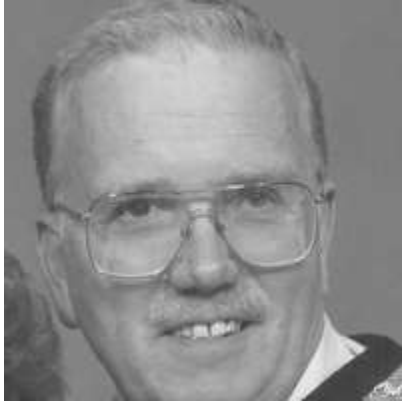


## Cross of Christ Chronicles

### *Beloved Pastor Passes Away*



Reverend Richard Lee, 85, of Hubbard Lake, MI, passed away peacefully on Thursday, August 9, 2018 at his home.

He was born on May 22, 1933 to Harry and Louise Lee in Detroit and was raised there. He attended St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, and Luther Seminary in St. Paul. He married Joyce Holmquist on June 8, 1957 in Minneapolis, MN. After earning his Master of Divinity Degree, Dick served churches in Groton and Houghton, SD and in Houston, MN. He later attended the University of Michigan where he earned a Master's Degree in Social Work. He then worked as program director for Oakdale Regional Center for Developmental Disabilities in Lapeer, MI. While in Lapeer, he was active in the Lions Club. After retirement, Dick continued serving churches on an interim basis. In 1999, he and his wife moved to Hubbard Lake to live full time on property his mother had purchased and which he loved. Dick enjoyed travelling, meeting new people, having new experiences, and bird watching. His interest in genealogy led him and his wife to make several trips to Norway. He was an early member of New Life Lutheran church in Spruce, MI.

Dick is survived by his wife, Joyce; children, Karen (Chris) Hiser of Caro, MI, Kevin (Alison) Lee of Walled Lake, MI, Karl (Karen) Lee of Dacula, GA, and Kirsten Lee of Alpena, MI; 8 grandchildren, Lindsey, Aaron, Adam, Andrew, Alexis, Timothy, Amy, and Lydia, and 5 great grandchildren, Gabe, Payton, Ashton, Lola and Willow, as well as many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Don Lee.

Dick will be remembered as a quiet, humble man who loved to converse with both friends and strangers. His unconditional love for his wife, children, and grandchildren was evident in all the ways he was active in their lives. With a good heart and strong faith, Dick provided words of encouragement that brought out the best in people. His words erased doubts and inspired success. According to his children, Dick would say that his death should not make them sad but that they should take comfort in each other and in loving memories of the experiences they shared. His life was a life well lived!

Cremation arrangements were made through Gillies Funeral Home, Lincoln. Visitation will be on Saturday, August 18, from 10:00AM until the Memorial Service at 11:00AM at New Life Lutheran Church, Spruce, MI. Rev. Christina Bright will officiate. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider a gift to either New Life Lutheran Church or a charity of your choice.

Isn't that second to the last paragraph wonderful, and well written? Would that all of us could live in a manner that would deserve such glowing admiration. Following is a notice of the Lee family's arrival in

town from the *Signal*, and an excerpt from the 1980 Church History Book. We apologize for this coming so long after the fact, but we didn't know about his passing until seeing a notice in a back issue of *Living Lutheran*.

### *New Pastor Now at Cross of Christ Church*

Recently arrived from a pastorate in South Dakota is Rev. Richard L. Lee, the new pastor of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Houston. Pastor Lee began his duties at the Church on Sunday, January 26.

The past five years Pastor and Mrs. Lee have lived in Groton, South Dakota and has served Emanuel and Trinity Lutheran Churches in Groton and Houghton. He is a graduate of St. Olaf college, Northfield, Minnesota and Luther Theological Medical Center, New York.

Pastor and Mrs. Lee are the parents of two children, Karen and Kevin, ages three and two, respectively. Mrs. Lee attended Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota and is a Registered Nurse from Fairview Hospital, Minneapolis. — *Houston Signal* - 30 January 1964.

“Pastor Lee and family came to Houston January 26, 1964 and served the congregation for the next five and a half years. The people of the congregation remember the Lees for their warm friendliness to everyone, and their three children as the 3 K's, Karen, Kevin and Karl. Pastor Lee resigned June 2, 1969, to take a year of graduate study in Clerical Pastorial Education in the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area of Michigan.” — *1980 Church History Book* – p. 61&62.

We remember Pastor Lee quite well since he was here when we were in high school and he also confirmed both of us. Having grown up with Pastor Braaten, the arrival of Richard Lee marked the beginning of a new and different era. Rev. Braaten was our last pastor of the old guard, firm and commanding it was serious business when he took to the pulpit. Not fire and brimstone, but you certainly sat up and payed attention and “*Woe be unto you!*” if you didn't. Following Rev. Lee's departure, Duane Everson returned to our congregation after having been an intern with Pastor Braaten. Young and energetic with a dynamic delivery and exuberant personality, we could definitely feel the change that came with the 1960s.

I think of Rev. Lee as a transitional Pastor as the church arced from the old to the new and he unknowingly served that purpose quite well. He was a more laid-back Pastor, his style being slower and more methodical, and his sermons were delivered in a calm yet purposeful manner. His demeanor was completely different than Braaten and Everson and for me personally it took a bit of getting used to after the strict and stern Rev. Braaten.

Pastor Lee was serious and thoughtful, and I well remember him sitting with his fingertips together and pressed against his chin as he looked off into space pondering one subject or another. While preparing us for Confirmation he was very patient and thorough, and as many of you will remember, back then there was a prodigious amount of material to go through and to memorize! You really earned your place in the class photo and at the altar ring (no Communion before Confirmation back then). I remember some

remarking that they thought the sermon he delivered the day of my Confirmation (or the following Communion Sunday) as being one of his very best, but unfortunately I no longer remember it.

One thing I do remember is sitting with others in the backseat of his car on the way to La Crosse with his kids in front with him. We were part of a group from church heading to the Hollywood Theater on Fifth Avenue to see Dino De Laurentiis' epic movie *The Bible: In the Beginning...* (1966), a three-hour telling of stories from Genesis — it even had an intermission. (This was a big deal for me since we didn't get out much at all.)

Shelley well remembers a humorous occurrence that took place out at the Stone Church. Back then the pastors dressed in black: shoes, pants and shirt, with that little white band collar, and additional black cassock and white surplice for the Service. Pastor Lee followed suit, but it seems he exercised a bit of self-expression with his white socks, which were quite popular at that time. When Gudrun Storlie and Olga Torgerson saw this, they were not impressed. As you may remember me saying, they pretty much ran the show out at the Stone Church and were definitely not afraid to go after him about "those white socks!" True to form he just smiled and ignored their admonitions in his usual unflappable way. (I think it's safe to say that Gudrun and Olga were a bit flummoxed at this point — *they were used to being listened to.*)

We would love to hear your memories of Pastor Lee. Please see our small exhibit honoring him in the stand alone display case. It includes the Letter of Call sent to him and his reply, recently donated by the family of Vince Poppe.

*Jim and Shelley, Cross of Christ Archives, April 2019*

This is the contact info. we found for the Lee family: (989) 727-4487

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*Thank you to Gillies Funeral Home, Lincoln, MI for the photo and obituary.*