



Edward W. Amend

February 19, 1931 - June 6, 2020

Edward Walter Amend, 89, was born on February 19, 1931, in Elkhorn, Wisconsin. He was the son of the Reverend Edward John Amend and Bertha Oswald Amend. Edward spent his early years in Belmont, Wisconsin, where his father was a Lutheran pastor. The family moved to Stillwater, Oklahoma, where he attended both secondary school and two years of college. Ed finished college and graduated from Midland University, in Fremont, Nebraska. After college, Edward attended the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, from which he received the Master of Divinity degree in 1955.

He married Dalila Agostini 1954. The newlyweds settled in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where they spent eight years. Edward, as a mission pastor, built a new church there, and children Eric, Kurt, and Laura were all born in Tulsa.

The pursuit of higher education beckoned, and the family moved to Chicago, Illinois. Edward completed his Ph.D in Theology and Literature at the University of Chicago. He began work as a professor at the University of Northern Iowa in 1967, in the Department of Philosophy and Religion. Ed taught at UNI until 1997 and served as department head for the last five years of his teaching career.

Edward is preceded in death by his parents and sister, Zeena Novotny (Bob). He is survived by his wife of sixty-five years, Dalila, and his three children:

Eric (Dawn Petersen-Amend) of La Canada Flintridge, California, Kurt (Alice Wells) of Arlington, Virginia, and Laura, of Chicago, Illinois. Five grandchildren: Liv, Mari, Helen, Isaac, and Phoebe, are spread across the country. Ed's great-grandson, Luther, child of Liv and Elliot Steingart, arrived in 2019. He is also survived by his uncle, Phillip Ostwald, and many nieces and nephews.

Among Edward's many passions was fishing Northeast Iowa's trout streams and canoeing on the Shell Rock River beneath the bluff of the couple's country home, near Finchford, Iowa. In his later years, he returned often to the cherished Southwest Wisconsin landscape of his childhood.

Edward has been cremated, Memorial Service will be held at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, July 31, 2021 at Bethlehem Lutheran, 4000 Hudson Road, Cedar Falls.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to the following organizations: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, NewAldaya Lifescapes, UNI Foundation, and Cedar Valley Hospice.

Richardson Funeral Service is assisting the family.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL 31. 3:00 PM (CT)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
4000 Hudson Road
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 266-3541
<http://bethlehemcf.org>

Tribute Wall

SF

“ To Dalila, Eric, Kurt, Laura, and families: I regret that I cannot attend today’s Memorial Service for Ed. I knew him as a very special UNI colleague. We shared histories at the University of Chicago and an interest in Volvos! I treasured all our talks about philosophy, education, and life. He was a superb teacher in all senses of the word. I know he left you and his students and colleagues with a great many significant memories.

Stephen Fortgang

Stephen Fortgang - July 31, 2021 at 02:21 PM

CI

“ Eric and family,

I was saddened to learn of your father's passing. I always enjoyed seeing him at church. My thoughts and prayers are with you and the entire family. With deepest sympathy, Chris Hesse Isley

Chris Isley - July 25, 2021 at 12:28 PM

AF

“ I lost another mentor. From the first moment I met Dr. Edward Amend, Ed became a mentor of great energy and care. He continually encouraged me to imagine and think critically. He guided me through an undergraduate degree in Philosophy and Religion at the University of Northern Iowa. He empowered me to take on biblical study in a way I never imagined. Independent study included exploration in Romans, Proverbs, the Gospel of Luke, and others. Within that study with Dr. Amend, he encouraged me to use my first personal computer to chronicle those journeys. Beginning in 1989, he laid out a study plan for the Gospel of Luke, searching for the biblical Heilsgeschichte (Salvation Plan) and charting it in a spreadsheet. Imagine me, the pig farmer, studying in such new horizons! In his love of academics and intellectual pursuit, he encouraged me to take a different path in life. I did not heed his advice and sometimes imagine what it might have brought.

The Road Not Taken Robert Frost

*Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth...*

I will always be thankful that the road I took brought me to him.

*Rest in Peace,
Dear Friend and Professor*

*Arnold Flater
UNI Class of 89*

ARNOLD FLATER - June 23, 2020 at 12:59 PM

JF

“ We were saddened to hear of Ed's passing. Our deepest sympathy is extended to all of the family. I got to know the family quite well when I was principal at Main Street School in Cedar Falls. It was a Joy to work with this supportive of education family. If there is a celebration of his life later I am in hopes that someone would notify me. I would like to you all. Till then, please know we are with you all inspirit. Love.. Judy and John Focht

John Focht - June 12, 2020 at 08:13 PM

JC

“ Oh, Dalila, your precious Ed has been taken from us. My deepest sympathy to you and your family. He was always the rock on which you could depend. He lived a long and fruitful life. We are all blessed to have known him. Take care of yourself now and let others take care of you,too. Love, Joanie Christensen-Sund



Joanie Christensen-Sund - June 12, 2020 at 03:12 PM



“ Beth and I are sorry to learn of Ed's passing. We pray God's peace, and the assurance of eternal life in Christ, will be with you as you celebrate his life. Ed was a man of integrity, kind and considerate, who was willing to assist others even if it meant taking time away from other activities. When I first came to UNI as a department head, I sought Ed out for help in learning how to work with faculty. While I had some experience at the University of Cincinnati as a program director, I was new to being a department head. I could not have had the help of a better teacher and role model for department head. Later, I had the pleasure of being able to play tennis with Ed early in the morning on MWF. In that capacity I found him to be good natured, honest in his line calls, and willing to discuss difficult issues after tennis, in ways that united, rather than divided our Early Bird Tennis Group. In that regard, he was a peace maker.

