiful dollhouse, making sure cars were well maintained and safe, etc.

He was both appreciative of and sometimes annoyed by Sharon's sense of organization.

As a serious homebody, Stan was frightened every time Jennifer left to live in or explore another country. But he was so proud of the skills she gained from those experiences and how she has put those skills to use.

Then came the grandchildren.

Stan had had little experience with babies and young children so Ivy, the first grandchild, frightened him greatly. Nevertheless, he was so very proud of her achievements. We are sorry he won't be here to see her begin the next chapter of life as she graduates from college.

Next came Coral, who as a toddler climbed into his lap and nonverbally told him "You may not be a kid person, but you are MY person." And thus, their special bond was formed and he began to feel much more at ease around babies and young children.

Ezra is the one with whom he shared a love of math and science. They both enjoy building things; Stan built and created with wood and Ezra with the most complex,

challenging Lego sets available. When Ezra got his first camera, Stan sat with him and listened intently as Ezra showed him how it worked.


Stan is so very grateful that his son-in-law, Mick, shares the same love of the woods and cabin that he did. They had many special moments together in the woods and Mick holds the secret of knowing where many of Stan's favorite places on the property are. His beloved land and cabin will be in good hands.

Even if Stan didn't say it in words, we know we were all very loved.

*Written by Jennifer Lariviere
& Sharon Vetsch*




“It is
finished.”
John 19:30



By
his
wounds
we are
healed.

Isaiah 53:5, NIV



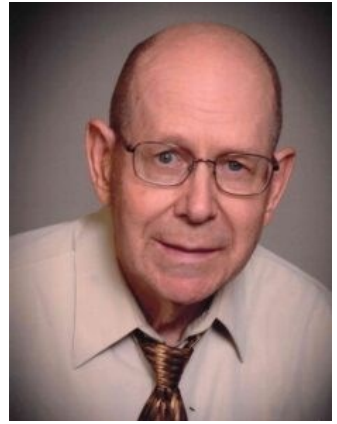
For I
know
that my
Redeemer
lives.

Job 19:25

Stanley Ralph Vetsch

1947 – 2024

Stanley “Stan” Vetsch was born January 20, 1947 in Caledonia, MN to John and Anna (Pederson) Vetsch. He was baptized and confirmed at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Caledonia. Stan graduated from Caledonia High School in 1965 and from Winona State University in 1969 with a bachelor’s degree in biology. In 1975 he earned a master’s degree in biology and in 1983, he attained an additional Bachelor’s degree in Plant Science, both from UW-River Falls.



Stan married Sharon Groth on September 1, 1968, at St Matthew’s Lutheran Church, Winona MN. He served in the military from 1970 to 1971 as a US Army Security Agency Military Policeman.

Stan taught Science and Biology in the New Richmond, WI public schools. He also taught Plant Science and Environmental Studies at UW-River Falls, after which he pursued a technical diploma from WITC-NR and worked as a machinist.

Stan loved the outdoors and enjoyed hunting, gardening, bird watching and photography. He was most content while at his secluded cabin in the woods which he proudly and joyfully shared with friends and family. Stan will be remembered for his love of nature and his hard-working, inventive spirit.

Stan was called home to meet the Lord on Friday, February 23, 2024 at Hammond Health Services with his family at his side.

Stan is preceded in death by his parents, brothers James and Don, sister Doris, and one nephew. He is survived by his wife, Sharon of New Richmond, his daughter Jennifer (Mick) Lariviere, of Stillwater, and grandchildren Ivy, Coral, and Ezra Lariviere. He is also survived by his mother-in-law, several brothers and sisters-in-law, and numerous nieces and nephews.

His ashes will kept to await a glorious resurrection on the Last Day.

“Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.” ~ Revelation 7:10