

Rev. Stephen M. Sherer, 74, of Minneapolis, died peacefully at home on January 26, 2026, after a two-year battle with bile duct cancer. He was a beloved husband, father, brother, and uncle, and a dedicated caretaker of rescue pets. As a Lutheran minister called to spread God's word, he valued prayer in action, honest conversation, and appropriately placed acts of misbehavior. Stephen lived a full life of compassion, community, creativity, joy, and light-hearted reverent irreverence.

Stephen is survived by his children: Joshua, Katharine (Michael), and Meghan (Don); his brothers John, Michael, and Peter; many nieces and nephews; and his rescue pets, Hudson and Luther. He was preceded in death by his wife of 34 years, Janet Denney Sherer; his parents, Luther and Lillian Sherer; and brothers Christopher, Timothy, and Joel.

Stephen was born October 16, 1951, in Bird City, KS; the seventh and youngest son of a Lutheran minister. Stephen spent his youth in Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, and Michigan; and graduated from Bridgeport High School (MI) in 1969. He attended Texas Lutheran College, where he met his wife, Jan. Stephen and Jan were united in marriage on June 28, 1975.

After completing seminary at Wartburg Seminary (Iowa), Stephen dedicated himself to rural ministry, serving churches and communities in Montana, Illinois, North Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa before retiring in 2013. Stephen was highly involved in his children's extracurricular activities, with a video camera perched on his shoulder for every event his children took part in.

A talented finish carpenter and cabinetmaker, he left a string of decks, roofs, porches, bookshelves, kitchen cabinets, tables, and the like in every town where he served. His children's homes are similarly filled with his custom-built pieces; if you didn't need a project done, he would come up with one for you. He regularly advised congregants to find him in his garage rather than in his church office and routinely provided counsel over sawdust and woodwork.

Stephen was an avid cyclist, loved the wide-open spaces of the Rocky Mountains and Northern Plains, enjoyed growing roses, and dutifully cared for 11 rescue dogs over the course of his family life. He was an amazingly present dad, loved good beer, and believed in the healing powers of a great bowl of ice cream. He was always willing to speak up and lend his voice to help others, railed against those who would weaponize faith, and was tirelessly devoted to his wife Jan, the love of his life. He thrilled in telling his kids what he wanted to be "the next time I grow up" well into his seventies and encouraged all to do the same, regardless of age.

## WELCOME TO HAMLINE CHURCH

### **Restrooms are located**

in the west wing at the beginning of the hall.

