



Joel David Sauerwein

February 27, 1959 - February 28, 2017

Joel David Sauerwein passed away on February 28, 2017, 7:31 pm at Legacy Hopewell House Hospice in Portland, Oregon. He had been a resident at Prestige Oregon City Care Center. Joel died from a bacterial infection after a long battle with diabetes and end stage renal failure. He was 58 years old.

Joel was born February 27, 1959 in Tacoma, Washington to Daniel Ernest Sauerwein and Lois Margaret Hopkins. His father was a pastor and his mother was the daughter of a minister. He was raised to know the Bible and made public confession of his faith in Jesus Christ on December 5, 1971, when he became a member of Helvetia Community Church near his childhood home in Hillsboro, Oregon. He was baptized on May 19, 1974 by his father, who was also his pastor.

The family owned a couple of acres outside Hillsboro, and Joel enjoyed raising and showing sheep in 4H. He played the clarinet and marched in four Portland Rose Parades with the Hillsboro High School Spartan Marching Band. He was very interested in Science, becoming a member of the Order of the Blue Beaker for Scholastic Excellence in Science. He enjoyed science clubs at Tectronix with his older brother Tim. Joel completed five years of German in the Hillsboro school district, earning the privilege to travel to Germany as an exchange student for the summer of 1977.

Upon graduation in 1977 from Hillsboro High School, Joel enrolled in a four year Bible and Theology program at Multnomah Bible School. He completed the course in 1980 and later upgraded his diploma to a Bachelor's degree in the mid 1990's. While he was a student at Multnomah, he attended Clackamas Bible Church with some of his classmates. In the college and career Sunday School class he met Mary Jane Cameron. They were married November 1, 1980 at Clackamas Bible Church and made their home in the Greater Portland area, including residences in Milwaukie, Oregon City, and Hillsboro.

In July 1981 Joel enlisted in the Delayed Entry Program of the United States Navy. He began active duty March 11, 1982. Upon completion of his Boot Camp, Mary Jane and Betsy (their first daughter) joined him in the San Diego area. They moved soon after to Vallejo, California for his training as a Data Systems Technician before he was assigned to the Paul F. Foster, a destroyer class ship in Long Beach, California. During his time on board the ship he went on two WestPac tours with ports in Hawaii, Philippines, and Australia.

When not on the ship, he joined his family in Hawaiian Gardens, California, where Charity and Heidi (2nd and 3rd daughters) were born, as well as in Long Beach Naval housing. In 1986 Joel had a compound fracture of his right ankle and was transferred off the ship. The family lived in Signal Hill for a few months and then went to Seaside, California, living on the Fort Ord Army Base while Joel worked at the Fleet Numerical Oceanographic Center in Monterey repairing computers. He finished his military career with an honorable discharge on September 23, 1988.

The family returned to Oregon City, Oregon for transition to civilian life, then moved to Beaverton, Oregon when Joel became employed with Epson, working in computer research and development. In 1991, Joel and Mary Jane bought a home in St. Helens, Oregon, where they lived until 1999. Their fourth

daughter, Kathryn, was born soon after moving to St. Helens in 1991. During those years, Epson closed its computer division and Joel returned to Multnomah University to get his Bachelor's degree. He started working for Warner Pacific College in Computer Support.

During their time in St. Helens the family participated in community theatre with the Shoestring Players. Joel's most memorable role was King Pellinore in Camelot.

Also in St. Helens, Joel and Mary Jane became members of the First Lutheran Church. Soon after, Joel expressed his desire to serve God more completely and applied for Seminary training. In July, 1999, Joel began his journey to become a Lutheran minister at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. He completed a Pastoral internship in Alliance, Nebraska and graduated with a Master of Divinity in May of 2003.

He began his ministry at St. John's Lutheran Church in Nezperce, Idaho in August of 2003 and was ordained January 18, 2004 at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in St. Helens, Oregon. He served in Idaho until June 2008 when he moved to Killdeer, North Dakota, having accepted a call to serve the Dunn County Parish. He was pastor of four churches in Dunn County from June 2008 to December 2011.

Joel and Mary Jane then found a home in Emerado, North Dakota, and work in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Joel became ill and was diagnosed with kidney failure. By fall of 2013 he could no longer work and was diagnosed with end stage renal failure. Joel and Mary Jane then returned to Oregon City, where Joel received treatment through the VA Hospital in Portland and Dialysis at the Davita Center in Oregon City.

