

Rev. Clair Jerome Schwalm, 87, of Fargo, North Dakota, passed away on Wednesday, December 24, 2025, at Sanford Hospice House in Fargo.

Clair was born on July 6, 1938, in Midland, South Dakota, to Fred and Malinda (Dale) Schwalm. He was raised in the Rapid City area and graduated from Rapid City High School in 1956. During his high school years, he worked for the Rapid City Journal newspaper.

In 1958, Clair married Arlene DeJong. Together they had five children.

Clair pursued his calling to ministry by attending the Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota, for two years, followed by Augsburg College, where he earned his bachelor's degree. He then attended Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, and was ordained in 1967 in Leonard, North Dakota. He served there for three years before working with the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement, traveling extensively throughout North Dakota, Minnesota, and Canada. In 1973, Clair accepted a call to Glyndon Lutheran Church, where he served until 1980. In 1982, he accepted a call to Manvel, North Dakota, serving two congregations.

In 1983, Clair married Virginia (VanOrsdale) Stenerson in the country church in Manvel where he was serving. They lived in Pennsylvania for twelve years, where they were active members of a home church. In 2003, they retired and moved to a property near Park Rapids, Minnesota, where they lived until 2017. They then moved to Dilworth, Minnesota, and spent several winters in SanTan Valley, Arizona. In 2024, they moved to Touchmark at Harwood Groves.

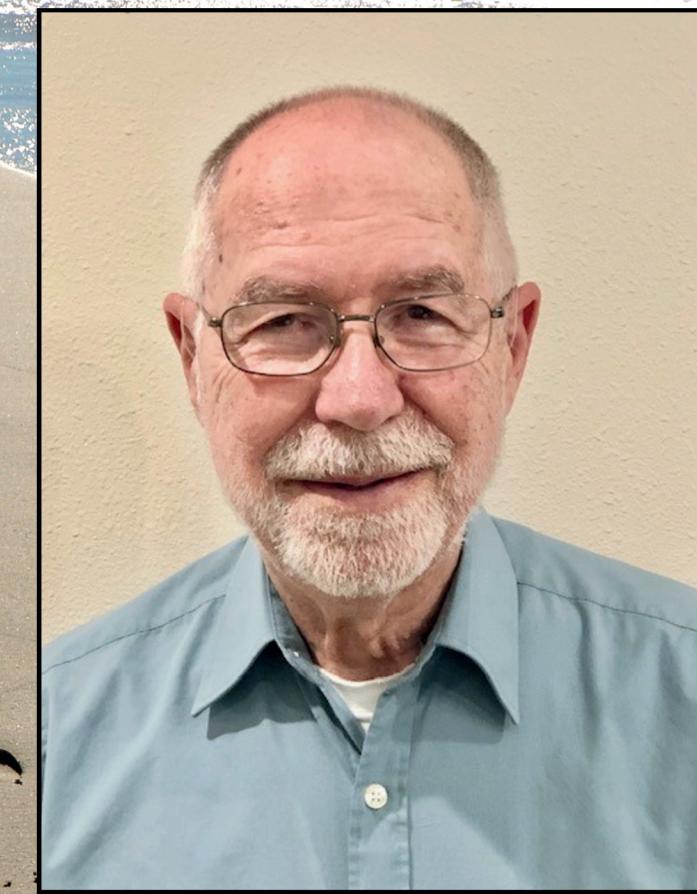
Clair deeply enjoyed visiting with people and spending time outdoors. He was especially known for sitting outside on the driveway, waiting for passersby to stop and talk, affectionately referring to this time as his "Garage Apron Ministry."

On October 2, 2025, Clair suffered a stroke and remained hospitalized and in hospice care until his passing.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

