



A Celebration of Life for
Ronald J. Hanson
July 11, 1941 – January 21, 2026

**A Celebration of Life for
Ronald J. Hanson
February 7, 2026
Arlington Hills Lutheran Church**

Prelude

Entrance Rite

Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world. We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our brother, Ronald J. Hanson to give thanks for his life, to commend him to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Processional Hymn

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

ELW #781



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil-dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak-eth, God his chil-dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune

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Greeting and Prayer

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother Ron.

We thank you for giving him to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn.

Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Sharing of Memories

Arianna Hanson, John Smith-Wiehe and Justin Hanson

Grandchildren

Steve Hanson

Son

Scripture Readings

James 2:14-18

read by Lindsey Smith-Wiehe

Granddaughter-in-law

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So, faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith apart from works, and I, by my works, will show you faith.

Psalm 23

read by Laurel Wiehe, Granddaughter

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Special Music

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

Jacob Hanson and Grace Young

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:14-16

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Message

Pastor Walter Still

Hymn

“Abide with Me”

ELW #629



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847
Music: EVENTIDE, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

Apostles Creed

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace. God of mercy, **All: hear our prayer.**

P: Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ. God of mercy, **All: hear our prayer.**

P: Give courage and faith to all who mourn, and a sure and certain hope in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may have strength for the days ahead. God of mercy, **All: hear our prayer.**

P: Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that, where this world groans in grief and pain, your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life. God of mercy, **All: hear our prayer.**

P: Help us, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. God of mercy, **All: hear our prayer.**

P: God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **All: Amen.**

Special Music

“Here I am Lord”

John Smith-Wiehe, Laurel Wiehe
Adam and Sarah Svendsen

Commendation

P: Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Ron. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **All: Amen.**

Benediction

Closing Hymn

“Lead on, O King Eternal”

ELW #805



1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,



hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents will be our home.
and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;
for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears.



Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong;
for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir-ring drums,
Your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light;



and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
but deeds of love and mer - cy the heav'n - ly king - dom comes.
the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

Postlude

After the service, the family has invited you to join them in the Fellowship Hall for a luncheon and fellowship.

- Officiates:** Pastor Walter Still
Organist: Barbara Rossow
Special Music: Jacob Hanson and Grace Young; John Smith-Wiehe, Laurel Wiehe, Adam and Sarah Svendsen
Live Stream Producer: Silvester Vicic
Urn Carrier: Adam Svendsen
Candle Lighters: Isaac Hanson and Bobby Veitch
Ushers: Isaac Hanson, Bobby Veitch and Carlos Reynoso Velazquez

The funeral service is being live streamed today and recorded.

To view please go to Arlington Hills Lutheran Church's website at <https://ahlc-stp.org/>



Ronald Jerome "Ron" Hanson Obituary

Ronald Jerome "Ron" Hanson died peacefully after a brief stay in hospice care, while family sang at his bedside on January 21, 2026. He was defined by his love of family, friends, church, and community. An excellent salesman, realtor, and all-around handyman, he found joy in helping others. Ron's good humor and determination were well known to all who knew him.

He was born, July 11, 1941, to Albert and Lucille Hanson. He loved the East Side of St. Paul where he lived for most of his 84 years. As a youth, he was proud to serve as Junior Royalty for the St. Paul Winter Carnival, first as Junior Prime Minister and then as the Junior King Frost. He shared his love for the Winter Carnival by taking his kids medallion hunting, to see snow sculptures and ice castles!

Ron graduated from Johnson High School in 1959 and continued his education at Globe Business College. He played trumpet in the band and was on the track team in high school. He loved watching Drum and Bugle corps competitions in person and later virtually!

In 1962, Ron married the girl from across the street, Sharon Jaszczak. They had known each other since childhood when their families were part of the Rose Street gang. Together they raised three children, opened their home to students from across the world for short stays and for yearlong stays. They were part of couples' clubs, bowling leagues, church groups, and card clubs. They were still playing cards every day at 4pm, and then they watched Jeopardy together. Side by side for 64 years.

He enjoyed his early sales career at General Electric and the Lenox Company. Later he worked as an all-around handyman and even as a bus driver. He loved driving buses for the 1996 Atlanta Olympic games! A highlight of his life! His favorite job was as a real estate agent selling commercial and residential properties to anyone in need in the community for the past 30 years. Mr. Ron helped many immigrants and especially Karen community members establish their new church homes in Minnesota. This gave him a new purpose well into retirement and a new set of wonderful friends. He was still working at the age of 84 selling real estate!

Ron's generosity showed itself in his commitment to his church and his community. Ron enjoyed bringing friends to the Norske Torske Klubben to eat torsk together and share some of his Norwegian heritage. Ron was the head usher at Arlington Hills Lutheran Church for many years. He enjoyed working with the youth and introducing them to backpacking in the Big Horn Mountains. For the last 20 years, he was the Alley Shoppe's fix it man. Nothing was given away that was not in working condition! He could find the best deals, the best ways to fix things, and was always happy to share what he knew with other people.

He could fix anything, paint anything, wallpaper anything. Many homes were painted Ron's color. Menards was his very favorite store for all his supplies.

Ron enjoyed spending time outside with his family. He was an avid fisherman who taught his children and grandchildren to fish. He was an excellent bowler! He loved to spend time with his family and could often be found offering support and advice at baseball, football, and hockey games, dance recitals, music and theatre performances, and rock climbing competitions. Ron's quiet support also showed while driving his grandkids to school, taking them out to Perkins, and calling them with the joke of the day. He shared his love of trains, model railroads, marching bands, and flash mob videos with everyone in his life.

He is survived by his wife Sharon, children Pam Wiehe (Mike), Tom Hanson, and Steve Hanson (Kelli); grandchildren, Laurel Wiehe, John Smith-Wiehe (Lindsey), Sarah Svendsen (Adam), Arianna Hanson & Justin Hanson, Jacob Hanson & Isaac Hanson; great grandson Louis Smith-Wiehe and future great-grandchild Svendsen (Sarah & Adam); sister-in-law Linda Veitch; many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews.

Ron was preceded in death by parents Albert and Lucille Hanson, parents-in-law Edward and Caroline Jaszczak, brother Wayne Hanson, sister-in-law Maureen Hanson, and niece Debbie Hanson.

In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to Alley Shoppe or Health Partners Hospice Care.

Visitation to be held on Friday, February 6 from 5-7pm at Anderson Funeral Home 1401 Arcade St, St. Paul, MN 55106 and at the church 10-11:15 am prior to Saturday service.

Funeral service to be held at Arlington Hills Lutheran Church, 1115 Greenbrier Street, St. Paul on Saturday February 7 at 11:30 am with luncheon to follow.

