



## Rev. Duane Larson

December 14, 1961 - January 12, 2019

Rev. Duane David Larson, 57, of Spirit Lake passed away unexpectedly at his home on Saturday, January 12, 2019 of a heart attack. Services for Pastor Duane will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, January 19, 2019 at the Spirit Lake United Methodist Church. A visitation will be held from 5 pm to 7 pm on Friday at the church.

Duane was born on December 14, 1961 to Floyd E. and Carrie M. (Dittmeyer) Larson in Rolla, Missouri. He grew up in San Antonio, where he learned his deep appreciation for cheese enchiladas with chili gravy, his love of good music, and how to hit a low drive off the tee in a strong South Texas wind. After graduation from high school he attended Oklahoma Wesleyan University in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. It was during this time that he received his call to ministry and followed that call to Duke Divinity School, where he earned his Master of Divinity. At Duke, he met the one he would love forever, Lisa. They were married on August 11, 1990. Their love for each other was unbreakable. Duane and Lisa have three children, Sam, Seth, and Sarah. Duane was an incredible father who loved his kids immensely. Graduating from years of massive Nerf battles, as the boys grew up he watched esports, learned to play a marginal game of Starcraft, and was a slow but meticulous builder in Minecraft. He also loved to annoy his teenage daughter, a talent he honed to perfection.

Duane was a member of the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and was serving the United Methodist Church in Spirit Lake, Iowa. Previously he had served in the Missouri Annual Conference and the Southwest Texas Annual Conference. Duane loved the church, which he believed was the embodiment of Christ's love in the world. He lived by John Wesley's words: "Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can." He fulfilled this calling to the end.

Duane enjoyed playing golf and thought out many of his sermons while on the driving range. In Spirit Lake, he discovered pickleball, which he played three times a week at the YMCA. He loved his pickleball family at the Y. While always a Texan, he claimed Iowa as his home and fully embraced his adopted state. Duane will be remembered for his sense of humor; his mission to keep warm during a cold Iowa winter, including preaching in his snow boots from November to April and his response to being asked if he wanted to take his coat off ("I'll take it off as soon as I'm not cold"); and his love of Texas football. He will also be remembered as a passionate voice for hope and the power of God's redeeming grace in the world. He preached it because he believed it.

He is survived by his wife Alisa Larson of Spirit Lake; sons Samuel Larson of St. Louis, Missouri, and Seth Larson of Spirit Lake; daughter Sarah Larson of Spirit Lake; sister Sherry (Dennis) Clarkson of Seguin, Texas; brother Paul (Joy) Larson of San Antonio, Texas; brother Larry Larson of Bartlesville, Oklahoma; and sister Donna (Donny) Meurin of New Braunfels, Texas; father-(mother-) in-law Robert (Doris) Battern of Arnolds Park; sisters-in-law Minda Heidenreich (Jeff Olson) of Barnes, Wisconsin, and Kari (Robert) Lucke of Columbia, Missouri; and brother-in-law John (Julie) Battern of Arnolds Park, Iowa. He was preceded in death by his parents, Floyd and Carrie Larson.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be sent to the Spirit Lake United Methodist

Church, 1812 Gary Avenue, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360. A memorial gift will be made to Then Feed Just One.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **18**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

United Methodist Church  
1812 Gary Ave  
Spirit Lake, IA 51360

## Service

JAN **19**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

United Methodist Church  
1812 Gary Ave  
Spirit Lake, IA 51360

# Tribute Wall



“ *Robinson Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Rev. Duane Larson*



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**Robinson Funeral Home** - January 17, 2019 at 04:01 PM

DA

“ *I only met him once, but had a long visit. So easy to visit with and enjoyed his thoughts. He was such a great asset to the church.*



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**DEANNE ANDERSON** - January 24, 2019 at 04:28 PM

PJ

“ *Paul and Joy purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Rev. Duane Larson .*



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**Paul and Joy** - January 18, 2019 at 10:20 AM

MS

“ *Melissa Stallman purchased the Vivid Recollections for the family of Rev. Duane Larson .*



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**Melissa Stallman** - January 17, 2019 at 11:27 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rev. Duane Larson .*



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January 17, 2019 at 02:31 PM

CW

“ *I remember and cherish his greeting of my mother each week. She was in her upper 80's and Duane always gently took her hand and asked how she was doing. It was more than just a shake of the hand after the weekly sermon.*

*I also lost my father when I was in my early 20's, and I know how devastating that can be. I send all my love to Lisa, Sam, Seth and Sarah during this time of heartache.*

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**Carol Wellons** - January 17, 2019 at 09:25 AM

GC

“ God Bless Pastor Duane Larson for his work. Our prayers to his family and his church family. A true follower of Christ. God Bless all your memories of one of the true saints!

*Pastor Martin and Partners of GRACE Lutheran Church, Spirit Lake*

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**Grace Lutheran Church** - January 16, 2019 at 10:16 AM

JC

“ Lisa and Family, we are so sorry to hear about your loss!! Duane was the best mediator between God and man that I had ever encountered. When you listened to him you learned about God and yourself! He and his family showed everyone how to be the person that God wanted us to be! We miss you Duane and hope to see you again in another form! Our thought are with you, Lisa and family!  
*John and Carolyn from Eureka.*



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**John Chosay** - January 16, 2019 at 09:51 AM

TL

“ Then Feed Just One, LeMars purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Rev. Duane Larson .



