

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.

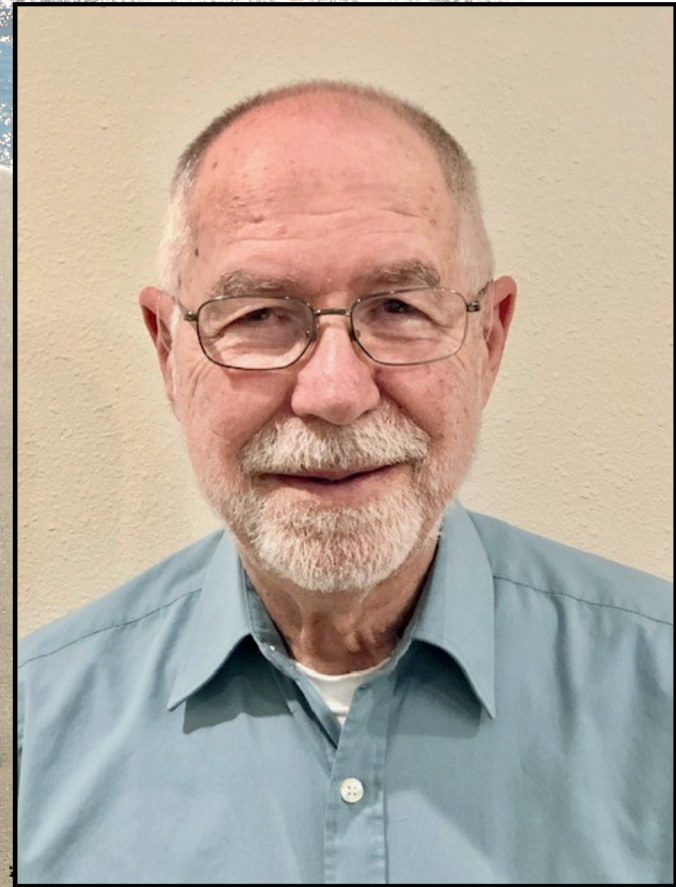
Clair deeply enjoyed visiting with people and spending time outdoors. He was especially known for sitting outside on the driveway, waiting for passersby to stop and talk, affectionately referring to this time as his "Garage Apron Ministry."

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
PROPITIATION 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

Acc #60 / CP4 #189

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

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS



HANSON
RUNSVOLD

Cremation • Burial

Holy, Holy, Holy

165

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 Though the eye made blind by sin thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 On - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 Which wert and art and ev - er - more shalt be.
 Per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

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

NCAEA
 11 12 10

IN CHRIST ALONE

404

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

lcc #935

1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found, he is my light, my
 2. In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full-ness of God in
 3. There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the world, by
 4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of

1. strength, my song; this cor - ner-stone, this sol - id ground,
 2. help - less babe! This gift of love and righ-teous - ness,
 3. dark - ness slain; then, burst - ing forth in glo - rious day,
 4. Christ in me; from life's first cry to fi - nal breath,

1. firm through the fier - est drought and storm. What heights of
 2. scorned by the ones he came to save. Till on that
 3. up from the grave he rose a - gain! And as he
 4. Je - sus com-mands my des - ti - ny. No pow'r of

1. love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv-ings
 2. cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sat - is -
 3. stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on
 4. hell, no scheme of man, can ev - er pluck me from his

1. cease. My com - fort - er, my all in all, here in the
 2. fied. For ev - ery sin on him was laid; here in the
 3. me; for I am his and he is mine, bought with the
 4. hand; till he re - turns or calls me home, here in the

1. love of Christ I stand.
 2. death of Christ I live.
 3. pre - cious blood of Christ.
 4. pow'r of Christ I'll stand!