

Rev. Emil Martinson, 84

May 13, 1920 - Jan. 12, 2005

APPLETON, WI — Rev. Emil Carroll Martinson was born May 13, 1920, to Tollef and Ingeborg Martinson in rural Dalton, MN. After graduating from Augsburg College in 1943, he served as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1945. After release from the military service, he attended Augsburg Seminary, and was ordained into the Lutheran ministry in 1949.

He married Jeanette Solvei Jacobson Aug. 28, 1948. During his career in the ministry, he served as pastor at St. Ola and Pukwana Lutheran Churches, Pukwana, SD (1949-1953); Trinity First and Napoleon Lutheran Churches, Kintyre, ND (1953-1957); Argyle and Adams Lutheran Churches, Argyle, WI (1957-1964); Big Canoe and Highland Lutheran Churches in rural Decorah (1964-1974); St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Irwin (1974-1981); and Beaver Creek and Faith Lutheran Churches near Forest City (1981-1987). Following retirement in 1987, they lived and worked at Holden Village, a church retreat center in the Cascade Mountain region of Washington state, for a year before returning to Decorah in 1988, where they lived until moving to Appleton, WI, in 2004. Following retirement, he served as visitation pastor with St. John's Lutheran Church in Waukon and Decorah Lutheran Church through the late 90's. His interest in music resulted in continuing involvement in two family singing groups, the Martinson Family Singers and "His Gang", who both performed in area churches and toured throughout the Midwest. Emil was a lifetime member of the Luren Singing Society, and accompanied them on several trips to Norway. Emil and Jeanette are members of Decorah Lutheran Church. He died Jan. 12, 2005, at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Appleton, following a short illness at age 84.

Emil was preceded in death by his son, Stephen Charles Martinson of Decorah in 2001; his parents; one sister, Ida T. Haukos, and her husband, Orton; two brothers, Milton and Clarence Martinson. He is survived by his wife, Jeanette Martinson, Appleton, WI; one son, Timothy Martinson (Joanna) Lynch, Ithaca, NY; three daughters, Patsy Martinson, Decorah; Sonja Juffer (Kirk) Shorewood, WI; and Lisa Martinson (Grant) Nelson, Appleton, WI; one daughter-in-law, Kate Ruane Martinson, Decorah; seven grandchildren, James Kristoffer Martinson, Gustaf Herman Juffer, Robin Ann Martinson, Gudrun Juffer, Helen Juffer, Emily Laurel Nelson and Wren Lynch Martinson; two sisters-in-law, Helen Irene Martinson (Clarence) Fergus Falls, MN and Helen Harriett Martinson (Milton), Ashby, MN.

Funeral services were held Jan. 17, 2005, at the Decorah Lutheran Church with Rev. James Glesne, Rev. Bryan Robertson and Rev. R. David Berg officiating. Burial was in the Sarpsborg Cemetery, Dalton, MN, with graveside services by Rev. George Grage. Casket bearers were Patsy Martinson, Sonja Juffer, Lisa Martinson and Tim Martinson. Schluter and Balik Funeral Home, Decorah, in charge of arrangements.

