



Rev. John Carlton Mehl

October 10, 1925 - April 19, 2020

John C. Mehl, 94, Grand Forks, ND died of natural causes Sunday, April 19, 2020 at Valley Transitional Care with his children at his side. John was born October 10, 1925 to Peter and Eva (Norton) Mehl in Tulsa, OK. He grew up on a farm near Volga, SD and graduated from Volga High School in 1943. He was a decorated WWII veteran of the US Army, attached to the 5th Armored Division in Europe. John graduated with an Agronomy degree from South Dakota State University in 1949, a Master of Divinity degree from Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, MN, and was ordained in 1952 as a pastor at First Lutheran Church in Volga, SD. He went on to serve the 4 point Lutheran Parish in Woodworth, ND.

John married Udell Irene Eide of Howard, SD on May 27, 1951. In 1953, the Lutheran Church called John and Udell to serve as missionaries to Madagascar, including one year in Paris, France. After 12 years as missionaries they accepted pastoral calls to Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Northwood, ND; Concordia Lutheran Church in Edmore, ND; and Martins Lutheran Church in Casselton, ND until his retirement in 1987. Fargo, ND became their home with winters spent in AZ.

John served on several national, synodical, and local church boards and councils. He was an active member of The Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and DAV. He was an active member of First Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND.

John is survived by his daughter Sondra (Cal) Jackson, Concord, CA; son David (Beth), Helena, MT; son Steven (Ruby), Spirit Lake, IA; daughter Carolyn (Peter) Tunseth, Grand Forks, ND; daughter Barbara (Doug) Berglund, Bismarck, ND; 14 grandchildren: John (Renee), Carrie (David), Anna (Kyle), Peter, Rebecca (Chris), Julie, McKayla, Luke (Shandy), Rachel (Josh), Maren (Alex), Derek (Brooke), Andrea, Abby (Sam), Adam; 14 great grandchildren: Bauer, Reese, Evan, Miles, Beckett, Lorne, Ezra, Aysia, Bryton, Braelyn, Ada, Teddie, Stanley, Henry.

John was preceded in death by his first wife, Delores with infant son Alan, his wife of 61

years Udell, his parents Peter and Eva Mehl, brothers Donald and Harold Mehl, sister Carol Fleischmann, and sister Dorothy Hennen.

Memorials can be given to Red Willow Ministries, 1651 Jacob Drive, Binford ND 58416.

Burial will take place at the First Lutheran Cemetery in Volga, SD. A memorial service will take place at First Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND at a later date.

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Hanson-Runsvold Funeral Home - August 04, 2020 at 01:39 PM



“ Dear family of John Mehl, I am so very sorry to hear that John has gone to be with our Lord! Your folks were so very special in our lives. Gods blessings to you all! My husband, Arlyn, was the same age as John. We enjoyed our fellowship in those earlier years when John was serving rural Northwood and we were serving in Aneta! John and your mom ,Udell ,were giants in the faith and fervent in the exercise therof. I cannot join you at the service due to the Virus being still prevelant. But know that my prayers follow you all through this difficult time. I have sent a memorial to honor your dad's memory to RWBC. Love in Christ, Verna Anfinrud. 201 University Dr. S. #424. Fargo. 58103

Verna Anfinrud - August 03, 2020 at 12:06 PM



“ Our sympathies and prayers are with the entire Mehl family. I know my parents appreciated them so much in the shared mission work in Madagascar, and then again when they were both serving congregations in eastern ND. Our family also appreciated when your Dad came to visit and pray with our family when our Mom was in palliative care in Fargo before her death in 2013. It was very comforting. Your Father was truly a humble servant of our Lord Jesus. So very thankful for God's promise of eternal life for all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. May our Heavenly Father give you His comfort and peace. Leif and Cheryl (Gudim) Aakre

Cheryl Aakre - July 26, 2020 at 02:58 PM



“ It was always a great occasion when John and Udell came back from Madagascar to visit. John was a very humble and caring person. I still have a souvenir they brought back to help us understand and appreciate the people of Madagascar. I send my sympathy to the family and many friends who have known a special person.

