



Rev. A. Bernard "Bernie" Coates

February 17, 1933 - April 9, 2021

The Rev. Alan Bernard Coates of Royal Oak, died on April 9, 2021 at Talbot Hospice House, Easton, Maryland. Born in Easton on February 17, 1933, he was the son of the late Alan and Frieda B. Coates. He was educated in Talbot County Schools. After graduating with the Easton High School class of 1951, he entered Gettysburg College and received a B. A. degree in philosophy in 1954. He received his theological degree from The Lutheran Theological Seminary also at Gettysburg in 1957.

Pastor Coates was ordained by the Maryland Synod, United Lutheran Church in America in 1957 and was called by the Board of American Missions and assigned to Silver Spring, Maryland. In 1958 he was called to be the Pastor of The Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Glen Burnie, Md. where he served for 12 years. In 1971, he was called as Senior Pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Hagerstown where he served for 25 years. During his ministry he served on many boards, commissions, and committees of the Church including the Executive Board of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

After retiring to Talbot County, he served as interim pastor on two occasions. First during a pastoral vacancy for the Talbot Lutheran Parish consisting of Grace Church, Easton and St. Paul's Church, Cordova for 9 months and later for 14 months at Grace Church in Easton. During his retirement, he enjoyed boating, fishing, crabbing, and traveling.

Surviving is his wife, Nancy Ruth (Ginter) Coates whom he married on June 8, 1959; a daughter, Susan Anne Coates of Belcamp, MD; a son, Robert Alan Coates of Sykesville, MD, 5 grand children; a sister, Mrs. Evelyn Corbin of Easton, and a niece and nephew.

Funeral Services and interment will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Grace Lutheran Church, Easton, or to the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, PA, would be appreciated.

Comments



“ Mary Ellen an I send our sincere sympathy to the Coates family. Pastor Coates shared with us one of the most joyous days of our lives when he married us on August 14,1976. He must have done a good job because we are going strong almost 46 years later. Pastor Coates' dedication to St Marks and it's congregation will long be remembered for all the lives he touched.

Steve and Mary Ellen McAbee

Steve Allen McAbee - April 15 at 08:32 PM



“ Dear Nancy and Family:
I am so very sorry for your loss. Pastor is now in Heaven with our Savior! I was blessed to have been baptized, confirmed and married by Pastor Coates. The memories of his service to the people of St. Mark's will always be remembered. I will always cherish those memories and especially our annual Christmas caroling followed by refreshments at the parsonage! He was more than a pastor to me, he was a friend to me and my entire family! With deepest sympathy, Paula Munday

Paula Munday - April 11 at 07:57 PM



“ Ed and I send our condolences to the family. Pastor Coates was such a good man and devoted to God. We truly felt his happiness for us when he performed our wedding vows some 29 years ago. Rest in peace, Pastor. You will be lovingly remembered. Ed and Jackie Snapp

Jacqueline L Snapp - April 11 at 07:51 PM



“ So sorry to hear this news, we will always remember the years of service he dedicated to St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Hagerstown. His quiet humor, often on display at talent shows, was a unique part of his personality.

Julie Fiery - April 11 at 02:31 PM



“ We will always remember Bernie's cheerful optimism and wonderful wit. He was a devoted family man and a faithful Christian and we will miss him greatly.

Steve and Christine Kinlock - April 11 at 12:59 PM