Joel enjoyed spending time with family at home, on outings, at extended family events and just watching movies or playing games together. He loved music – singing in choir and playing his clarinet as well as listening. His favorites were hymns, classical, Celtic, Mannheim Steamroller, ABBA and Pink Floyd; but Christmas music topped them all. He would play it year round until the kids said he must wait until July to start Christmas songs.

Joel liked to bake and cook. His specialty was an authentic lasagna recipe acquired from a missionary friend who worked in Italy. Writing was a passion of his as he spent many hours on his computer expressing his thoughts and feelings. He wrote a weekly column for the local papers where he was a pastor. He also self-published several books and e-books. Animals loved Joel and he had a special bond with the family dog Puppo, a Welsh Corgi/Toy Shepard mix, when he was growing up. Later, he was adopted by three cats: Patches, Toupee, and Pfeffer (Pepper). When Joel became disabled, he began oil painting and found art to be a source of joy for himself. When he was no longer able to paint, he passed time with adult coloring books.

He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Mary Jane (Cameron) Sauerwein of Portland, Oregon; his children Betsy Marie Brandvik (husband Layne Brandvik) of Dickinson, North Dakota, Charity Anne Huggett (husband Jared Huggett) of Beaverton, Oregon, Heidi Rose Sauerwein of Portland, Oregon, and Kathryn Joelle Booth (husband Joseph Booth) of Little Rock, Arkansas; eight grandchildren Cameron Sauerwein, Conner Devero, Catelyn Devero, Stephen Huggett, Austin Huggett, William Cagle, Rose Cagle, and Charlie Brandvik; two brothers Timothy E. Sauerwein (wife Shirley) of Portland, Oregon and Andrew M. Sauerwein (wife Quita) of Jacksonville, Mississippi; sister Jane Gibson; nephew Christopher Sauerwein; nieces Ria Sauerwein, Lisa Holscher and Hannah Sauerwein. He was preceded in death by his parents Daniel E. Sauerwein and Lois M. Sauerwein (Hopkins).

Cemetery Details

Willamette National Cemetery

11800 SE Mt Scott Blvd
Portland, OR 97086

Previous Events

Committal Service w/ Military Honors

MAR 14. 10:00 AM (PT)

Willamette National Cemetery
11800 SE Mt Scott Blvd
Portland, OR 97086

Memorial Service

MAR 14. 1:00 PM (PT)

Clackamas Bible Church
15655 SE Johnson Rd.
Clackamas, OR 97015

Tribute Wall



“ *Hillside Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Joel David Sauerwein*



Hillside Chapel - March 16, 2017 at 01:41 PM



“ *Joel David Sauerwein*

January 28, 2023 at 02:51 PM



“ *Ellen Gilliland lit a candle in memory of Joel David Sauerwein*



Ellen Gilliland - June 19, 2017 at 04:56 PM



“ *Gail Hart lit a candle in memory of Joel David Sauerwein*



Gail Hart - June 19, 2017 at 04:44 PM

JB

“ We send our sympathy to the whole family, remembering you from the says at Wartburg Seminary. God'a peace to all of you as you give thanks for Joel's life and share memories of him. Judy and Jim Bailey

Jim and Judy Bailey - March 25, 2017 at 10:54 AM



Thank you.

Kathryn Booth - March 30, 2017 at 09:08 PM

RP

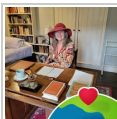
“ Our sympathy goes out to your family. We knew all of you during our seminary time. Joel was a hard worker and devoted servant of Jesus Christ. He will be surely missed and long remembered by all whose lives he touched. Rest in peace old friend.
Rev. Harold L. Peterson and Dolores Peterson.

Rev. Harold L. Peterson - March 25, 2017 at 08:12 AM



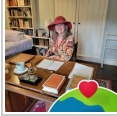
Thank you for your kind words.

Kathryn Booth - March 30, 2017 at 09:08 PM



Thank you for sharing the faith and life of the The Reverend Joel Sauerwein. Thank you for coming to Nezperce and St. John Lutheran and sharing in the life of the community. I read the notice today in the Lutheran and send my condolences and prayers for strength and the comfort of the Lord Jesus on the journey until death will be no more.
Peace of the Lord,
The Reverend Gail Hart

Gail Hart - June 19, 2017 at 04:44 PM



Ken Hart sends his condolences and prayers.

