

Bickel, Rev. Adolf M.

The Rev. Adolf M. Bickel, 86, of Napoleon, Ohio, passed away Sunday morning, February 25, 2007, at the Fulton Manor, Wauseon, Ohio. He was born July 14, 1920 in Birch Run to the late Rev. Fred and Lydia (Hetzner) Bickel. On July 29, 1948, he married Irene E. Goertz and she preceded him in death on November 27, 1999. On March 25, 1934, the Rev. Bickel publicly confessed his faith in the rite of confirmation in the St. John Lutheran Church where his father was pastor. He attended high school at the Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw. Later he attended Concordia College in Fort Wayne, Indiana and graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri on January 17, 1945. His first call was to Emmaus Lutheran Church and Faith Lutheran Church of Sexsmith and Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada. He was ordained and installed as pastor there in April 1945. In 1948, he accepted a call to be pastor of St. Stephens Lutheran Church in Shelby and Our Savior Lutheran Church of Hart. In 1956, he accepted a call to be pastor of St. John Lutheran Church of Kilmanagh. In 1965, he accepted the call to St. John Lutheran Church, Freedom Township, Henry County, Ohio. In April 1979, he retired as pastor but continued in visitation of the shut-ins. During his last year of life, he resided at Country View Haven Nursing Home, rural Napoleon, Ohio, where he served as chaplain. He was a founding member of the German Lutheran Heritage Association. He held several Ohio District Church offices and also authored two books, "The Emigrant" and "Our Founding Father." He is survived by three sons, Jim (Paula) Bickel, of Waukesha, Wisconsin, Brian (Lori) Bickel, of Napoleon, Ohio, and Ken (Gail) Bickel, of St. Louis, Missouri; and daughter, Sharon (Carey) Damman, of Napoleon, Ohio; three brothers, Herman (Helen) Bickel, of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, Eldor (Dorothy) Bickel, of Lansing, and Kurt (Betty) Bickel, of Convoy, Ohio; one sister, Elvira (Walter) Neumeyer, of Lapeer; 11 grandchildren; and three great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife of more than 50 years of marriage; and three brothers Victor, Ottomar and Lester Bickel. Services will be at 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, 2007, at St. John Lutheran Church, Freedom Township, Henry County, Ohio, with the Rev. Stephen Niermann officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. Visitation is from 2 to 9 p.m. today at Snyder-Wesche Funeral Home, Napoleon, Ohio, and from 12:30 p.m. until the time of the service on Thursday at the church. Memorials may be made to St. John Lutheran Church Building Fund, LCMS Joint Seminary Fund, or to a charity of the donor's choice.