



Earnest Ness

April 14, 1936 - April 14, 2011

The Rev. Earnest M. Ness, 75, of Crystal Falls, MI, died Thurs. April 14, 2011 at his home. He was born on Oct. 25, 1935 in Chicago, the son of the late John and Ann (Osthus) Ness. He spent his childhood in Oak Park, IL and graduated from Oak Park River Forest High School in 1953. He went to the University of Rochester in New York graduating in 1957, and the Chicago Theological Seminary graduating in 1960.

He was ordained a minister on by the United Lutheran Church in America (now the ELCA) on May 22, 1960. On Dec. 28, 1963 he married Kaaren Hagen at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Evanston, IL. The couple moved to Sault Ste. Marie, MI, in January of 1964, where Earnie was the pastor at Faith Lutheran Church. In January of 1975 he became the pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Gwinn, MI, and Emanuel Lutheran Church in Skandia, MI.

In 1994 Earnie and Kaaren moved to Crystal Falls, where he was the pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church in Quinnesec, MI, and began working for the Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp in Crystal Falls. He worked as the site manager at the camp until 2000, and he served on the camp board, the property committee, and was a faithful volunteer.

Pastor Earnie served on the Iron County Community Hospital Board. He was a master at crossword puzzles and an avid reader. He enjoyed tinkering,

home-improvement projects (at home, Fortune Lake Camp, and the kids' homes), and could often be found in his yard with a shovel in his hand.

He is survived by his wife Kaaren, two children E. Martyn (Laura) Ness of Crystal Falls and Marit (Frank) Piacente of Lake Forest, CA, four grandchildren Mitchel, Carson, and Allison Ness, and Arianna Piacente, one sister Sonia (Peter Jenkins) Ness of Elk Grove Village, IL, and one nephew Kary (Julie) Warutian of Crystal Lake, IL.

He was preceded in death by two granddaughters Sofia and Francesca Piacente.

Visitation will be Tuesday from 9-11am at United Lutheran Church, Crystal Falls. Funeral services will be Tuesday at 11am at the church. Bishop Thomas Skrenes and the Rev. Michael Laakko will officiate. Following the service, a reception will be held at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. Burial will be in Emanuel Lutheran Church Cemetery in Skandia.

In lieu of flowers, Earnie requested that memorial contributions can be made to the United Lutheran Church, 506 Superior Ave., Crystal Falls, MI 49920; Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, 138 Fortune Lake Camp Rd., Crystal Falls, MI 49920; or Northstar Health Services Foundation, 1400 W. Ice Lake Rd., Iron River, MI 49935.

Condolences to the family of Rev. Earnest M. Ness may be made online at www.nashfuneralhome.net

The family has entrusted the Nash Funeral Home of Crystal Falls with the arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 19. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

United Lutheran Church
509 Superior Ave.
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

Funeral Service

APR 19. 11:00 AM (CT)

United Lutheran Church
509 Superior Ave.
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

Tribute Wall

DC

“ *To Kaaren and Family,*

Our deepest sympathies. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Bill, Joanne & Diane Markstrom

Diane Markstrom - Sault Ste. Marie, MI - Member of Faith Lutheran Church -
April 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

NS

“ *So sorry to hear about earnie, he was a joy to be around and I always looked forward to him coming in to get his blood drawn never knowing what stories I was going to hear. He was a one of a kind and will be missed. Prayers are with your family.*

nicole hosking - norway, MI - Lab Tech Northstar Health System - April 20, 2011
at 12:00 AM

DF

“ *To Pastor Ernie's Family~
what a wonderful man of God. We are truly going to miss him, so thankful that he was able to preach a couple weeks ago for us at Bethany Lutheran Church in Norway. He helped us out a great deal in the past with his preaching and teaching confirmation. He was an awesome Pastor with a smile and a good joke! wonderful teacher for my daughter Danielle's confirmation class I loved listening in and being a part of his teachings. He really had the kids thinking of "life lessons" We will all miss his smiling face and look forward to when we meet again.*

Once again our sympathy goes out to the family.

sincerely,

Dan, Pam, Danielle and Jeremy Bjorkman

Bethany Lutheran Church ~ Norway, MI

Dan & Pam Bjorkman Family - April 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BO

“ *Marty and family,*

So very sorry to hear about Earnie. He was a great guy. My mom really liked going to his church in Gwinn and listening to his sermons and also the quilting group. Love and God Bless.

