

REV. ROBERT K. BRUNK

Reverend Robert Kenneth Brunk, 94, of Upper St. Clair, passed peacefully in his sleep on January 24, 2024.

Pastor "Bob" Brunk was born October 3, 1929, in Pittsburgh, the youngest of four children. He grew up in Homewood and excelled at Westinghouse High School, graduating in 1947. After finishing his undergraduate work at the University of Pittsburgh in 1951, he went west and enrolled in the Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary, where he met his first wife, Enid, before being ordained in 1954. On his return to western Pennsylvania, he became the first called pastor to the newly established Hope Lutheran Church in Beaver, before subsequently serving as pastor at the North Zion Lutheran Church in Baldwin and then leading the congregations at both Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church and Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Scenery Hill.

Pastor Brunk was also a skilled financial planner, guiding his loyal clients well into his ninth decade and earning their trust over and over again. He also instilled the importance of financial planning in each of his grandchildren, opening an investment account for each from their early years. That, of course, was not his only area of expertise, and anyone who spent time with Bob will surely have come away with a bit of wisdom, whether it be the proper placement of a fork or a perpetual reminder to respond, not react. That is not to say he was dry, though, as he in fact had an irreverent sense of humor and a deep sonorous singing voice, self-trained, that he would employ to great acclaim whenever asked, and sometimes when not asked. His greatest skill, though, may have been as a writer, which he put to use each week in the sermons he loved and labored over. To his final days, former congregants would share memories of the stories told and the lessons imparted.

Bob was born into the onset of the Great Depression and as a young man watched friends and family ship out to fight in foreign lands, but the turmoil of the world in his childhood did not make him bitter - rather he found a calling in helping others and bringing a little bit more light into an oftentimes cloudy world. No one is perfect, and neither was Bob, but he found his own ways to make a positive difference in the lives of others. He, alongside his beloved wife Lori, and often with a glass of wine in his hand, lived to watch their children and their grandchildren find their places in the world.

Pastor Brunk was preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Cornelia; his brothers, Edward, Jr. and Richard; his sister, Elizabeth; his first wife, Enid; and his grandson, Brian. He is survived by his wife of more than half a century, Lori; his children, Michael (Sakina) Brunk, Mark (Paula) Brunk, Vivian Brunk and Christine (Phil) de Shazo; his grandchildren, Lea Brant, Adam (Madeleine) Brunk, Kelli (Shane) Blank, Jacqueline (Dan) Bryce, Julie (Zach) Nelson and Allison (Sheldon) Satterthwaite; and his great-grandchildren, Josephine, Amelia, Elena, Emma, Kal, Valerie and Kaine.

A memorial service will be held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Scenery Hill on April 20, 2024. The service will be led by Bishop Kurt Kusserow, and Rev. William Henry of Bethlehem Lutheran, Rev. Ron Weryha of Faith Lutheran and Rev. Richard Brunk, Jr. will serve as officiants. Friends and family are invited to a celebration of life reception at 10 a.m., followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m. and then the procession and graveside interment of ashes. Attendees are also invited to a luncheon to be held immediately afterwards in the church social hall.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Meals on Wheels of Bethel Park, 2999 Bethel Church Rd., Bethel Park, PA 15102.

Arrangements by **BEINHAUERS**, 724-941-3211. Please view or add tributes at www.beinhauer.com.

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