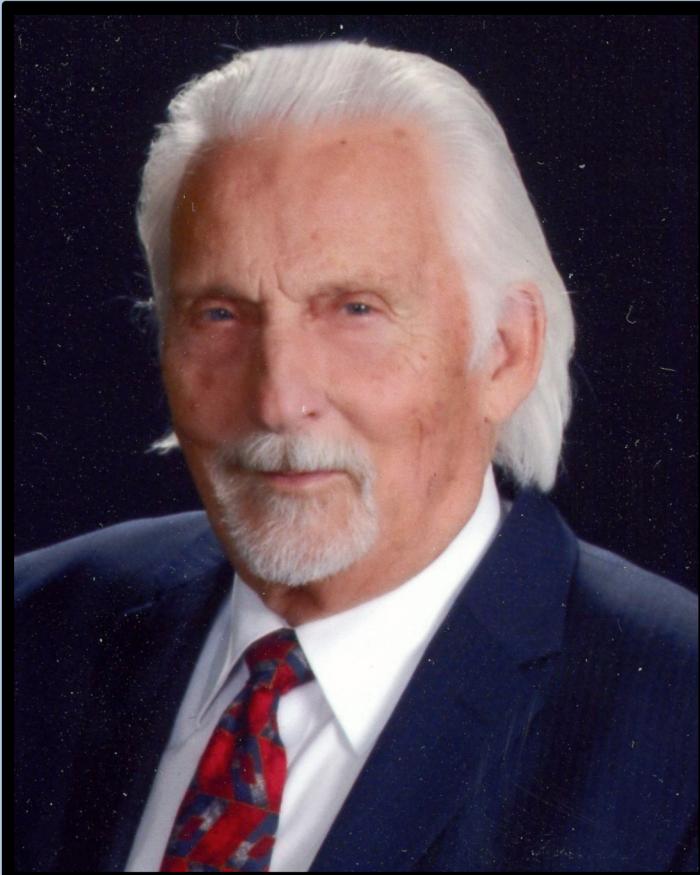


Pastor James Bjorge



April 10, 1931 - September 29, 2025

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me
the crown of righteousness, which the Lord,
the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day,
and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

~ 2 Timothy 4:7-8

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 paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil;
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff,
they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
thou anointest 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
for ever.

~ Psalm 23

I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From whence does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved,
he who keeps you will not slumber.
Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade
on your right hand.
The sun shall not smite you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and for evermore.

~ Psalm 121

Funeral Service

Friday, October 10, 2025 - 10:30 AM

First Lutheran Church - Fargo, North Dakota

Pastor Marty Tollefson & Pastor Stephanie Tollefson, *Officiants*
Bill Tweten, *Organist* David Ferreira, *Vocalist* Alex Rydell, *Violinist*

Order of Service

Prelude

Entrance Hymn “The Church’s One Foundation” #369

Welcome/Prayer Pastor Marty Tollefson

Scripture Reading Psalm 121

“Celebrate Me Home” David Ferreira

Reflections from Family Rev. Nate Bjorge

Scripture Readings 2 Timothy 4:1-8

Romans 10:13-17

Gospel/Message Pastor Stephanie Tollefson

“To God Be the Glory” David Ferreira

Apostles Creed

Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer

Psalm 23

“Sæterjentens Søndag” by Ole Bull Alex Rydell

Commendation

Benediction

Hymn “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” #294

Postlude

Pallbearers

Andrew Bjorge - Shane Turgeon - Johs Bjorge - Jens Bjorge

Kaj Bjorge - Haakon Bjorge - Haden Bjorge

Nolen Bjorge - Masen Bjorge - Greyson Bjorge

Interment

Ellsborough Lutheran Church Cemetery - Lake Wilson, Minnesota

All are invited to a luncheon following the service.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

~ Romans 1:16

James Richard Bjorge, child of God, went home to be with his LORD and Savior, Jesus Christ, on September 29, 2025. He was 94.

James (Jim) Bjorge was born April 10, 1931 in Windom, Minnesota to Johs and Esther (Johnson) Bjorge, the second of three sons. He was raised in a loving Norwegian (with a touch of Swedish) home. Growing up in Windom was a special time of friendships for Jim. He experienced multi-denominational youth groups, boyish pranks, a respect for others, and most importantly the knowledge of Jesus' love for him.

