



PASTOR STEPHEN ARTHUR GRUNLAN

February 9, 1942 - February 11, 2020

Pastor Stephen A. Grunlan, 78, of Brownsville, MN, died unexpectedly on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at his home.

He was born February 9, 1942, in New York City and at the age of 11 months he was adopted by Magnus and Esther (Helliksen) Grunlan from the foundling hospital on Manhattan Island.

Steve served in the U.S. Army for 5 years as a Sergeant. He was united in marriage to Sandra Smits in 1964. After service, he attended school for 17 years, receiving 2 Master Degrees and a Doctorate of Ministry in Pastoral Psychology at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN.

Steve served coast to coast in many smaller churches helping them to grow and mature in the faith. He holds credentials for the Evangelical Free Church of America, and the Christian and Missionary Alliance Denomination. He moved to Brownsville in 2017 and was currently the pastor at Zion Evangelical Church.

He is survived by his wife, Sandra; 3 children, Stephen Jr. (Sonja), Jaime (Melissa) and Rebecca (Dana "Bo") Bolton; and a grandson Beau Arthur Grunlan.

Funeral services will be at 11 am on Friday, February 14, at Zion Evangelical Church, Brownsville. Visitation will be from 9-11 am before the service at the church.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **14.** 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Zion Evangelical Church
210 7th street
Brownsville, MN 55919

Service

FEB **14.** 11:00 AM (CT)

Zion Evangelical Church
210 7th street
Brownsville, MN 55919

Tribute Wall

JS

“ Steve and I were friends when we both attended the Wheaton College Graduate School, where we both primarily studied under the late Marvin K. Mayers. Our interpersonal styles were a study of contrasts, yet we enjoyed each other's company. During our time as grad students, I followed him as an instructor of Anthropology at Waubensee Community College, which I believe was the first faculty appointment for each of us.

I and my wife, Carol, have never forgotten a story told by his wife, Sandy (Sandra): Steve was watching Steve Jr., who was still an infant or toddler, while she was away from the house. When she came home, the air smelled horribly of a fermenting dirty diaper. It turned out, of course, that Steve had been concentrating so deeply on a lesson plan or lecture he was preparing, that he never noticed the smell. We all had a big laugh and I think Steve enjoyed the story as much as the rest of us. He was a good man.

John Snarey
jsnarey@live.com

John Snarey - August 23, 2021 at 12:49 PM

BP

“ *My deepest condolences to Steve's family. I grew up in the same town (Chatham, NJ) as Steve, was perhaps two years behind him in school and attended the same church as Steve and his parents. I know Steve pre-conversion and post-conversion.*

If anyone tells you that God can not or does not change people, they never met Steve. God performed an absolute miracle in Steve's life which was a thrill to witness. Steve's conversion led to a lifelong heart relationship with Jesus and allowed him to preach and glorify God through the rest of his earthly journey. Steve went from being an angry, violent teenager to a humble, obedient servant of God.

I feel a terrible loss, knowing that my friend is gone, but am elated to know that he is in the presence of his Lord and Saviour. I can just imagine him hearing, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Once in a blue moon I would email him, after finding him through an online search. This time, I waited far too long. However, those of us who worship Jesus Christ can rest assured that we will see Steve once again and rejoice with him in Heaven.

Again, my sympathies to the family, but we will see Steve again.

*Bob Pentland
Otis, Maine*

Bob Pentland - July 03, 2020 at 05:32 PM

MW

“ *Mary Ann Wynen lit a candle in memory of
PASTOR STEPHEN ARTHUR GRUNLAN*



Mary ann wynen - March 03, 2020 at 09:03 PM

MW

“ *Mary Ann Wynen lit a candle in memory of
PASTOR STEPHEN ARTHUR GRUNLAN*



Mary ann wynen - March 03, 2020 at 09:02 PM

MW

“ *So sorry about your loss jesus will put his loving arms around your whole family remember the good times you had I remember when steve grunlan asked me why I want to get baptized I said I love the lord so steve baptized me I was happen it made me feel more of a christian and steve did my fathers funeral too. We were great freinds with steve and sandy lwas glad too have a great pastor at our chruch sandy was good friend to my mom we love every thing you did for appleton alliance chruch steve is up in heaven with jesus now thats were he wanted to be. Love and prayers to your family
Mary ann and sandy wynen
Appleton Alliance chruch*

