

**Victory Celebration of the Life of  
Rev. Donald H Greven  
February 20, 2026  
Helmar Lutheran Church, Newark, IL**

Prelude

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Hymn: “Since Jesus Came Into My Heart”

Scripture Readings: John 14:1-6  
Ephesians 2:1-9

Hymn: “All the Way My Savior Leads Me”

Remembrances: Cindy Bengtson, Kevin Gunderson, Pastor Jon Benson, Pastor Lombardo

Don’s Testimony: John Greven

Hymn: “He the Pearly Gates Will Open”

Sermon: Matthew Greven  
Matthew 11:28-30

Photo Presentation: “Going Home”, by the Cathedrals

Closing Prayer & Benediction

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Pastor—Steven Lombardo

Pianist—Angie Lombardo

Violinists—Madison Trost, Shelby Greven, Kelly Greven

Pallbearers—Matthew Greven, John Greven, Josh Greven, Luke Greven, Greg Bengtson, Brody Bengtson

After the service, all are invited to a committal service at nearby Helmar Cemetery, followed by a meal in the Family Life Center. Those not going to the cemetery may proceed immediately to the luncheon.



*“Come to me, all who are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

Matthew 11:28-30

Rev. Donald Herman Greven

Age 81 of Newark, Illinois, formerly of Viroqua, Wisconsin, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Radcliffe Iowa, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Monday, February 16, 2026 at Morris Hospital and Healthcare Center in Morris, Illinois.

Born on September 2, 1944, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Herman and Francis (Anderson) Greven. He was raised and educated in Minneapolis and graduated from Roosevelt High School with the Class of 1962. Following high school, Don attended California Lutheran Bible School in Los Angeles. After completing his studies there, he returned to Minnesota, where he married the love of his life, Mary Larson, on July 16, 1966. Don continued his education at the University of Minnesota, earning his bachelor's degree in music. He later pursued his calling in ministry by attending the Association Free Lutheran Seminary, where he received his Master of Divinity degree.

Over the course of 50 years in ministry, Pastor Don served as lead pastor to congregations at West Lisbon Lutheran Church in Newark, Illinois, as well as in Radcliffe, Iowa and Viroqua, Wisconsin, among others. His years of service reflected a steady commitment to his calling and the communities he led. In addition to his pastoral ministry, he served for 12 years as Dean of the Free Lutheran Bible College, where he played an important role in guiding and preparing students for Christian service.

Pastor Don dedicated his life to ministry and service, including establishing ministries in places such as Kenya and Hungary. He also served on the board of the Living Faith Christian Missionary Fellowship in Kenya, supporting its work and outreach. Music was a lifelong passion for Don. He served as a choir director and stayed actively involved in church music for many years. He also coached Little League baseball, investing time and care in the lives of young people. A loving husband and devoted father, Don lived his faith every day. Teaching God's Word and sharing the message of the Gospel was at the center of everything he did.

He is survived by his wife Mary; children: Cynthia (Greg) Bengtson of Newfolden, Minnesota, Matthew (Lisa) Greven of Newark and John (Wendy) Greven of Big Lake, Minnesota; grandchildren: Brianna (Jacob) Laird, Rebecca and Brody Bengtson, Joshua, Luke, Kelly and Hannah Greven, Madison (Karl) Trost, and Shelby Greven; great-grandchild, Cassandra Laird; sister, Audrey (Owen) Miller, and numerous nieces and nephews, as well as several cousins.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Charles Greven, and great-grandchild, Baby Girl "Flamingo" Laird.