After graduating from Windom High School, Jim attended St. Olaf College and graduated with honors. He went on to Luther Seminary and received his M.Div. Jim always credited his older brother 'Big John' for encouraging him to attend seminary. Although this was not Jim's original path choice, he received the calling from God and enrolled in seminary. Some years later he attended Westminster Theological Seminary in Escondido, California and earned his Doctor of Ministry degree.

Along with being an excellent scholar, Jim had a love for basketball, tennis, and high jumping. His 6'4" frame broke high jumping records in college and in varsity at seminary.

After seminary graduation in 1957, and before Jim began his first call to Belgrade, Minnesota, he met Frances Erickson, an Augustana graduate. After a few dates the courtship continued with many letters sent during Fran's first year of teaching in California. They were married the next summer. Five children were born to this union.

Jim, with Fran and family, served parishes in Belgrade, Litchfield, and Roseville, Minnesota, Viroqua, Wisconsin, Sioux City, Iowa, and lastly First Lutheran in Fargo, North Dakota. Jim retired from full-time parish ministry after serving 17 years at First Lutheran. He continued to share the Word by accepting an interim position in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. After Fran's death in 2002, Jim continued with interim preaching at Wahpeton, Fargo, Portland, Grand Forks, Valley City, Horace, and Enderlin, all in North Dakota. In addition to serving his parishes, Jim authored 15 books, which include sermon series, lessons from nature and 2 books on marriage.

In 2010 during a short interim at Faith Lutheran in Valley City, Jim met Carol Winter, also widowed, with a heart for music ministry through her singing. The LORD had a plan for Jim and Carol. After a brief courtship, they were married in the Chapel at Mount Carmel Family Bible Camp near Alexandria, Minnesota. Jim had attended Mount Carmel since its beginning in 1938, first as a young boy with his parents, then as a young handsome lifeguard during college summer breaks. He was later a guest preacher for many years at summer adult camp sessions. He continued to speak God's Word with joy until health issues halted him at age 88. The desire to continue sharing the Gospel never left him, even from his bed at Sanford Hospice House.

Jim served on many boards in all of these parish communities. He especially enjoyed being chairman of the Red River Valley Billy Graham Crusade in 1987, and being a member of the Lutheran Health and Banner Health Systems boards from 1990 - 2005. Being on these boards sparked his love of travel, taking trips to the British Isles, Scandinavia, Europe, the Middle East, and Australia. He led many bus tours throughout the U.S. and tour groups 19 times to Israel, Jordan, and Egypt. Two trips to the Passion Play Performance in Germany were tucked into his travels also.

A noted and gifted motivational speaker, Jim spoke to several varied groups locally and around the country including the Fellowship of Christian Athletes national gathering. As Joe Dill, a former Fargo Forum editor, stated, "Jim Bjorge is among the best speakers I have heard - stands in front of a group with no cards, and it just rolls out"!

Throughout his life, Jim was a sports enthusiast and a lover of the outdoors and creation. He was an avid hunter of deer and pheasant. Antelope, other game birds, various animal pelts, and fish also adorned his man cave walls. He ruled the remote when his favorite basketball, baseball, and football games were on TV. Another pastime he enjoyed was hobby ranching and always had horses.

Jim is survived by his wife, Carol; children, Barak (Katie), Debbie, Nate (Kate), Tim (Amy), Ben (Renata) Bjorge; Carol's two children, Dawn and Brian Winter; sixteen grandchildren; fifteen great grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Johs and Esther; brothers, John and Mark; grandson, Willie Bjorge; and his first wife, Fran.

The Church's One Foundation



1 The Church's . . . one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der This world sees her op-pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war,



She is his new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
 Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
 By schisms . . . rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis-tressed,
 She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more;



From heav'n he came and sought her To be his ho - ly bride;
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
 Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up: "How long?"
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,



With his own blood he bought her, And for her life he died.
 And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
 And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.



My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

294

1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'
 2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood Sus - tain me
 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I

blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my
 his un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and
 in the rag - ing flood; When all sup - ports are
 then in him be found, Clothed in his righ - teous -

own I claim, But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 washed a - way, He then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain

On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.



HANSON RUNSVOLD

Cremation • Burial



Paul speaking to Timothy, “preach the word, be urgent in season and out of season; convince, rebuke, exhort, be unfailing in patience and in teaching”

~ 2 Timothy 4:2