Mary ann wynen - March 03, 2020 at 08:37 PM

TJ

“ We're so sorry for your loss, but we rejoice that Pastor Grunlan is now with the Lord. He touched so many lives during his ministry. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

*Todd & Jeannine Jahnke
Appleton, Wisconsin*

Todd & Jeannine Jahnke - February 17, 2020 at 07:11 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of PASTOR STEPHEN ARTHUR GRUNLAN.



February 14, 2020 at 04:21 PM



“ Grande Gourmet Fruit Basket was purchased for the family of PASTOR STEPHEN ARTHUR GRUNLAN.



February 13, 2020 at 05:46 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of PASTOR STEPHEN ARTHUR GRUNLAN.



February 13, 2020 at 01:29 PM

JB

“ I am the District Superintendent who brought Steve into our C&MA church in Superior, WI. His strong Christ-centered character, sharp theological mind, and love for people brought renewed hope to the church. Throughout each week, Steve was determined to “live his theology”. He was an avid reader who loved to pass on leadership ideas and principles. He was humble yet confident, intellectually sharp yet witty at times, and loved to invest his spiritual insights into others. He deeply loved his family, congregation, and the Lord Jesus Christ. I am sure the Lord Jesus has the following comment to make regarding Steve’s life and ministry: “Well done, thy good and faithful servant”.

Jeff Brown - February 13, 2020 at 01:19 PM

PA

“ Steve Grunlan gave my husband, John Angell, his first job out of seminary at Appleton Alliance Church. It was such a blessing for John to learn under Steve and watch a well-trained pastor lead God's people. Steve and I had an odd but endearing tradition during our tenure at AAC. Steve would tell me blonde jokes and I would tell him "fat" jokes. We made each other laugh heartily at ourselves and the silliness of this unexpected tradition. Also, I will never forget many nuggets of apologetics Steve taught me as John and I served together at AAC. I use them to this day to help people come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. The last time we saw Steve it was in Osage, Iowa at a Hardee's. We were passing through and Steve and Sandy were serving at a church there. We laughed and reminisced about our wonderful Appleton days together. I will miss knowing Steve is still preaching....but I am thrilled for where he is now and to whom he gets to listen. Sandy, John and I are so sorry for your loss and will be praying for you during this difficult time. Love and prayers, Pam Angell

Pamela Anfell - February 13, 2020 at 11:22 AM

GL

Well said, Pam! So true in all regards. Give John a big hug from me! Seems like yesterday he married Leanne and me at AAC on Durkee Street! Pastor Grunlan helped make that marriage finally happen. Always wished I had your hubby's golf swing, Pam! Or, yours, too! You had gaaaaame!.

Sure did enjoy playing softball with John, Scott Wertz and othwrs, too! And reffing hoops with you! All part of those great memories when Pastor Steve was shepherding the flock! Perhaps I'll see you at the memorial service tomorrow. Leanne and I are heading out at 5:30AM and coming right back to Appleton commitments I have to honor. Hugs to you and yours.

Gary Lemons - February 13, 2020 at 01:55 PM

PA

Thanks Gary. John and I miss our Appleton days. We have never made truer friends than the ones we made there. We miss you and Leann... And would love to have a gathering of all our dear Sweet Appleton friends. Love you guys. Give Sandy a big hug from both me and John. Wish we could be there. We are both still in shock.

