



# News Release

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

**June 15, 2012**

## **Mark Kreklau Receives His Heavenly Crown**

Mark Kreklau, age 70, passed away on June 13, 2012 at Altru Hospital in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Mark was the husband of Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) President Kay Kreklau.

The family will greet friends during the visitation that will be on Sunday, June 17, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 307 N Main Street, Drayton, North Dakota, from 4 to 6 p.m., followed by a prayer service. A celebration of life will be at 11 a.m. on Monday, June 18, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1710 Cherry Street, Grand Forks, North Dakota. Burial will be at Alsen Cemetery, Alsen, North Dakota, at 3 p.m. on Monday, followed by a time to visit with the family at Zion Lutheran Church in Munich, North Dakota. Presiding pastors will be Rev. Bernhard Seter, Rev. Craig Fenske, and Rev. Jonathan Buesche, with Sheila Weinlaeder serving as the organist. Casket bearers will be Peter Anderson, Rob Boll, Bruce Henschel, Jonathan Wilson, Thomas Schuster, Ron Ophaug, Gay Jensen, and Cole Anderson. The Austin Funeral Home of Drayton is in charge of arrangements.



Mark Kreklau was born October 2, 1941 in Langdon, North Dakota, to Arnold and Dorothy (Warwick) Kreklau. He was a member of the Alsen, North Dakota, basketball team that still holds the longest winning streak in North Dakota high school basketball. Mark graduated Alsen High School in 1959. He married Kay Berdahl on September 2, 1972. Mark owned Montgomery Wards Catalog Store in Langdon; was a negotiator for North Dakota Ag Mediation; and owned Ag Negotiating and Consulting. In 1998, he joined KodaBank where he was a vice president at the time of his death. He was truly a people person and loved his work at the bank, as well as the bank staff. Mark was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Drayton, where he was always active in church work. He was involved with everything from the Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) to the LWML to mission projects at local levels. He was chairman of the congregation at Zion in Munich, for many years; an elder at Trinity in Drayton at the time of his death; and served many terms as a member of the North Dakota District Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). Mark's most cherished time was spent with family, friends, fishing and, of course, following Sioux hockey. Mark's pastor, Rev. Bernhard Seter, who also serves as chairman of the LCMS Board for International Mission, shared, "We spend a lot of time in the church looking for 'handles' we can use for mission and ministry. For instance, The LCMS has started 'Operation Barnabas' to help encourage the families and members of the military. Barnabas means 'son of encouragement.' Pastors need 'sons of encouragement' in their mission and ministry, too. Mine was Mark Kreklau. He was always interested in helping with the work of the church in whatever way he could. As an elder who helped me distribute communion and would commune me, his words as he left the altar area will be with me until I meet him in the Church Triumphant – 'Jesus loves you my friend.'"

Mark is survived by his wife, Kay; children, Rennie (Davis Woinarowicz) Hallstrom, Drayton, North Dakota; Lisa (Deon) Anderson, Grafton, North Dakota; Christopher Kreklau, Portal, North Dakota; Nicole Larson, Drayton, North Dakota; and Leah (Tim) Ososki, Drayton, North Dakota; grandchildren, Ana (Christopher) Tobiaz, Lindsay (Steve) Wold, Kaila (Dave) DiNalo, Alexis Anne Kreklau, Trevor Michael Kreklau; great grandchildren, Warren Tobiaz and Owen Tobiaz; a brother, Paul Kreklau, Columbus, Ohio; and mother-in-law, Grace Berdahl, Park River, North Dakota. He was preceded in death by his parents, Arnold and Dorothy; a daughter, Tonia Noel Kreklau; a granddaughter, Addison Grace Kreklau; and a sister-in-law, Alice Kreklau.

The family prefers that memorials be sent to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and North Dakota Hospice.

*The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is the official women's auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions.*

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