Duane Sander
Udell's Cousin

Duane Sander - May 11, 2020 at 01:51 PM



“ Pastor Mehl was the most amazing man. I still remember his sermon about freeing Jews from the death camps..He was there!!
I still have the cross he gave all of us at confirmation.
Mary Aaland

Mary Aaland - May 08, 2020 at 10:36 AM



“ John Mehl was a most humble servant of God whose life stirred the best in us to live and win people for Jesus! Serving during World War 2 touched him deeply with the suffering he saw and silently lived with in the shadow of the cross of Jesus. Blessed be the memory of John Mehl! His deeds will follow him!

Carl and Ruth Vaagenes

carl and ruth vaagenes - July 27, 2020 at 10:55 AM



“ My internship year at Martin's wasn't an easy time for me, but his steady guidance and care as my supervisor got me where I needed to be. Thirty seven years after that year began, I'm grateful for what he did for me. This comes with a prayer for God's deepest comfort for family and friends.

Ladd Bjorneby - May 02, 2020 at 09:28 PM



“ After John's wife died, I was set up to meet with John regularly through a program at First Lutheran Church called BeFrienders. We were far apart in age, and I was worried about that at first, but we found so much in common during the years when we met together to talk. I am a child of missionaries and we found commonality in our church and mission backgrounds. We shared our first names and I found John to be a wonderful person to talk with regularly. I am not sure how much I helped John but he helped me when I lost my father and through many other things. As we talked, he spoke of how important it was to share our hurts with one another, as he said, "In sharing is healing". I was blessed to know John. He was a good and wonderful man. I am so glad I was paired up with him.

John Benson - May 02, 2020 at 12:30 PM



“ From the family of Pastor Gordon and Norma Berntson. We share your grief in the loss of your father, John Mehl. Our fathers and mothers were dearest friends for over 50 years. I'd like to call them "spiritual brothers, brothers in Christ". Through their friendship my brothers and I grew to know, respect, and cherish John's acquaintance. He was a man of God. Peace to your family as you celebrate a life well lived.

Paul Berntson

paul berntson - April 28, 2020 at 11:55 PM



“ Condolences to the Mehl family at the loss of John. Our family knew him during his time in Casselton and his faithful leadship at Martin's.

Don Larsen and family

Ellyce Hayes - April 28, 2020 at 10:34 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to the Mehl family. He and Udell were very special friends to my mom, Joyce Schoenfish. Such a gentle, quiet, and kind man. I've had the pleasure of meeting David and Carolyn and husband Peter.. God Bless you all in your time of grief.

Dawn Rochester

Dawn M. Rochester - April 28, 2020 at 04:21 PM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. John Carlton Mehl.



April 28, 2020 at 11:03 AM



“ Dear Friends,

I was saddened to learn of the passing of Pasor Mehl and yet, in another sense, I felt joy that the "weary one" is at rest. This man this family have been a great blessing to me and to this "Sampson Family". I am sure that this gentle man and his family never fully realized the many blessings that he and his family brought to us through the years. His gentle ways and understanding heart brought comfort and encouragement even in the passing of our father and mother.

In Edmore, the Mehl's lived next door to our Father and Mother and brought much joy to our parent's hearts and brightened their days.

It was pastor Mehl as well as his family that helped bring comfort and joy to our family when our parent's were called home to Jesus.

Their son Steve worked for me on our farm following our Father's death and the Mehl family continued to be both a comfort and blessing and inspiration to all of us. It was Pastor Mehl and his blessing and encouragement that opened the door for me to become a missionary to Japan and prepared the way for some awesome and wonderful relationships and experiences that opened the door for the many who became part of my "Japanese Family."

Pastor Mehl and his family have had a profound impact in many ways on our family through the years and while we feel sorrow at his passing, yet we truly feel that he brought multitudes of blessings to the many that he ministered to through the years of his life and ministry.

I know what I would have liked to have said to him if I had been able to be at his bedside when Jesus called him home. I would liked to have said to him "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord"!!!

Sincerely,

Oliver Sampson

Mathew 25:23

Oliver Sampson - April 27, 2020 at 04:50 PM



“ I will always hold a special place in my heart for Pastor Mehl. He was soft-spoken, kind, caring and a true servant of God. I served on the church council at Martin's Lutheran in Casselton when he was our pastor-just a wonderful man. He referred to Udell as his “bride”- he loved her and his family dearly. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you as you mourn his loss.

