



## Rev. Michael James Fox

The Rev. Michael James Fox, 61, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Sturgis, died suddenly at his home in Sturgis Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011.

He was born January 27, 1950, in St. Paul, Minn., to James and Pauline (Lindstrom) Fox. He was baptized into Christ March 5, 1950, and confirmed his faith April 19, 1964, at Concordia

Lutheran Church in South St. Paul, Minn.

While in confirmation class, at age 12, Michael felt the call to serve God as a pastor. He was ordained as a pastor August 28, 1977, at his home congregation, Concordia Lutheran Church in South St. Paul. He served God for 34 years as a Lutheran pastor and dearly loved parish ministry.

He graduated from Concordia Academy in St. Paul in 1968; Concordia College in St. Paul in 1970; and Concordia Senior College in Fort Wayne, Ind., in 1972. He later attended Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., and graduated from Concordia Seminary in Exile in St. Louis in 1976.



Christ Lutheran Church, Ham Lake, Minn., 1990-1993; Trinity Lutheran Church, Waconia, Minn., 1993-1997; Baltic Lutheran Church, Baltic, S.D., and East Nidaros Lutheran Church, Baltic, S.D., 2001-2006; and Grace Lutheran Church, Sturgis, S.D., 2006-2011.



He married Diane Wilken June 9, 1973, in Danforth, Ill. They were blessed with two daughters, Jennifer Suzanne, and Stephanie Marie.

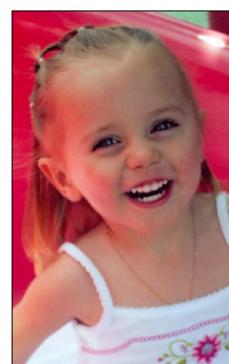


He married Susan Villmow Nov. 19, 2005, in Colton, S.D.

He loved to sing and act and was involved in numerous plays and vocal concerts. He was recently involved in the Sturgis Community Theater and Sturgis Community Cantata. He was president of the Sturgis Kiwanis Club.

He was also active in the Sturgis Alliance of Churches. He was involved in church leadership beyond the congregation throughout his ministry. He was currently serving as the Dean of the Bear Butte Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

He is survived by his wife, the Rev. Susan Villmow Fox, Sturgis and Buffalo, S.D.; daughters, Jennifer (Ron) Schultz, Winona, Minn., Stephanie (Jesse) Zuerlein, Menomonie, Wis., and Melissa Rieger, Buffalo, S.D.; sons, Scott (Maranda) Pogany, Katterbach, Germany, and Robert (Kim) Rieger, Huron, S.D.; grandchildren, Zachary Schultz, Jayda Zuerlein, Jacob Rieger, and Gabriel Rieger. An additional grandson will be born in October. He is also survived by one brother, Wayne (Linda) Fox, Coon



Rapids, Minn.; two sisters, Marlys (Jerome) Gardner, Maplewood, Minn., and Gail (Bruce) Avenson, South St. Paul, Minn.; sister-in-law, Jan Fox, Inver Grove Heights, Minn.; aunts and uncles, Lorraine Hayek, Woodbury, Minn., Bev (Howard) Hinseth, Minneapolis, Pearl Ratzloff, Minneapolis, and Robert Campbell, Chandler, Ariz.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, his parents, and one brother, Greg.

A memorial has been established.

*The family invites everyone to a time of fellowship and lunch in the parish hall at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church following the funeral service.  
We thank you for your presence and condolences.*

*In Loving Memory Of*

***Rev. Michael James Fox***

***Born***

January 27, 1950  
St. Paul, Minnesota

***Died***

September 11, 2011  
Sturgis, South Dakota

***Prayer Service***

Saturday, September 17, 2011, at 7:30 p.m.  
Grace Lutheran Church with Rev. David Baer officiating

***Special Music***

"I Will Worship You"  
"Abide With Me"  
"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

***Funeral Service***

Sunday, September 18, 2011, at 2:00 p.m.  
Grace Lutheran Church

***Officiating***

Rev. Bruce Thalacker      Rev. Wilbur Holz

***Special Music***

***Organist*** ~ Marlene Kotab      ***Pianist*** ~ Roxie Chowen

Pre Service ~ Selections by Wednesday Night Live Band and Sounds of Grace  
Congregational Hymn ~ "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

Holsti Sisters ~ "Day By Day"

Grace Lutheran Church Choir and Friends ~ "My Life Flows On In Endless Song"

Congregational Hymn ~ "I Love To Tell The Story"

Congregational Hymn ~ "For All The Saints"

Recessional ~ Handel's The Messiah ~ "Hallelujah Chorus"

***Pallbearers***

DeWayne Hayes ~ Bryan Hencke ~ Angi Bergman ~ John Raforth  
Dadra Avery ~ Becky Merwin ~ Arvid Meland ~ Alan Johnson  
Lonnie Weidenbach ~ Cindy Gehringer ~ Mary Ellen Kreutz  
Donna Trigg ~ Clint Hall

***Burial Pallbearers***

Brent Avenson ~ Greg Avenson ~ Chad Fox  
Brandon Avenson ~ Jeff Gardner ~ Andy Fox ~ Tyler Fox

***Honorary Pallbearer***

Nick Fox

***Interment***

Tuesday, September 20, 2011, at 11:00 a.m.  
Woodlawn Cemetery in Winona, Minnesota  
Soloist ~ Gail Avenson ~ "Abide With Me"



*In Loving Memory Of*

***Rev. Michael J. Fox***

***1950 ~ 2011***



*This is the day the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

***Psalms 118:24***