



Rev. Daniel John McVey

June 21, 1952 - February 4, 2026

Rev. Daniel John “Dan” McVey of Alden, Michigan, is at peace in the presence of his Lord and Savior, welcomed into eternal life on February 4, 2026. Born June 21, 1952, he was baptized at Trinity Lutheran Church in Jackson, Michigan. Dan lived a life grounded in faith, service, and devotion to others. He was preceded in death by his parents, Maxine (Kabel) and William McVey, and his siblings, Teresa McVey and David McVey. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Marjorie (Higgins) McVey, whom he married June 24, 1978; his children, Dr. Mary (McVey) Buschmann (Joseph) and William McVey (Melissa); his siblings, Joan (McVey) McLaury (Jeff) and James McVey (Pamela); his grandchildren, Emi, J. Peter, Josephine, and Charlotte; many cousins, nieces, and nephews; countless lifelong friends; and beloved golden retriever, Jake.

Dan was a prodigious learner and servant of the Church. He graduated from Jackson High School in 1970 and Concordia University River Forest in 1974. He began his vocation in Lutheran education, teaching at Atonement Lutheran School in Dearborn, St. Paul Lutheran School in Millington, and St. John Lutheran School in New Haven, meanwhile earning a master’s degree in education from the University of Michigan. Dan followed God’s call into pastoral ministry, completing his theological education at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1981. He was ordained into the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod on July 25, 1982.

Dan served his vicarage and first pastoral call at St. Paul Lutheran Church in

Centreville, Michigan, from 1981 to 1987. He then served as pastor at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Mancelona, Michigan from 1987 to 2003, and at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pinckney, Michigan from 2003 until his retirement in 2005. In addition to these calls, he faithfully served congregations throughout Michigan during times of vacancy, including churches in Charlevoix, Gaylord, Dearborn, Leslie, and Kalkaska. He had an incredible sense of humor and gift for telling jokes. His sermons were humorous and engaging, drawing people in with laughter while pointing them faithfully to Christ. During this time, he also generously gave his time as a volunteer for the St. Joseph County jail as chaplain, Mancelona Police Department, and Mancelona Town Council. Dan cherished a quiet life in the woods of Northern Michigan, where he enjoyed camping, long walks, time with his wife and kids, his golden retrievers, and especially his grandchildren. He was an avid outdoorsman and hunter—particularly of ducks, upland birds, and deer. He was known for his high standards at the grill, his love of Christmas morning and Easter Sunday, and for campfire stories that terrified nieces and nephews with tales of the Dogman and the Johnson Pond Bigfoot. Above all, Dan lived for his grandchildren, enjoying quad rides through the woods and never hesitating to spoil them. He will be remembered with gratitude and love as a faithful servant of Christ, a devoted husband and family man, and a gifted storyteller whose humor and warmth will be dearly missed.

Visitation will be held Friday, February 20, 2026, from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Kalkaska Funeral Home, 152 S. Cedar Street, Kalkaska, Michigan. A second visitation will take place Saturday, February 21, 2026, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., followed by the funeral service at 1:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2470 Beebe Road NW, Kalkaska, Michigan. A luncheon will follow the service. Memorials can be directed to the American Kidney Fund, www.kidneyfund.org and St. Paul Lutheran in Kalkaska, Michigan.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **20**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home
152 S. Cedar
Kalkaska, MI 49646
(231) 258-3346

Final Visitation

FEB **21**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul Lutheran Church
2470 Beebe Road NE
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Funeral Service

FEB **21**. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul Lutheran Church
2470 Beebe Road NE
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Tribute Wall

BB

“ Danny and I grew up in the same neighborhood where he lived on Center Street, eventually graduated together from Jackson High School in 1970. Always fun loving, even as a youngster, he enjoyed sharing stories that would warm our hearts and leave us laughing. I'm so sorry to learn of his passing, my sympathies to all of you. It has been wonderful to read so many kind remarks about him.
Beverly Culver Betz

Beverly Betz - March 16 at 10:17 AM

LB

“ Love, Amber & Brenden purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Rev. Daniel John McVey.



Love, Amber & Brenden - February 20 at 10:00 PM

LB

“ Love, Amber & Brenden planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rev. Daniel John McVey.

Love, Amber & Brenden - February 20 at 10:00 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rev. Daniel John McVey.



February 20 at 06:12 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rev. Daniel John McVey.

February 20 at 06:12 PM



“ The Hooegeveen Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Rev. Daniel John McVey.



The Hooegeveen Family - February 20 at 12:10 PM



“ The Hooegeveen Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rev. Daniel John McVey.

The Hooegeveen Family - February 20 at 12:10 PM



“ valinda peterson lit a candle in memory of Daniel McVey



valinda peterson - February 11 at 04:38 PM

KK

“ *'Mr. McVey' served as our Atonement, Dearborn Youth Leader in the 70s. He hosted a traditional Passover Seder meal for the students, sharing the significance of each item on the Seder meal plate. A memorable gathering in preparation for the upcoming Easter season. We rejoice in the resurrection with the McVey family.*

Kathy Kohtz - February 11 at 04:18 PM

SW

*I remember that Pascal supper!
Thank you for this post Kathy!*

Sharon roemmelt wheat - February 12 at 04:45 PM

SF

“ *Holly and I were married in 1983 by pastor McVey. We celebrated our 42nd anniversary this last November. We both remember him telling us during pre-wedding counseling that sex was like a jar of peas, in that the amount of “peas” you put in the jar the first year will take many years to empty back out :-)* we got such a laugh out of that. I saw him at an event some 30 years later and reminded him of that story and we shared a laugh again! He was a relatable man of God as well as a true Michigander, sharing his love of hunting, shooting, and the outdoors. He will be missed.

Steve Fryling - February 07 at 10:07 PM

RK

June and I knew Dan in his early career when we were teaching together at Atonement, Dearborn. He was single and spent a lot of time at our house. Our older children were on his young peoples group and adored him for his humor and for the adventures he led. We had 3 chapionship flag football teams when he coached the defense and I the offense. When he was married at Millington our whole family was invited and I played the organ for the service. He was a great colleage and it saddens me to learn of his too soon passing. So long, Dan. We'll see you on the other side! Roger & June Kohtz

Roger Kohtz - February 11 at 11:20 AM

SW

Mr kohtz, what a wonderful tribute to Dan Mcvey! I remember him well from atonement youth group in the 70's and as my SS teacher. Thank you Kathy for remembering to send me the obituary.

Sharon Roemmelt Wheat - February 11 at 02:43 PM

KK

Thank you for your ministry Sharon! Grateful for the Atonement families and students who served alongside Mr. McVey.

Kathy Kohtz - February 11 at 05:34 PM

RV

“ My entire life growing up was with Dan, either on the water for ducks or in the woods for upland birds!! He's the most passionate man I've ever met about the sport!! I will never forget the amazing smell of a ZIPPO Lighter in a cold duck blind. He also always brought along what he called a "Snack Pack!" A actual ammo box filled with the best treats while hunting! Pretty sure he owned stocks dealing with Slim Jim. He made it clear that's its always a must to come prepared when going afield!! A man that knew when to be serious & a man that could spread amazing joy with endless amounts of jokes!! Thank You for the 100's upon 100's of hours spent afield! 🙏❤️ Rest Easy Dano

Ryan vesey - February 07 at 03:43 PM

BB

“ Bonnie brothers lit a candle in memory of Daniel McVey



Bonnie brothers - February 07 at 03:37 PM