The Becottes

Bob, Melissa, Nick, Tyler and Ryan

Bob - April 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *Your are in our thoughts and prayers. Ernie was such a generous and caring person, we so loved him.
A donation to Fortune Lake Camp will be made.
Take care and much love.*

Jeanette & John Ketola - Gwinn, MI - our pastor and friend - April 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ *Marty,*

I was shocked and saddened when I received the news the new of your father's death. I have great memories of your dad, Grace Lutheran Church, Gwinn and Fortune Lake. Your dad was instrumental in my decision to enter the Holy Ministry. Please give my sympathy to your mother. You are all in my prayers.

Yours in Christ

tom

Rev. Tom House - Hooker, OK - family friend - April 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *Ness family,*

I'm so sorry to hear of Pastor Ness' death. I always enjoyed his sermons and working with him at church in Gwinn.

Betty Crawford

Betty Jane Crawford - Chandler, AZ - Parishioner in Gwinn, MI - April 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ *It was an honor and privilege to have known " Mr. Ness." We had many long serious conversations on everything from politics to cars. He was a wise and intelligent man. I will never forget some of is advice, and I will miss him immensely, especially on Tuesdays.*

He was extremely proud of his family. He talked about each and every one of you, and he loved you all very much.

*God Bless,
Jackie Wiegand RN*

Jackie Wiegand - Iron River, MI - Chemotherapy Nurse - April 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

HM

“ *Kaaren
Our sympathy goes out to you & your family. May our God give you all every bit of strength & comfort you need in the days ahead.
Harv & Shay Rutherford*

Harv & Shay Rutherford - Gwinn, MI - April 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ *Kaaren & Family,
So sorry to learn of Pastor Ness passing on. I always got something out of his sermons and always enjoyed visiting with him when he stopped in at my office. He was so interesting and knowledgeable about many things.*

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Gerry & Mary Ann Stille - Gwinn/Port St. Lucie, Fl., MI - April 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BN

“ *Marty and Marit,*

I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your dad. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Bridget (Conley) Hawn - Concord, NC - April 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ *so sorry for your loss*

linda ketola - gwinn, MI - April 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *Ernie and Kaaren have always been special people in my life. Pastor Ness was an important figure of Grace Lutheran Church since 1975, the year I was born. I had the utmost privilege of seeing him last summer and I was blessed to share his presence. With his signature in my fist Bible, I commend him for his service to the church and to the people who loved and respected him for his great worth.*

Sueann Nickerson - Friend - April 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ *We are so very sorry you have lost Earnie and we share your grief. You will be held up in prayer for strength to face the days and weeks ahead.*

Pastor David and Jane Christenson - Fellow clergy - April 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ To the entire Ness Family, the Anderson's would like to send our sympathies. Pr. Earnie was loved by our family and we appreciated his presence at Bethany through the past few years. Colin enjoyed their talks in confirmation...you never quite knew where the conversation would go. Pr. Earnie was a forward thinking, man of God. He will be missed by our family and by the family at Bethany Lutheran Church. Our prayers and thoughts are with you at this time.

Lisa Anderson - Niagara, WI - Friend - April 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

WF

“ To Kaaren, Marty, Laura, Mitch, Carson, and Allison-

To put it in Toby's words, "No. Not him. He was such a great guy." I couldn't have said it better myself.

We are saddened by your great loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Please keep us in mind if any of the kids need to get away or catch their breath, ect.

Love, Will, Sally and Toby Ross

Will, Sally and Toby Ross - Crystal Falls, MI - friends - April 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ My wife Sue Ellen and I send our sincere condolences and prayers to the family. It was an honor to know and work with Earnie for a brief time. He was a kind and caring pastor, a good colleague, and passionate about Fortune Lake Camp. May he rest in peace.

Pastor Rich Grudt - Island Lake, IL - Colleague - April 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM