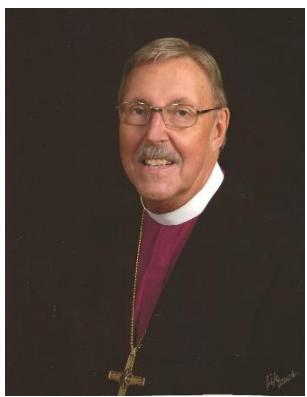




"Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." ~Romans 14:8



Dear Friends in Christ,
It is with sadness that we announce the death of Bishop Emeritus Dale R. Skogman.

Dale R. Skogman, age 81, died on June 16, 2021 following a long illness at home surrounded by his family and prayer. He was born on October 21, 1939 in Iron Mountain, MI and was the son of Arthur Alfred Skogman and Esther Sophia (Skog) Skogman.

Rev. Skogman was raised in Felch, MI and was a 1957 graduate of Felch High School. He was the class valedictorian and received the Alpha Beta award from the faculty in recognition of his contributions to the student body. In high school he received varsity letters in basketball and debate and was also editor of the school newsletter, the "Felch Flash."

He worked his way through college and seminary pursuing a number of part-time and summer jobs. He worked as a laborer and expediter at the Iron Fireman Manufacturing Plant in Portland, OR. In Rock Island, IL he served as an assistant to the seminary archivist and night custodian at Missman, Stanley and Farmer drafting firm. He also worked for the Groveland Mining Company, Dickinson County Road Commission and as a pulpwood piece cutter.

He attended Lewis and Clark college, Portland, OR and received his bachelor's degree from Augustana College in Rock Island, IL in 1961. In 1965 he earned his Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago on the Rock Island campus. In 2000 Finlandia University, Hancock, MI bestowed on him an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.

Rev. Skogman was ordained into the ministry of the Lutheran Church in America on May 30, 1965 at Zion Lutheran Church in Metropolitan, MI where his great-grandparents, Erik and Brita Skog, were founding and charter members in 1895.

Rev. Skogman served as the pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Toivola, MI; Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Atlantic Mine and Grace Lutheran Church, South Range, MI from 1965-71. 1971-76 he served as the pastor of First Lutheran Church, Gladstone, MI. He was the pastor of Holy Communion Lutheran Church in Racine, WI from 1976-85 when he accepted the

call to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa, WI where he served from 1985-1991.

In 1991 he was elected Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He served in the office of bishop for eight years. In 1999, he and his wife moved to Gladstone, MI. In 2002 the Northern Great Lakes Synod bestowed on him the title of Bishop Emeritus.

During his active ministry, Rev. Skogman served on a vast number of boards and committees both in the church and community. His service included terms on the board of directors of Carthage College, Kenosha, WI; The Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, IL; and Finlandia University, Hancock, MI. He was presented a Leadership Award in 1997 from Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan in appreciation for his services. In 2007 Finlandia University bestowed on him the title of Board Member Emeritus in recognition of his service to the university from 1993-2007. He also served nine years on the board of the Augustana Heritage Association dedicated to perpetuating the life and legacy of the former Augustana Lutheran Church in America rooted in the Swedish tradition. He was a past president of the Gladstone Rotary Club. He was an RSVP volunteer for several agencies, the U.P. State Fair and a Reading Buddy at Cameron School. He was a past president of the Gladstone Swedish Club.

During Rev. Skogman's tenure as bishop, the Northern Great Lakes Synod developed a companion synod relationship with the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. The two synods exchanged visits of the bishops, choirs and several work and witness groups. A special project of the Northern Great Lakes Synod was the construction of a three-story library at Kisarawe secondary school where underprivileged youth could complete high school and go on to college. In 2009, Kisarawe, which means "Hill of Hope," named the reading room in the complex the "Bishop Dale Skogman Library" in his honor.

Rev. Skogman married Josephine A. Larson on December 19, 1964 at First Lutheran Church in Geneseo, IL. Jo was Dale's faithful companion in life and ministry and they are the proud parents of three children and nine grandchildren. In addition to his wife, Rev. Skogman is survived by his children, Laura (James) Wendt, Beaver Dam, WI; Bradley (Sherry) Skogman, Waukesha, WI; Leah Skogman, Milwaukee, WI. Especially dear to Rev. Skogman were his grandchildren, Jamie, Jordan, Jeremy, Cora and Emma Wendt; Addison (Kyle), David, Peter and Ella Skogman.

In 2008, at the age of 68, he enrolled in the Children's Literature Institute, West Reading, CT, graduating in 2009 and was successfully published in children's magazines.

Rev. Skogman pursued a number of hobbies during his retirement including extensive travel at home and abroad and hosting family and friends in his retirement home. He was also adept at handwork and was recognized by the Sewing Circle at First Lutheran Church for crocheting in excess of 4,000 sweaters for distribution to needy children through Lutheran World Relief. His greatest joy was to be among his grandchildren, family and friends and to participate in the life of his church.

Visitation will be held on Monday, June 21 at First Lutheran Church in Gladstone, MI from 11 am-1 pm and the funeral service will follow at 1 pm. Masks and physical distancing will be required at the church. Officiating will be Bishop Katherine Finegan of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, ELCA, and the Rev. Tommy Richter, administrative interim pastor of First Lutheran Church. Clergy are invited to vest and process at the funeral. The color of the day is green. Burial will take place at the Felch cemetery at the convenience of the family.

The family suggests that memorials be given to the Skogman Seminarian Scholarship Fund in the care of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, or to a charity of your choice.

We pray for comfort for all who are grieving the loss of Bishop Emeritus Dale R. Skogman. Peace to his memory.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan