



Rev John R. Hopkins

May 1, 1962 - August 10, 2024

Reverend John R. Hopkins, age 62 of Bourbonnais, passed away Saturday, August 10, 2024, at Riverside Medical Center, Kankakee. He was born May 1, 1962 in Kansas City, MO, the son of George and Joan (Gabrielson) Hopkins. John married Donna Arand in 1985 in Overland Park, KS. John was a pastor for 29 years. He ministered churches in St. Petersburg, FL, Topeka, KS, Savannah, GA, and Hicksville, NY. John was an avid Kansas City Royals and Kansas City Chiefs fan. He was a proud alumnus of Kansas State University. John was known as a dad joke connoisseur. He loved the Lord and wanted everyone to know.

John was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Kankakee.

Surviving is his wife, Donna of Bourbonnais; three sons, Nathan (Kourtney) Hopkins, David (Laura McCauley) Hopkins, Jacob Hopkins, all of Bourbonnais; one daughter, Rachel Hopkins, Nairobi, Kenya; three sisters, Debbie (Tim) Adams of Fort Worth, TX, Nancy (David) Burandt of Lexington, KY, Barbara Orsund of St. Louis, MO; and three grandchildren, Mason, Preston, and Easton.

John is preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation will be from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the 11:00 a.m. funeral service on Thursday, August 15, 2024, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Kankakee. Reverend Karl Koeppen will officiate the service. Burial will follow in All Saints Cemetery, Bourbonnais.

Memorials may be made to Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog

Ministries.

Arrangements by Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Bourbonnais.

Cemetery Details

All Saints Cemetery

1839 W. Route 102
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 933-2342

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 15. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul Lutheran Church
348 E. Merchant
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-0312
<http://www.stpaulslutheran.net>

Funeral Service

AUG 15. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul Lutheran Church
348 E. Merchant
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-0312
<http://www.stpaulslutheran.net>

Tribute Wall

MP

“ Rachel's dad is what I always called Pastor John. He made me laugh whenever Rachel called me when she was with him, or we would call her family from China. He loved to make fun of the fact that I was from Canada- I had no clue why (HA)!!

He would often tease me about the numerous packages of clothes I would order to Rachel's house, reminding me that he wanted something in his size for my following orders. He said he was tired of stretching out the clothes I ordered. I loved this and never tired of it. His sense of humour was a gift. I will miss those silly calls. What a loss.

Meredith Phinney - August 26, 2024 at 07:42 AM

JT

“ Pastor Hopkins helped lead me through my new member class at Grace in St. Pete. He was such a nice, caring, intelligent pastor with a wonderful sense of humor. He was so welcoming and genuinely cared about his parishioners. My father-in-law loved him too. Pastor Hopkins visited Jim regularly when he had a huge health scare. Jim talks about Pastor Hopkins still- at the ripe old age of 88 now. Donna- I remember singing with you and I was sad when you and your family were called to another congregation- but what a life you all had! You have the love and support of so many around the country at this difficult time. We know where Pastor Hopkins is- in the loving arms of Jesus- and since we know our Redeemer lives, we will all meet again. Prayers of love, comfort and peace to you all. Jennifer Tippett and family

Jennifer Tippett - August 17, 2024 at 08:56 AM

DB

“ Dear Donna and Family,

I just heard this tragic news from Jennifer Tippett this morning. I will forever cherish the memories that I have serving with you all as Director of Music at Grace Lutheran in Saint Petersburg, Fla. back in the late 90s. John was such a caring Pastor with a great sense of humor and love for his work.

Jeanne and I both send our love and our prayers to you and the family for peace and comfort.

Please stay in touch

Sincerely,

Bill Brusick

Minister of Music

Trinity Klein Lutheran Church

Spring, Texas

Dr. Bill Brusick - August 15, 2024 at 04:12 PM

Betsy Lazarek

“ My deepest condolences go out to you, the Hopkins family. You are continually in my heart and in my prayers. My heart is breaking but, at the same time, it's filled with joy knowing that our beloved Pastor Hopkins is now resting in the arms of Jesus where he has no more pain or suffering.

It was my greatest joy to serve as a deacon at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hicksville along side of our dear Pastor Hopkins. He was a beautiful, humble servant of the Lord. I have missed him so much! I miss his smile, his warmth, his compassion, his teaching and preaching. We at Trinity were so blessed beyond measure to have him as our shepherd. I especially felt blessed because he was always there for me and my husband, Paul, when he was so sick and constantly in and out of the hospital. Pastor would check on me regularly with a call asking how I was doing. I would pour out my heart and my fears to him and he would always listen, give me guidance, and then pray for me. What a blessing he was!

I think the memory that I will always cherish is his last day at Trinity that he preached. It was Easter Sunday and I had the privilege of serving with him at the last Service of the day and giving him Communion for the last time. I don't know how I held it together, but I did because of the beautiful words he spoke that day. He said, for the Christian, there are no goodbyes - only see you later.

So, see you later, Pastor Hopkins!

Betsy Lazarek

Betsy Lazarek - August 15, 2024 at 09:52 AM

SJ

“ Sarah B. Johnston lit a candle in memory of Rev John R. Hopkins



Sarah B. Johnston - August 14, 2024 at 06:10 AM

LI

“ Dear Donna and family. My heart and prayers go out to you during your time of loss. I missed pastor from the day he had to leave Trinity Hicksville. He was a special man of God. I have happy memories of him and your family dressing up for trunk or treat. He got so much joy out of it that it was contagious. I still smile when I think of his silly jokes and funny stories during Bible study and his willingness to answer all our questions. I know Jesus met him in heaven with the words well done good and faithful servant. He will be greatly missed. Love Linda Brady Strom

linda - August 13, 2024 at 07:33 AM

KE

“ I followed Pastor (on line) to Hicksville, NY to hear his sermons which always gave me hope & comfort in these troubled times...

Karin Edwards - August 12, 2024 at 06:50 PM

LM

“ Pastor Hopkins was our pastor in Savannah GA. He was a very caring & kind man. We are grateful to have known him and his family. May you feel God's arms around you and know you are loved.

Sonny & Louise Massey

louise massey - August 12, 2024 at 05:03 PM

BT

“ It was a privilege to have worked with John for the ten years you were in Savannah. We had many interesting and uplifting discussions. I will never forget how much he helped me because you came here right after my husband died. He gave me much comfort. It will be great to “see him later “! My heart goes out to all of you.

Bettyann Talley - August 12, 2024 at 04:54 PM

AC

“ *Pastor Hopkins was a very special Pastor/friend to my family during the time he was Pastor at Trinity Savannah. I will always remember his smile. A very personal smile during the time of celebrating The Lord's Supper. We kept in touch every now and then after he left Savannah and occasionally on Face Book. He will be missed by his family and many, many friends and acquaintances . I plan on seeing you "later" beyond the Pearly Gates. Arlene Crofoot*

Arlene Crofoot - August 12, 2024 at 03:43 PM

WH

“ *Dear Donna and family,
I served along side Pastor Hopkins as Trinity's Council President for five years. He was such a caring, insightful and spiritual person. I miss him. Rest in peace Pastor Hopkins.*

Wayne Hoerberlein - August 12, 2024 at 03:34 PM

SL

“ *Pastor Hopkins was a special part of my family. He was fun loving, big Chiefs fan, (had a Chiefs helmet that he showed us during a Divine Service!), gave the best hugs and had the cutest thumbs! He conducted a beautiful service at Trinity Lutheran Church, Savannah, GA (TLC) and at military burial for my Jack. He was the first "Top Dog" to TLC comfort dog, Lizzie. He loved Jesus, family and friends. I can hear him laughing and talking with our heavenly Father. Prayers of comfort, love, peace and blessings be with Donna and family.
Shirley and son, Michael*

Shirley Lewis - August 12, 2024 at 03:28 PM

AC

“ So sad for your loss but end happy he is home with Jesus in the company of all saints and angels. Pastor John was a good friend who carried Trinity Hicksville through the pandemic with his wise leadership. He counseled me in my own time of sickness and visited me in hospital during that time. He shared with us a midwestern sense of humor and folksy stories. I found this rather amusing as I had to read one or two of his sermons from the pulpit.

Anthony Cavaliere - August 12, 2024 at 03:03 PM

LM

Many prayers for the Hopkins family as they begin the journey without this special man, husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle. Grieving here as I rejoice in where he is. I remember when y'all first came to Savannah for interview and I knew he would be our call. So many memories of Pastor and you Donna and the 'kids' as we were part of seeing their growth and going on out on their own. Pastor helped through the death of my husband, Bob. Many memories 💔🙏
Lonna McEwen

Lonna McEwen - August 16, 2024 at 05:21 PM