A Frank Thompson - June 12, 2020 at 07:12 AM

JE

“ Dear Dalila I am so sorry! You and Ed are always a joy to talk to. I appreciate our times together whether in Nicaragua or in bible study. The other day I thought of Bethlehem's church structure and shape, then a picture of Ed came into my mind with how instrumental he was in Bethlehem's uniqueness, both literally and figuratively. I will miss his intelligent, gentle, loving spirit. And to you Dalila: Eres Maravillosa. Te amo y Dios te amas. Te extraño a ti. Brazos. Joan

Joan Easton - June 11, 2020 at 01:10 PM

RG

“ Ed was not only my colleague he was my teacher—in the classroom where we team taught at UNI, on the river, canoeing and fishing, and in church, especially on the Building committee for a new Bethlehem church. He hunted morels (and morals) and fished for rock bass (and caught them). To me he always reminded me of the sanctity of fishing like a later day apostle. I had many names for Ed because like Whitman he contained multitudes. At UNI he was General Ed, in fiction he was Gustav, as Independent Study Chair he helped the poet Ray A Young Bear launch his national reputation ; Ray and I just called him Professor. Ed taught me plenty about Zola, realism and “Germinal” in part because of his study of Eric Auerbach and Mimesis. And as a chef he could really make great potato pancakes! Love you Ed and Dali and family! Bob and Judy

Robert and Judith Gish - June 10, 2020 at 09:44 PM

JM

“ Ed was one special person. He was always so kind and we enjoyed visiting with him where ever and whenever we would meet on many different occasions. My mother, Dorothy Miller, taught with Dalila and had a special affinity to both Ed and Dalila. The world is a better place because of all the people Ed touched. We will miss him. Our deepest sympathy to all the family.
John and Karen Miller

John A Miller/Karen Miller - June 10, 2020 at 08:04 PM

JN

“ Ed was my Humanities teacher my first semester at UNI in the fall of 1968. He was a wonderful teacher and one of my favorites from college. Later, when we joined Bethlehem Lutheran Church, I was so happy to see him again. My sympathies and prayers to Dali and family.

Jane Nelson

Jane Nelson - June 10, 2020 at 03:00 PM

GN

“ Ed was a wonderful teacher, to all, to me. Not only because of the words of wisdom he spoke, nor because of the good works he did, but also for the humility he exhibited, the sense of justice he modeled, and the decency he demonstrated.

glenn nelson - June 10, 2020 at 12:59 PM



“ Dr. Amend was a wonderful professor and I wish I could have taken more classes from him. I came into the program at UNI as he was retiring. He introduced himself to me at a Department party and said he knew another "Tobe Johnson." That was my great-grandfather. Turns out that the Amends often sat near my grandparents each Sunday at Bethlehem Lutheran. He often asked them how I was doing in graduate school, years after his retirement. It was a pleasure to come back to Cedar Falls and see Ed, one Sunday a couple of years ago, and share with him that I'd completed my doctorate in Religious Studies and was looking forward to sharing what I'd learned from him with my own students. His kindness will always be remembered.

Toby Johnson - June 09, 2020 at 02:20 PM

LG

“ Ed was a source of strength and humor when our multi-generational group went to Nicaragua many years ago. He was a kind and knowledgeable man. I am thankful that I knew him. Prayers to the family.

Linda Godson - June 09, 2020 at 12:17 PM

MP

“ Dalila,
Valorie and I send our most profound condolences to you and your family. When I first came to UNI in the Fall of 1971, Ed was in charge of the Honors program and it was there that I first worked with him--a video to promote the program. He was a tremendous help in finalising my Honors project and getting approval. He was a part of my best experiences at UNI as an undergraduate.
Michael Prah

Michael Prah - June 09, 2020 at 11:21 AM

HH

“ So very saddened to hear of your recent loss, my heart goes out to you and your family at this difficult time. I worked with Dr. Amend for many years and have so many fond memories. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers

Helen Harrington

Helen Harrington - June 09, 2020 at 10:09 AM



EZ

I was a pastor at Good Shepherd in Waterloo for many years and Ed worked with us in some of the organizations of community outreach. I always appreciated his support and insights. I was blessed to know him and to share some time with him. My sympathy to the family. Edgar Zelle

Edgar Zelle - June 09, 2020 at 11:56 AM