



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

PASTOR M. DAVID FETTER



AUGUST 9, 1944 - JUNE 9, 2026

A Service to Celebrate the Life of Pastor M. David Fetter

Abiding Love Lutheran Church - August 9, 2026

PRELUDE

"UK Blessing"

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

SONG OF CELEBRATION

"For Everyone Born"

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother David. We thank you for giving him to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FAMILY REFLECTIONS

"A MAN OF GOD"

written & sung by Tom Hokanson

MICAH 6: 8

⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

PSALM 23

¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² **He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;**

³ he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ **Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.**

ROMANS 8: 28, 35, 37-39

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Jesus Loves Me" ELW #595

GOSPEL - JOHN 15: 4-5, 9-11

⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have

loved you; abide in my love.¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

HOMILY

Pastor Sergio E. Rodriguez

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Jesu Jesu" ELW #708

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (each petition ends *"God of mercy"* to which the people respond **"hear our prayer."**)

God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

COMMUNION

The grace of God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift up our hearts to God.**

Let us give thanks to God. **We joyfully give thanks and praise.**

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION SONGS

"Blest Be The Tie That Binds" ELW #656

"To Be Your Presence" ELW #546; "Lord Jesus Christ"

COMMUNION PRAYER

May we be sent out into the world To share this feast with others, until Christ comes again and we feast at your table forever.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

COMMENDATION

SENDING SONG

"The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve" ELW #551

FINAL BLESSING

Pastor M. David Fetter's Favorite Blessing

As you go on your way, may God go with you
Before you to show you the way
Behind you to encourage you
Beside you to be your friend
Above you to watch over you
Beneath you to pick you up should you stumble or fall
And within you to give you peace.
In the name of the Father, the Son, & the Holy Spirit

DISMISSAL

PRESIDING MINISTER: Pastor Sergio E. Rodriguez

ASSISTING MINISTER: Gus Sterneman

MUSIC: Mixed Blessings

TECHNICIANS: Juan Ortiz & Zee Zepeda

LECTOR: Sarah Pepin

COMMUNION SERVERS: Mary Fetter, Jamie Villalobos, Holly Leoni, Irene Chiang, Teri Nelson-Zepeda, Mike Riggs, & Kristi Schultz

USHERS: Kurt Armstrong, Jan & Willie Haas, Paul Mettke, Teri Nelson-Zepeda, Beverly & Randy Sones

Reverend Michael David Fetter, Jr.

August 9, 1944 - June 9, 2026

Reverend Michael David Fetter, Jr. died peacefully surrounded by his family on June 9, 2026. He was lovingly known as "David" by his wife, Mary; "Dad" by his daughters Jamie Villalobos (Alex), Holly Leoni (Michael); and "PaPa" by his grandchildren Viviana & Alexander Villalobos, Katherine & Vance Leoni; "Dave" by his siblings Beth Skyles (preceded in death) Mark Fetter & Sarah Allbright; "Uncle" by Pete, Tim (preceded in death), Leah (preceded in death), Joshua (preceded in death), Vicki, Mary, Johanna, Adam & many grandnieces & nephews; and "Pastor Fetter" by his church family.

David was born on August 9, 1944, in Toledo, Ohio, to Reverend M. David, Sr and Elizabeth Fetter. He was later blessed with a second mom, Shirley Fetter. As the son of a Lutheran pastor, his family lived in Oshkosh, Wisconsin; Detroit, Michigan; Australia; Columbus, Ohio; Minneapolis, Minnesota; and San Antonio, Texas.

David attended Texas Lutheran College in Seguin, Texas, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. He later earned his Master of Divinity degree with honors from the Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. He served his internship at St. Paul-Calvary Lutheran Congregations in Niagara Falls, New York. On July 12, 1970, he was ordained at Grace Lutheran Church in San Antonio, Texas beginning four decades of ministry.

On June 30, 1967, David married Mary Mercer at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas. They shared a life of love, support, and dedication to a partnership in ministry.

Throughout this ministry, Pastor Fetter faithfully served congregations in Rosenberg and Houston, Texas. In 1979, he accepted a call to lead a mission congregation in Southwest Austin. That mission would become Abiding Love Lutheran Church, officially organized on April 20, 1980. As founding pastor, David led the congregation through decades of growth, helping guide the construction of multiple church facilities, expanding ministries, and nurturing generations of believers through worship, baptisms, confirmations, marriages, funerals, pastoral care, and friendship.

Pastor Fetter's ministry was never confined to the pulpit. He was known for acknowledging everyone, remembering names, celebrating birthdays, visiting the sick, encouraging children, welcoming newcomers, and making every person feel seen and valued. He was also known for his (lengthy) sermons that bridged faith with everyday life stories, which included humor and humanity. He was active in the South Austin Civic Club, the Austin Area Conference of Churches, Austin Metropolitan Ministries, Austin Area Interreligious Ministries, and faithfully served as volunteer chaplain at Marbridge Ranch in Manchaca.

David lived the past three years at Silverado Barton Springs Memory Care Community where he continued sharing God's love often reaching out to hold other's hands (sometimes longer than expected) as well as thanking people and saying, "peace be with you". We would like to thank everyone at Silverado for the love, compassion, and respect shown to David and our family.

David will be remembered for his steadfast faith, gentle spirit, quick wit, generous heart, and his unwavering commitment to sharing God's love with everyone he encountered. His life reflected the words he so often said:

"It's all about LOVE"

"God's love for us, our love for God, and our love for each other"

"Jesus loves you, and so do I"

Donations of love can be made in David's memory to support:

Abiding Love Lutheran Church
Cross Trails Camping Ministry
Lutheran World Relief