**Words marked in "Bold" print are read aloud as a congregation.**

### **OFFICIANT**

Rev. Mariah Furness Tollgaard

### **MUSICIANS**

Eileen Miller  
Micah Erickson  
Meghan Sherer

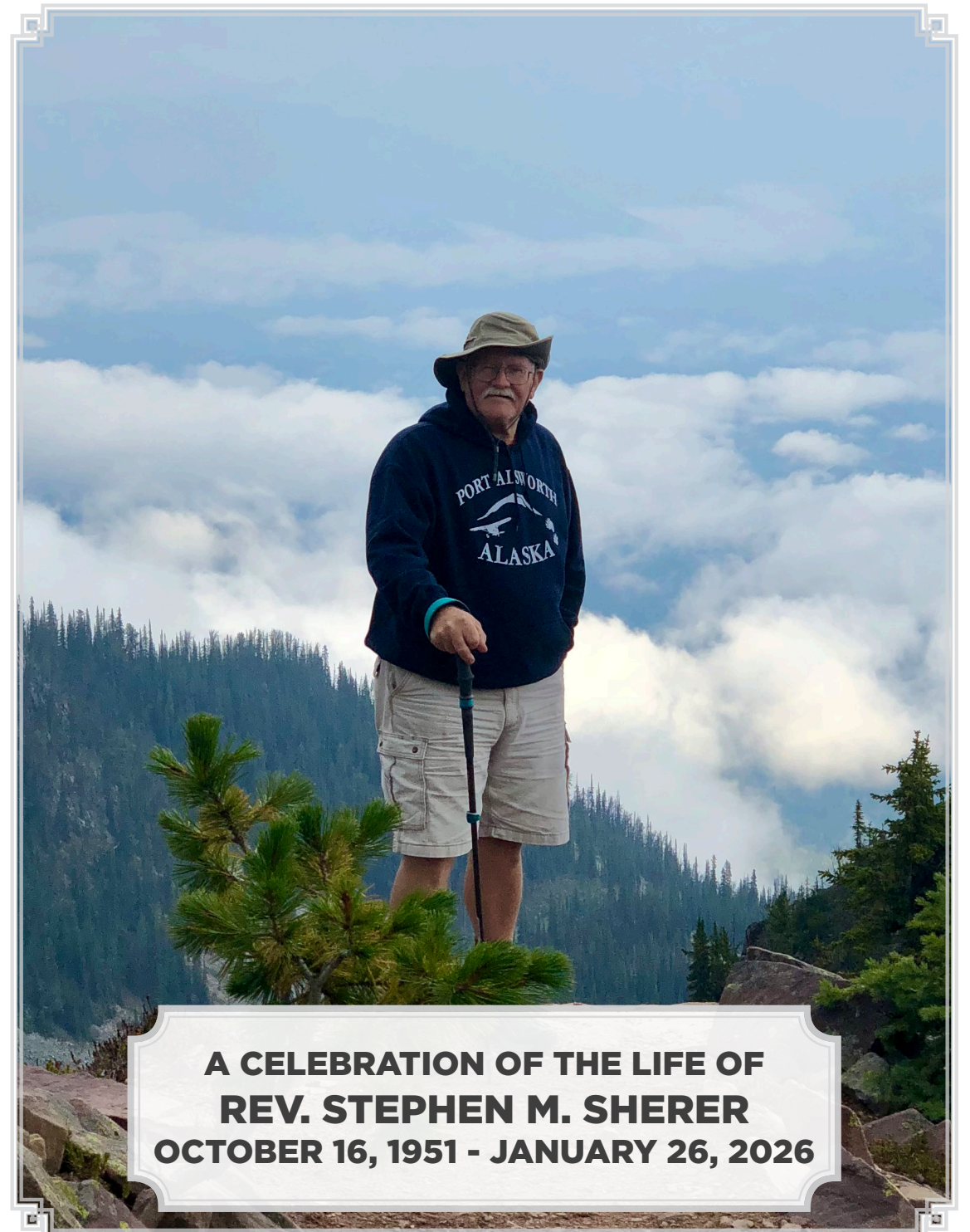


**HAMLINE CHURCH**

UNITED METHODIST



Worship 10am Sundays  
1514 Englewood Avenue  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104  
651.645.0667  
humc@hamlinechurch.org  
hamlinechurch.org



**A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF  
REV. STEPHEN M. SHERER  
OCTOBER 16, 1951 - JANUARY 26, 2026**

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**Sunday, June 7, 2026**

**1:00pm**

*\* Please stand as you are able for titles marked with a star \*  
Words marked in **Bold** print are read aloud as a congregation.*

**GATHERING MUSIC** | Beautiful Savior  
| Nearer My God to Thee

*Eileen Miller, organist*

**GREETINGS & WORDS OF GRACE**

*Rev. Mariah Furness Tollgaard*

**OPENING PRAYER**

\* **HYMN 700** | Abide with me (v. 1, 4, 5)

**POEM** | They Should Have Called Him Yeshua

*Rev. Michael Sherer, brother*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** | John 14:1-4  
2 Timothy 4:1-8  
2 Corinthians 5:16-17

*Rev. Ryan Downing, nephew-in-law*

**HYMN 141** | Children of the Heavenly Father (v. 1, 3, 6)

**PASTORAL REFLECTION**

*Rev. Tollgaard*

**FAMILY REMEMBRANCE**

*Peter Sherer, brother  
Joshua Sherer, son  
Katharine Bigg, daughter*

**SONG** | Most of All

Brandi Carlile,

*Meghan Sherer, daughter and Micah Erickson, friend*

**COMMENDATION & PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our God, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.  
Amen.**

\* **HYMN 156** | I Love to Tell The Story (v. 1, 4)

\* **DISMISSAL & BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE 451** | Be Thou My Vision

arr. Hal Hopson

*Please join us for a reception after the service from 2:30pm to 5:30pm in Bay 10 at  
Utepils Brewing, 225 Thomas Ave N #700, Minneapolis.  
Light refreshments and a portion of beverage service will be provided by the family;  
there will be a food truck on-site as well.*