Pamela Anfell - February 13, 2020 at 09:41 PM

YC

“ *Your family and friends at Hope Community Church purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of PASTOR STEPHEN ARTHUR GRUNLAN.*



Your family and friends at Hope Community Church -
February 13, 2020 at 11:07 AM

CW

“ I was a 26-year-old brand new believer when I providentially landed on the doorstep of Appleton Alliance Church in 1989. I had a lot of questions! This was pre-Google days, so research was primarily done in these things called libraries. But if your pastor was a human reference section, as scholarly and wise as Pastor Grunlan, your research could be done by just asking him questions. So, for nearly a year, Pastor Grunlan met with me and several others in my home and patiently went through the 28 pages of apologetics questions I had accumulated over the years of my search for truth. It was an amazing time of growth in my faith and assurance of my salvation. While I am sad to know the world has lost this gem of a shepherd, I am thrilled to know he is in the presence of our savior Jesus Christ. Pastor Grunlan had a profound impact on me and my family, and I will always be grateful for his patience and commitment to making disciples.

Chris Wertz

Christine Wertz - February 13, 2020 at 09:17 AM

GL

Wow... well said, Christine. Sure do cherish those times with you and your husband, and the Angells... continuing further studies in apologetics and the sharing of the precious Christian faith ... in a 1st Peter 3:15 and Colossians 4:6 manner. Pastor Grunlan and his staff had a HUGE impact on all of us! We don't live in thie past, but sure do cherish many great memories of the past. What a future in heaven we have to look forward to... perhaps sooner than we think ... by grace through the precious gift of faith in Jesus' finished work at Calvary. I'll look forward to thanking Pastor Grunlan again when we assuredly fellowship with Jesus and all who have departed in saving faith before us!

Gary Lemons - February 13, 2020 at 11:09 AM

GL

“ I am soooo grateful for Pastor Grunlan’s ministry while here in Appleton, Wisconsin. He was verry influential in my Christian growth. Absolutely LOVED his teaching and preaching. Enjoyed his sense of humor, too! Will never forget him saying to my girlfriend (whom I had been dating for many, many years), just prior to his departure from Appleton, “Leanne, if Gary doesn’t marry you, he’s a fool.” He smiled at me while doing so, but I knew he was right! I finally came to my senses and proposed to Leanne shortly thereafter. Thanks, Pastor Grunlan. My wife is truly a Proverbs 31 woman, and I am so glad we were united in marriage for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and health, til death do us part. She is truly a real gem, and you were a gem of a Pastor, Steve, in sooo many ways. Thanks too, for those regular e-mails you sent me through the years (even after you and Sandy moved on from Appleton), entitled “Leadership Thoughts.” Very challenging and encouraging at the same time! Sincere condolences to Sandy, and to the wonderful Grunlan children whom I was blessed to get to know while here in Appleton ... in youth group, Sunday school, and in following their successes in athletic competitions and elsewhere!

Gary Lemons - February 13, 2020 at 08:28 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Rebecca Bolton - February 12, 2020 at 05:53 PM

DE

“ I am the current pastor of Appleton Alliance Church. I followed Steve's ministry here at AAC. I will always appreciate how Steve left well, blessing the church to his next assignment in CA. I will always be grateful how Steve led AAC through several "tough" attendance barriers (200, 400, 600). Breaking through those barriers is EXTREMELY challenging, but Steve, with his strong preaching/teaching gift and his able leadership saw the church move past those barriers. Today, we are a healthy church, averaging 4,000 on a weekend. Pastor Stephen Grunlan is very much responsible for what AAC has become. I stand on his shoulders and thank God for his leadership and care for this wonderful flock.

*Dr. Dennis Episcopo, Senior Pastor
Appleton Alliance Church
Appleton, WI*

Dr. Dennis Episcopo - February 12, 2020 at 03:32 PM

FS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Francie Swanson - February 12, 2020 at 03:00 PM

DK

“ *Deepest condolences and the peace of the Holy Spirit from the entire family at Grace Fellowship Church in Overland Park, KS. The Grunlans will always be part of the fabric of our church family here.*

Dr. Colby E. Kinser - February 12, 2020 at 02:53 PM