Gail Hart - June 19, 2017 at 04:46 PM



“ *Charity Huggett lit a candle in memory of Joel David Sauerwein*



Charity Huggett - March 24, 2017 at 10:48 PM



“ *Kathryn Booth sent a virtual gift in memory of Joel David Sauerwein*



Kathryn Booth - March 18, 2017 at 12:06 AM



“ *Charity Huggett lit a candle in memory of Joel David Sauerwein*



Charity Huggett - March 11, 2017 at 10:51 AM



“ I first met Joel at Trout Creek Bible Camp when he was on the crew and I was a counselor. He worked hard and had fun as well. I appreciated his sense of humor. Then while we were attending Multnomah, I ran across him at the little public library near the college. Together we read a picture book, apparently one of his favorites, "Are You My Mother?" I have a great memory of him reading each page and cracking up at the illustrations and story, especially the steam shovel's sound, something like "snert." This probably isn't the type of memory you were expecting, but after Joel's brother became my brother-in-law, every time Joel and I ran into each other at family gatherings we would reminisce about that funny book and laugh again. I also remember Joel as a godly man who wanted to teach God's word accurately and in a way that met the needs of the people he spoke to. I was blessed to know him.
Laura Peet

GordonLaura Peet - March 09, 2017 at 11:53 AM



Thank you so much for your memory and your kind words. They are very appreciated. I think this memory was just perfect.

Kathryn Booth - March 10, 2017 at 03:28 PM



This is a beautiful memory

Charity Huggett - March 11, 2017 at 10:52 AM



“ These were sent to my sister on Facebook, and she felt them to be very meaningful. We felt we wanted to share them to this page. Each quote will have the name of the person who posted it after it. Thank you for your kind words and prayers.

"I am so, so sorry, Charity. We were school chums together, and brothers in Christ . . . often at each other's houses. last time I saw him was many years ago, maybe early 1990s? I think I may remember you . . . I seem to recall you pronouncing magnet as "maglet".

My - our, as Cynthia my wife will remember - hearts go out to you all. May the love of our Savior enfold you all. Been a tough time of year . . . my father-in-law went home to be with Jesus a couple of weeks ago."

Alfred Corduan

"I am grateful I had the opportunity to meet him. I am praying comfort & peace for the family."

Lori Lynn Holscher

"Charity, I had the honor of attending Wartburg with your father. My memories include how very much he loved you and your family. My deepest sympathy to you, your mother and your whole family."

Mary Lou Aune

"What sad news. Joel was a good friend and we liked to challenge each other in class. He will be missed, but I am glad he is at peace. Peace to you and your family also."

Jira Albert

"Charity, while he was at Wartburg, I came to respect Joel as a wise and deeply compassionate man to whom many gravitated, quietly and so appreciatively. I am confident that such character constituted a devoted husband to Mary Jane, faithful father to you, and beloved pastor to many. I am sorry for your loss and for this loss to ministry. I

am grateful more for the gift of God he was. Precious in God's sight are his saints. The peace of the Risen Lord be with you!"

Duane Larson

"May God's peace surround you and uphold you as you grieve. Joel was my colleague here in Western North Dakota Synod. We are praying for you."

Lisa Ahlness

"May he rest in God's light eternal, in the blessed arms of Jesus. May you, Charity, and all who loved him be comforted in your grief. I remember driving a vehicle full of Wartburg kids to school using your parents van."

P Jack Way Jr

"I can see his gentleness and genuineness and love in his eyes...what an amazing blessing to have had him in your life. God blesses us in so many ways and now He has one of His children back in total peace...I hope my children will be happy for me too when that day comes."

Silvia Maria Fletcher

Kathryn Booth - March 08, 2017 at 01:27 PM

PH

“*Dear Mary Jane & family, My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. Joel was a kind, thoughtful, gentle man and left a profound impression on me during the time he was our pastor at St John's and as our GIFTS. He was so intelligent and was a great writer. I am so fortunate to have known him. Just know that I care for you & will keep you I my thoughts and prayers as you recover & heals from his loss. In loving sympathy, Pam Hartman*

pam hartman - March 08, 2017 at 11:03 AM



Thank you very much for your kind words. They are very appreciated.

Kathryn Booth - March 17, 2017 at 01:52 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joel David Sauerwein.*



March 05, 2017 at 03:19 AM



“ *Kathryn Booth lit a candle in memory of Joel David Sauerwein*



Kathryn Booth - March 02, 2017 at 02:49 PM