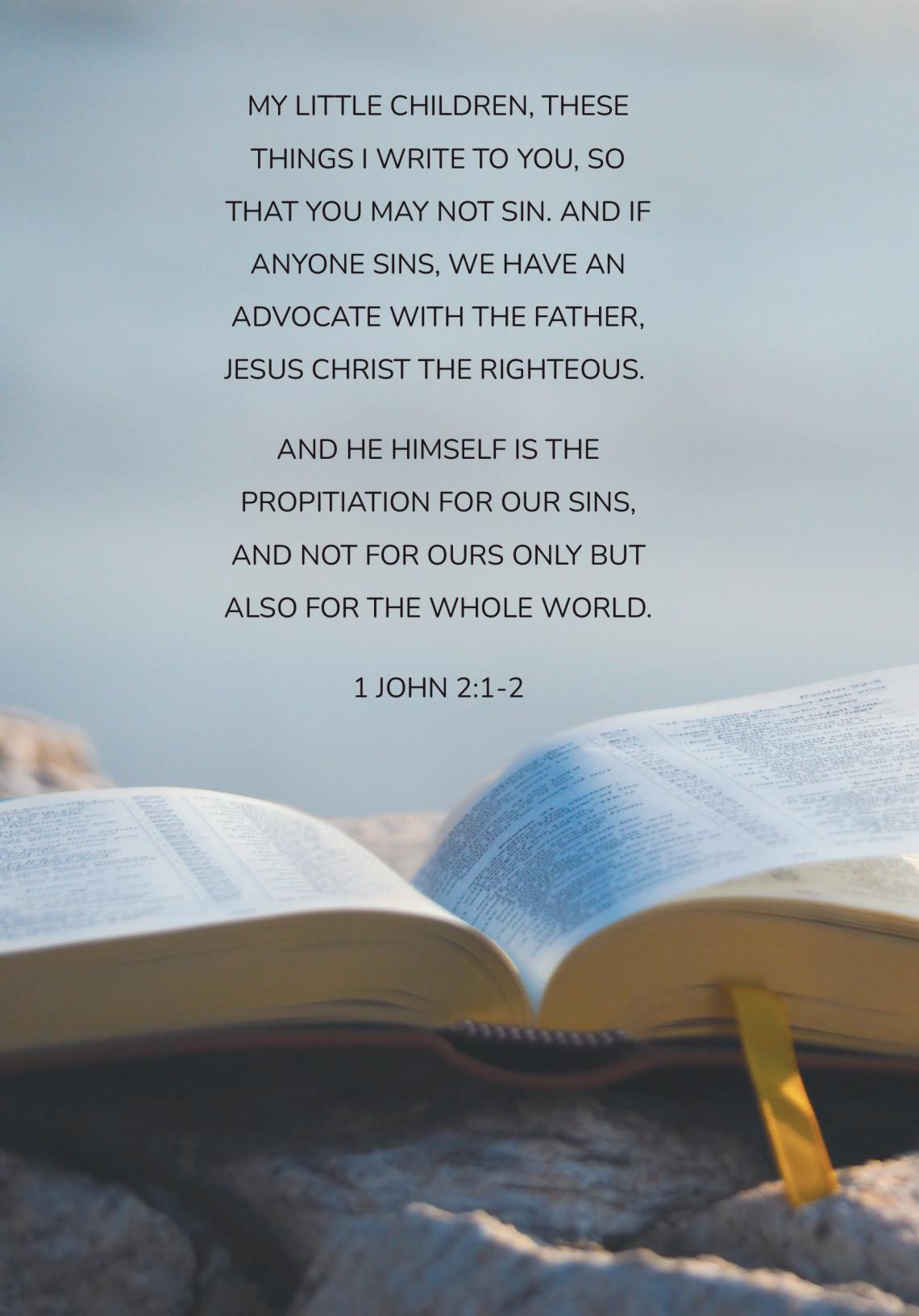
Clair is survived by his wife of 42 years, Virginia; his children, Rebekah (Dan) Nelson of Rockwall, Texas; Debra (Michael) Beckett of Barnesville, Minnesota; Philip (Barb) Schwalm of Owasso, Oklahoma; Miriam (Brian) Hermes of Osseo, Minnesota; and Gloria (Tom) Devine of Springfield, Tennessee; his sister, Karen Taylor of Aurora, Colorado; and his stepchildren, Jon (Beth) Stenerson of Las Cruces, New Mexico; Nancy (Tony) Gonzales of San Diego, California; and Kristin (Doug) Johnson of Glyndon, Minnesota. Together, Clair and Virginia were blessed with seventeen grandchildren, twenty-eight great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

**IN LOVING MEMORY**



**REV. CLAIR JEROME  
SCHWALM**

**July 6, 1938 - December 24, 2025**



MY LITTLE CHILDREN, THESE  
THINGS I WRITE TO YOU, SO  
THAT YOU MAY NOT SIN. AND IF  
ANYONE SINS, WE HAVE AN  
ADVOCATE WITH THE FATHER,  
JESUS CHRIST THE RIGHTEOUS.

AND HE HIMSELF IS THE  
PROPIRATION FOR OUR SINS,  
AND NOT FOR OURS ONLY BUT  
ALSO FOR THE WHOLE WORLD.

1 JOHN 2:1-2

Remembering

## REV. CLAIR SCHWALM

July 6, 1938 - December 24, 2025

### Celebration of Life

Saturday, January 24, 2026 - 2:00 PM  
Hanson-Runsvold Funeral Home  
Fargo, North Dakota

Pastor Paul McKibben, Officiant  
Kayla Bernier, Accompanist  
Don Holman, Soloist

### Order of Service

Welcome

Congregational Hymn                    "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Reading of the Obituary

Special Music                            "It Is Well With My Soul"

Scripture Readings                    2 Corinthians 5:14-21

    2 Timothy 2:2

Congregational Hymn                    "In Christ Alone"

Meditation

Special Music                            "I Will Bring You Home"

Sharing of Memories

Closing Remarks

Congregational Hymn

    "Amazing Grace"

### Interment

Riverside Cemetery Columbarium  
Moorhead, Minnesota

*All are invited to a luncheon following the service.*

## AMAZING GRACE

450

NEW BRITAIN

1. A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound That saved \*a  
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my  
 3. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His word my  
 4. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al -  
 5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright shin - ing

1. wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 2. fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that  
 3. hope se - cures; He will my shield and  
 4. read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me  
 5. as the sun, We've no less days to

1. now am found, Was blind but now I see.  
 2. grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!  
 3. por - tion be As long as life en - dures.  
 4. safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.  
 5. sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

\*Alternate Text: "and set me free!"

Text: CM; verses 1-4, John Newton, 1725-1807; verse 5, anon., fr. *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790.  
 Music: *Columbian Harmony*, 1829.

TRUST.



HANSON  
RUNSVOLD  
Cremation • Burial

# CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS



## Holy, Holy, Holy

165

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.  
Tune: John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

NICAEA  
11 12 12 10

## IN CHRIST ALONE

404

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

Acc #935