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**Then Feed Just One, LeMars** - January 16, 2019 at 08:40 AM

DH

“ Lisa and family, I am so sorry for your loss.  
Keeping you in my thoughts and prayers



Diane Haedt - January 15, 2019 at 11:34 PM

DD

“ Growing up in San Antonio, TX and attending Wesleyan Church with the Larson family was one of my sweetest memories....Larry, Sherry, Paul, Duane and Donna were like my siblings....When I heard Duane was called into the Ministry, I knew he would make a great Pastor because Duane was a very special person and a wonderful friend....My thoughts and prayers are with the family....We have lost a loved one but Heaven gained an Angel

Diane Myers Dyer - January 15, 2019 at 10:03 PM

JK

“ Pastor Duane and Lisa were such great friends while pastoring UMC, Fredericktown, MO. We will forever be indebted to their love, support, counsel and Duane leading our boys through their confirmation classes.



Jayne Kinneman - January 15, 2019 at 08:11 PM

BA

“ Beverly Atwell lit a candle in memory of Rev. Duane Larson



Beverly Atwell - January 15, 2019 at 04:30 PM

BS

“ Our sympathy to Pastor Larsons family and friends. Bob and Kate Shaw



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**Bob and Kate Shaw** - January 15, 2019 at 02:02 PM

LF

“ Although we didn't know Pastor Duane for long, we know that he was a blessing and a great light of hope and inspiration for our church. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. May God bring them comfort, strength and peace. The Longest Family

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**Longest Family** - January 15, 2019 at 12:30 PM

TF

“ The Longest Family lit a candle in memory of Rev. Duane Larson



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**The Longest Family** - January 15, 2019 at 12:21 PM

JS

“ Duane was a great friend in our teens. A part of who I am today came from my relationship with Duane. God bless all who knew him!❤️🙏

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**Joe Solinski** - January 15, 2019 at 11:35 AM

DO

“ *This is a big loss to those of us in the North West District of Iowa. I have not known Duane for long, but just for a year. When we first met sat at the same table, at a training program in Grace UMC in Spencer. His insight and demeanor just made me fall in love with him. Wish to express my condolence to the family and brethren of Spirit Lake. May the good Lord be your comfort. You are in our prayers.*

*D.F.Okine*

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**D.F. Okine** - January 15, 2019 at 09:08 AM

DB

“ *My sympathy to the family.*

*Dayle Broocks*



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**Dayle Broocks** - January 15, 2019 at 08:49 AM

VM

“ *Vicki Vos Milverstedt lit a candle in memory of Rev. Duane Larson*



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**Vicki Vos Milverstedt** - January 14, 2019 at 11:02 PM

AH

“ We are truly and deeply saddened to hear of this horrible news. Pastor Duane was an amazing man with a heart of gold! Whenever we attended church he was always greeting us as we left and making sure to say hi and trying to figure out which twin was which! We sorry for the family's loss hee will truly be missed.

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**Amanda Hagedorn** - January 14, 2019 at 10:08 PM

SR

“ "Three Little Birds" will be forever ingrained in my memory of Pastor Duane. My condolences go out to you and your family Lisa. His messages to us were answers to our prayers. We were very fortunate to have him as our Pastor for the 1 1/2 years.

*Susan Reiter*

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**Susan Reiter** - January 14, 2019 at 05:40 PM

RS

“ I haven't known Duane for a long time but we became friends immediately. In the short time I knew him I found him to be very giving and thoughtful of others. It was a great pleasure working with him in preparing for and carrying out the Churches first food packing program last fall. How excited he was with the results and how impressed we all were with the people of his parish. On hearing of this tragic news I informed everyone immediately. Our heartfelt sympathies to all of Duane's Family.

*Richard Seivert and all Your Friends at 'Then Feed Just One' in LeMars*

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**Richard E. Seivert** - January 14, 2019 at 01:23 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. Duane Larson .*



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January 14, 2019 at 12:41 PM



“ *Thomas Sangel lit a candle in memory of Rev. Duane Larson*



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**Thomas Sangel** - January 14, 2019 at 12:03 PM



“ *my heart goes out to the Larson family...I met Duane at the Y playing pickleball ...we shall miss him greatly*

*Bob Thorbrogger*

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**ROBERT Thorbrogger** - January 14, 2019 at 09:30 AM



“ *Bev And Vern Wittler lit a candle in memory of Rev. Duane Larson*



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**Bev and Vern Wittler** - January 13, 2019 at 01:25 PM



“ *With Deepest Sympathy Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Rev. Duane Larson .*



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January 13, 2019 at 09:26 AM



“ *Pastor Duane will always hold a special place in my heart. I wasn't attending church regularly when we met. I didn't know what a Methodist was. He was there to help me understand and start my journey of faith and service, which I continue today. And, we were able to talk about Twitch and e-sports... bonus! My thoughts and prayers are with his family.*

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**Bob Michaels** - January 13, 2019 at 08:56 AM



“ *Pastor Duane came to us and brought us together to open new doors and work together. He was a blessing. He has charted new roads for us. Although we are so saddened by his passing, please know that the seeds he planted will be growing. Our sincere sympathy and love ...*  
*Linda and Bill Moore*

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**linda moore** - January 12, 2019 at 09:42 PM



*My deepest sympathy to Duane,s family. Words cannot express the sorrow we are all feeling.*  
*Gladys Sauer*

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**Gladys Sauer** - January 18, 2019 at 01:35 PM