



*In Memory Of*  
**The Reverend R.F. Westendorf**

Pastor R.F. Westendorf was born May 19, 1933 to Pastor A.F. and Laura Westendorf in Bay City, MI. He was born again into eternal life, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at the age of 88 years, the same number of keys there are on the pianos he loved to play. He was baptized on May 28, 1933. He was confirmed in his faith at St. John's, Bay City, MI. He married Katherine Zabell in 1961 and pastored his first church in Maumee, OH. His second church, Siloah Lutheran, Milwaukee, WI, enjoyed his servant-leadership for forty years from 1967-2007. They "retired" to Dalton, WI, where he continued to preach at many area churches— including extended service at St. John's, Montello, WI, and Grace, Dalton.

His adventures in life started as a five year old, riding his bike to the beach ten miles away (His mother had no idea and a policeman brought him home). His adventures continued, hitch-hiking through Europe, driving a VW Bug through the Alps, serving as a missionary in Grenada, West Indies, serving churches in Idaho and Washington, and answering the security alarm at Siloah in the middle of the night, often arriving before the police.

He developed a cross-cultural Vacation Bible School curriculum, and a popular Bible study course, *By Grace Alone*. He arranged music for choirs and hand bells, and also developed and wrote special services for multiple church choirs. He was a primary force behind the integration of the first cross cultural ministries in the late 60s, transitioning Siloah from a German-speaking congregation to a multi-cultural church and school honoring African American music and culture which led to a larger movement for unity and love among church bodies.

Outside of preaching Salvation through Christ, his passion was Christian love and family. He was actively interested and involved in his community, serving on the Milwaukee County Family Council and authoring many letters and articles to various publications as well as publishing a book, *Self Esteem, God's Style*.

He developed and lead a hand bell choir festival of elementary school children throughout the Midwest in the 80s.

He was so proud of all his children, Mark and Chris Westendorf, Miriam and Kevin Schultz, Krista Westendorf, Karis and Dan Kramer, his grandchildren, Caleb (Johannah) Schultz, Erin (Ryan) Stob, Tabitha (Noah) Schroeder, Sylvia, Ella, Hannah, and Laura Kramer, and great-grandchildren, Eirene and Zoe.

His signature dishes were waffles for family visits and “Study-Club Chili” when he gathered with fellow pastors and pastors-in-training to study God’s Word.

Throughout his life, death was discussed as part of life. Jesus died and rose again to bring us to himself. Dad always taught us that no one need fear death because Jesus went there first and made it safe for us.

Some may say, “it is easy to say you’re not afraid of the bear until you’re in the woods.” On Thursday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, Dad was surrounded by trees. The CT scan showed his brain had a bleed which was starting to shift his brain in ways it was not supposed to go. He knew it. As he was getting bundled up for a helicopter ride to the nearest Regional Medical Center for a possible craniotomy, a sympathetic nurse commented, “I’m so sorry this had to happen at Christmas.” Dad simply replied, “This is why we celebrate Christmas.”

He knew his death was possible, probable, and as it turned out, inevitable. But this is why we celebrate Christmas. Because that sweet baby in the manger took our sius into and through death triumphantly, truly, and ultimately. And he didn’t do it just for great and loving men like my dad, he did it for everyone. So, Dad, Merry Christmas. See you soon.

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**Memorial Services**

*Grace Lutheran Church, Dalton, WI*

January 9, 2022, 1:00 PM visitation, 2:00 PM service

Pastor John Hildebrant officiating

*Siloah Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI*

January 10, 11:00 AM visitation, 1:00 PM service

Pastors Brady Coleman and Kenneth Fisher officiating

**Graveside Service**

Graceland Cemetery, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Pastor Keith Tullberg officiating

**Arrangements By**

Crawford Funeral & Cremation Service

Montello and Oxford, Wisconsin

[www.CrawfordFH.com](http://www.CrawfordFH.com)

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# A Christian Victory Service to the glory of God on behalf of

*Pastor Emeritus Rolfe Westendorf*

**Born into life: May 19, 1933**

**Born into everlasting life: December 28, 2021**

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*Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And 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."*

**John 14:1-3**

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*Presiding Minister: Reverend Brady E. Coleman*

*Preaching Minister: Reverend Dr. Ken Fisher*

## INVOCATION & PRAYER FOR COMFORT

*Pastor: In the name of The Father, who loves us, and of The Son(†), who redeemed us, and of The Holy Spirit, who sanctifies us.*

*Assembly: Amen.*

*Pastor: We are gathered here to mourn the passing of a fellow believer in Christ, Rolfe Westendorf. We mourn because we know that, this side of the grave, we will not see his face again or hold a conversation with him. Our God has seen fit to remove his soul from this world. In the midst of our mourning, we also rejoice. We rejoice because we know that we will see Rolfe Westendorf in Heaven, where there is no death, or, mourning, or crying or pain. In Heaven, everything is perfect. Let us pray:*

*All: Dearest Jesus, You tell us that whoever believes and is baptized shall be saved. Comfort us with this promise and remind us that because Pastor Westendorf trusted in You as his Savior from sin, he has now received the crown of life that will never pass away. Keep us faithful to the point of death, that we, too, may receive the crown of life. Amen.*

## Scripture Lessons

### Psalm 23

*Pastor: 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.*

*Assembly: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.*

*Pastor: 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.*

*Assembly: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.*

*Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

*Pastor: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.*

*Assembly: And I will dwell in the house of The Lord forever!*

*"Soon and Very Soon" page 273- Let All the People Praise You  
sung by Siloah's Choir*

### **Romans 8:31-39**

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not, with Him also, freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore, is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake, we are killed all day long. We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things, we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*"To God be the Glory" Hymn# 399*

### **Ephesians 2:8 & 9**

For by grace you have been saved, through faith- and that, not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

### **John 13:12-17; 34 & 35**

So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you."

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. As I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

*"I'll Fly Away" -sung by soloist, Jean Bell-Calvin*

### **SERMON THEME:**

**"FOLLOW YOUR LEADER, FOREVER!"**

**Sermon Text:** Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. -He. 13:7&8

## THE APOSTLE'S 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.**

## **PRAYER FOR COMFORT**

Lord Jesus Christ, Head of the Church and Chief Shepherd of Your flock, it has pleased You to call Pastor Westendorf from this earthly life to heavenly glory. While we mourn his passing, we rejoice in the eternal victory he now shares with You. We thank You for the blessings You bestowed on him. You called him by the Gospel, preserved him in faith, and gave him the joy of publicly proclaiming Your Word and administering Your Sacraments! You kept him faithful to the very end, and made him a blessing to us and many others. Grant a special measure of comfort to his family and to those who mourn his loss. Give healing to our hearts through the precious promises of Your Word. May the death of Pastor Westendorf remind us all of the brevity of life. Teach us to number our days, so that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Like Pastor Westendorf, Lord, help us to follow You to the very end. You are our Leader, our Redeemer, our Savior, and our Friend. May Your words of comfort and peace warm our hearts; for You tell us in John chapter 11: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live!" Grant this, Lord, unto us all! Now hear us as we pray:

*All: 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.*

## **THE BENEDICTION**

"Savior, Again, to Thy Dear Name" -Hymn# 321