Carol Radermacher - April 27, 2020 at 02:20 PM



“ Our deepest sympathies to the entire family. He is HOME with Jesus!

Love In Christ
Sam & Mary Jo Dyrud
(Amos & Ovidie's son & daughter-in-law)

Sam Dyrud - April 26, 2020 at 08:42 PM



“ John was a true disciple of God. So kind, soft spoken, and always sharing his love of Christ. I enjoyed John and his family at Martins Lutheran in Casselton, then later as a fellow member of First Lutheran in Fargo. He will be missed by all who knew him, and loved him. My sympathies to the family of this wonderful man.
Marlene Saar

marlene saar - April 26, 2020 at 03:52 PM



“ With great love for this gentle man and his family. I have so many good memories being invited to their home as a friend of Carolyn's when we were in high school. To me he was a giant of faith and lead his family well. I am a Christian today because of him and his family. May God bring you sweetness in all your memories. Blessings and prayers for all of you. Barbara Olderbak Dordahl.

Barbara Olderbak Dordahl - April 25, 2020 at 02:31 AM



“ Larry and I would like to extend our sympathy to the family of Rev. John Mehl. He is one of the first people who comes to mind when I think of a dedicated servant of God. Rest in peace oh good and faithful servant.

Loretta Groth - April 24, 2020 at 09:53 PM



“ Our father (Glenn Stevens) and John were friends at Valley Senior Living (Valley 4000) in Grand Forks. Dad will miss their conversations at meals there, where they often stayed at their table until they were the last to leave the room. John was a good friend to my father and he will miss him very much. Our sympathy to John's family. God bless.

Sincerely,
Glenn's daughters - Jeanine, Ann , and Becky

Ann Lee - April 24, 2020 at 07:47 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy to all of the Mehl family. John was such a kind, caring, gentle person who always had something interesting to talk about. My daughter and I met John and Udell when we visited my mom, Joyce, and Marvin Schoenfish. We quickly were railroaded into playing cards with all of them -I believe it as 'Kings in the Corners' - and boy, did the men ever get competitive! Whenever we returned to visit the folks, it was so nice to see him - he always remembered us! He truly was a special man - we're blessed to have known him.

Prayers to you all during this time.
Diane and Kendra Peterson - Selma, TX

Diane Peterson - April 24, 2020 at 07:24 PM



“ David and family,
My sympathy on the passing of your father. He died on Divine Mercy Sunday (Second Sunday of Easter), an appropriate day to go home to his Savior who he served faithfully his entire life. Many blessings to all your family as you say goodbye to your father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

With sympathy and prayers,
Kathy Wilebski Schafer

Kathy Wilebski Schafer - April 24, 2020 at 04:33 PM



“ My sympathy in your loss. My grandmother, Christina Mehl Tenning was a first cousin of Peter Mehl. The families lived near each other. So my father, Leonard Tenning, was John's second cousin. I remember driving to Howard for your parents' wedding. I was 10 years old. I so admired their missionary work and I'm sure he's been a great blessing to so many people.
Virginia Tenning Schlimmer
Volga, SD

Virginia Schlimmer - April 24, 2020 at 02:21 PM



“ My sympathies to Pastor Mehl's family. I believe we were the first marriage he performed at Ebenezer on January 28, 1966. He and his entire family were such nice friendly people.

Janet Bratlie, Northwood

Janet Bratlie - April 24, 2020 at 12:31 PM



“ John was a very special man; retired, Norwegian, Lutheran minister. He left an influence on my life; learned a lot from him. Rodney Edgewood Vista driver

Rodney Hovet - April 22, 2020 at 09:21 PM



“ Pastor Mehl was a special person. I felt he was as close to God-like as anyone could be. Our youngest daughter Judy loved him. When she heard he was leaving she wanted to write him a letter telling him to stay. She was the first baby he baptized at Ebenezer. We enjoyed Udell and John and connected with them while spending winters in AZ. They will forever remain close to our hearts. Our deepest sympathy to his family.

maggie and jerry Bergene - April 22, 2020 at 12:01 PM