



David Victor Dissen

July 27, 1933 - February 19, 2026

The Rev. David V. Dissen, 92, was called by his Savior, Jesus Christ from His Church on earth to His Church in heaven on Thursday, February 19, 2026 at the Lutheran Home.

David Victor Dissen was born July 27, 1933 in Garrison, North Dakota to Rev. Victor Herman and Lydia Anna Charlotte (nee: Baese) Dissen. He was baptized on August 14, 1933 in Garrison and confirmed in 1947 in New Rockford, North Dakota. He attended grade school in Beach, North Dakota and High School in New Rockford, North Dakota and Burley, Idaho. He began to study to serve in the Holy Ministry of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) at Concordia College, Milwaukee. He completed his studies at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri—graduating in 1959. He was ordained and installed for his first call on July 5, 1959 at Salida, Colorado.

He married Judith Ann Bentrutt from Lowden, Iowa on July 23, 1967 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lowden, IA. They were blessed to have over 58 years together in service to the Lord.

Rev. Dissen served his student vicarage in Havana, Cuba in 1957 to 1958 during the revolution of Fidel Castro against President Fulgencio Batista. He was stopped at various government checkpoints and by the Secret Police for spot inspections—with guns either pointed at him or poked in his back. The

last week of his vicarage, ground was broken for a new church building in Havana paid for with "mites" from the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. When completed in 1959, this church was called "the most beautiful building" on the island. In 1966, the church was taken over by the communist government and converted into a warehouse, and later became part of a planetarium that the government built next door to the church.

Rev. Dissen's first call was to First Lutheran in Salida, Colorado and Good Shepherd Lutheran in Leadville, Colorado (1959-1961). Other parishes served were Trinity Lutheran, Beloit, Wisconsin (1961-1967); Zion Lutheran, Chicago, Illinois (1967-1970); First Lutheran, Clearwater, Florida (1970-1981) and Trinity Lutheran, Cape Girardeau, Missouri (1981 to retirement in 1998). While at Trinity he served as the Seminary Supervisor and mentor for 17 seminarians who were training for the Office of the Holy Ministry. During retirement, he served as Vacancy Pastor at about 12 different congregations in Southeast Missouri while simultaneously serving for 11 years as Campus Pastor at Lutheran Chapel of Hope, at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau.

He served the LCMS in numerous positions on the Circuit Level. At the District level he served as 1st and 2nd Vice President of the Missouri District; on the MO District 150th Anniversary Committee for the LCMS; Co-Chair of the District's Board for Missions; District Rep for Intentional Interim Ministry Conference; writer of Bible Study for Board of Stewardship. At the Synodical level he contributed an article for Concordia Pulpit Resources; served on the Board of Regents St. Louis Seminary; Committee for Convention Nominations; Task Force on Conflict Resolution; Adult Education Committee; Pastoral and Advisory Delegate to numerous Synodical Conventions; Devotional Leader for a Synodical Convention; Guest Presenter at Vicarage Supervisor's Conference; and Devotional Leader for the Missionary Retreat of our missionaries in Venezuela.

Together with a few dedicated lay and professional workers, he provided leadership in founding Saxony Lutheran High School in Southeast Missouri. He was privileged to lead his members in Clearwater, Florida to establish First Ev. Lutheran Christian Day School. With the help and support of lay leadership at Trinity Lutheran in Cape Girardeau, Rev. Dissen started Trinity's TV Gospel Ministry called "LIVING HOPE" in 1983. It continues to this day. He had a Gospel Radio ministry in every congregation that he served. Throughout his ministry his main focus was the proclamation of the saving grace of the Gospel of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He embraced using radio, TV and the written word. Christian education for all ages through elementary, secondary, collegiate and seminary was always his goal and he also supported foreign missionaries in many parts of the world to help them spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Dissen served as the Chaplain to the Cape Girardeau Police Department for over 25 years and Cape Girardeau Fire Department for 33 years, still serving at the time of his death. He was a member of Cape Rotary Club for 40 years.

Rev. Dissen was pre-deceased by his sainted parents; two sisters, Elizabeth and Elaine; and three brothers, James, William and Walter; and a nephew/godchild James David.

He is survived by his wife, Judy; brothers Martin and wife Patricia (Racine, WI); Fred and wife Margo (Flowery Branch, GA); sister, Eunice (West Bend, WI); sister-in-law Marilyn, widow of brother William (Kenosha, WI); brother-in-law Jerry Bentrutt and wife Tammy (Colorado Springs, CO); and numerous nieces and nephews.

A special thank you goes to the nurses and caregivers of Lutheran Home Hospice for their loving and compassionate care during the last days of his life.

Visitation will be at Ford and Sons Mount Auburn Funeral Home from 4 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 26, 2026 and from 9-11 a.m. on Friday, February 27, 2026, at Zion Lutheran Church, Gordonville. Funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. at Zion Lutheran Church with the Rev. Daniel Warner and the Rev. Wayne Schwiesow officiating. Interment will be at a later date at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, Lowden, IA.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Rev. David and Judith Dissen Scholarship Fund at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO; Saxony Lutheran High School; Lutheran Heritage Foundation; Luther Academy or Zion Lutheran Church of Gordonville, MO.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Ford & Sons Funeral Home - Mt. Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **26**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Visitation

FEB **27**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Zion Lutheran Church of Gordonville
176 County Road 226
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Funeral Service

FEB **27**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Zion Lutheran Church of Gordonville
176 County Road 226
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

MP

“ To Mrs. Dissen and all who mourn Pastor Dissen,

Pastor Dissen was a young pastor when I was a teenager at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Beloit, Wisconsin. He and Pastor Thomas Hinz confirmed me on May 17, 1964. I remember Pastor Dissen's radiant countenance, enthusiastic greeting, and firm handshake after every service. He exuded love for the Lord and for all of the parishioners. Pastor Dissen played a significant role in my older brother's faith, having confirmed him and worked with him in the youth group. Reading Pastor Dissen's obituary and learning how his life unfolded and how the Lord used him was inspirational. He and Pastor Hinz played such important parts in my faith development. Pastor Dissen apparently never lost that radiant smile —almost a grin at times. May God grant all who mourn his loss peace.

Michalene Perry

michalene perry - May 11 at 12:26 PM

RK

“ Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!”

Rev. Dissen was a great influence and impacted many in his walk with the Lord and you Judy. His memories are cherished by many. God's blessings to the Dissen Family.

Rev Tony Kobak - March 10 at 02:18 PM

BB

“ Heaven gained a wonderful servant. Sorry for the loss here on earth. 🙏🌈❤️☐
I have so many beautiful memories of Dave while we were in meetings and functions with Rotary together. I learned so much through him.
I know we will meet again, some day 🙏
Brigitte Bollerslev

Brigitte Bollerslev - March 03 at 04:37 PM

HH

“ How wonderful for Pastor to hear the angels say, "Welcome Home," but we are so sorry for your loss. Just as he would wrap his arms around you, so too is the Lord now encircling His arms around your loved one. What a comfort!
It is our prayer that God will give you strength for each new day, and that the wonderful memories you shared will bring much comfort.
God's love and ours,
Harold and Jeanine

Harold and Jeanine Hager - February 26 at 04:34 PM

RK

“ We are very sorry for your loss of David! We will miss our Sunday morning chats with him. We won't be able to come today! I had an eye injection yesterday and I am still having some issues with it.
You are in our prayers! Richard and Laura

Richard and Laura Kaiser - February 26 at 08:06 AM

FH

“ Fr. Daniel & Carole Hackney purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of David Victor Dissen.



Fr. Daniel & Carole Hackney - February 25 at 09:55 PM

FH

“ Fr. Daniel & Carole Hackney planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Victor Dissen.

Fr. Daniel & Carole Hackney - February 25 at 09:55 PM

VA

“ My condolences. Rev Dissen was such a kind person. I enjoyed when you both would come to visit us. You a special place in my heart. I'm thankful I was blessed to see him in the last few days of his life. My thoughts, prayers, and blessings go to you, Judy, and your family. With love, Vanessa 💕💕

Vanessa - February 25 at 05:53 PM

DS

“ My parents, Ray and Leona Mueller, from Chester, Illinois, thought a lot of you, Judy and your husband. Now he has joined them in heaven. We are friends of Eunice from our days in Racine. Our kids worked for her and David's mom, Lydia, and thought a lot of them, too. May God grant you comfort in your time of sorrow.
Dave and Judy Saeger

Dave and Judy Saeger - February 24 at 10:39 PM

TF

“ My condolences, Judy. He was a great man. If i needed answers, he was there. He will be missed.

Tammy (Middleton) Fox - February 22 at 07:19 PM

RA

“ Judy, my condolences to you at our loss. Of course, David would remind us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus...His pastoral heart and love for God's Word shone through to many people. May the Lord fill your mind with wonderful memories of your life together. May He use many people to remind you that you are among friends and family. And may He remind you of His gift of everlasting life to you, His precious daughter. One of the last things David said to me was to quote from the book of The Revelation to St. John. 2:10 "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life." - Rev. Ted Andrada

Rev. Ted Andrada - February 21 at 03:30 PM

DL

“ It was an honor to serve on the board at the Chapel of Hope with Pastor Dissen. He had such a sincere love for the university students he served. They returned that love and respect for him that we witnessed during board meetings.
When our youngest granddaughter, Remington Quinn Cole was born during Covid Pastor Dissen baptized Remi. It was a private ceremony with family only since at that time we were not having church services due to Covid. Pastor Dissen touched our family with his compassion during that baptism service.
Pastor and Judy have been such a blessing to our Zion church family. Our love and prayers are with you. Jeff and Debbie

Debbie Landgraf - February 21 at 09:02 AM

RR

“ David was a blessing as a mentor. He had the ability to tell it straight, a quality I always appreciated about him. He was a strong Confessional and Biblical pastor who I was honored to know not only as my vicarage supervisor but as my friend.

Rev. David Reedy - February 20 at 11:33 PM

JF

“ So sorry for your loss, Judy. Bob and I really enjoyed getting to know both of you. He will be missed by many.

JoAnn Fee, Felcyn - February 20 at 08:50 PM