



## Clem Rosenberger

January 27, 2021

Rev. Dr. W. Clemens "Clem" Rosenberger, 88, of Lititz, PA, died on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at Brethren Village where he resided, surrounded by his loving family. Born on April 18, 1932 in Bala Cynwyd, PA, he was the son of the late Lester M. and Pauline (Howe) Rosenberger. His wife, Margaret (Salzman) Rosenberger, preceded him in death last year on February 2, 2020.

Clem graduated from Lower Merion High School in 1950, where he excelled in gymnastics. In 1954 he graduated from Juniata College as a pre-med major. He studied for one year at Hahnemann Medical School but was unable to shake the "call" for pastoral ministry. After prayerful thought, he enrolled at Bethany Theological Seminary in the fall of 1955. Clem loved his Bethany years, theological studies and pastoral training. Post-graduate studies, including his studies at Harvard Divinity School, broadened his theological and ecumenical perspectives while deepening his faith.

Clem met Margaret Salzman at Bethany Seminary in 1956 and they were married on August 27, 1957. Over a 50-year ministry, Clem pastored congregations in Johnstown, PA, Lititz, PA, and La Verne, CA. Following heart by-pass surgery in 1989, he later served as the interim minister to the South Bay Community Church before he and Margaret and their families returned to Lancaster County. Clem soon accepted calls from the New Enterprise Church,

PA to be its one-year interim pastor, the Children's Aid Society (Middle PA District) to be its three-year Interim Executive Director, and Brethren Village to be a Development Associate primarily in relation to area Atlantic NE congregations.

Clem gave his greatest support to his alma mater, Juniata College, as a 24-year member of the Board of Trustees (1979-2003), Chair of the J. Omar Good Fund establishing a first-class Department of Religion at Juniata in 2002, and Co-Chair of the Capital Gifts Campaign for the Halbritter Center for the Performing Arts. At the 1982 Commencement, Juniata presented Clem with an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.

Clem was a proud father and grandfather and expressed a deep love for his family. He would attend his grandchildren's events as often as he could to show his love and support. In his later years, he found more time for fine dining, classical music concerts and physical fitness. Spending time with friends, working out at the gym and rooting for his favorite sports teams were his passions. Most of all, he was a loyal Penn State, Philadelphia Eagles and Phillies fan.

Clem exemplified love in every aspect of his life. He was a caring and compassionate man who selflessly gave to others, always working to lift up those around him through his actions and kind words. Clem will be greatly missed by all those who knew him personally and through his ministry. Surviving are his children, Cynthia Anne Markham, married to Jeffery, Jeffrey Clemens Rosenberger, married to Lisa, Leslie Elizabeth Rosenberger and Janice Havemann Walls married to Sam; his grandchildren, Caitlin Markham Morse, Blake Rosenberger, Spencer Havemann, Carley Rosenberger, Kristin Markham, Trevor Havemann, Chad Rosenberger and Evan Havemann, and his sister Nancy Faus-Mullen.

A Private Memorial Service will be at the convenience of the family. Time and date will be announced for friends to watch the Livestream of the memorial service at a later date. Contributions in his name can be made to either Brethren Village Good Samaritan Fund, Lancaster Church of the Brethren Memorial Fund, or Juniata College.

#### SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR BROADCAST

W. Clemens Rosenberger, 88, of Lititz, PA died January 27, 2021.

A private Celebration of Life Memorial Service for Clem will be held on Saturday, March 6, 2021 beginning 11:00 a.m.

Organ prelude to begin 10:45 a.m.

The public is invited to join a broadcast Live Streamed at <https://client.tribucast.com/tcid/49726845>

# Tribute Wall



“ *The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc. created a Webcast in memory of Clem Rosenberger*



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**The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc** - March 02, 2021 at 01:49 PM



“ *Clem Rosenberger*

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October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memorial Service Video*



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**The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc** - March 08, 2021 at 03:21 PM

JG

“ *The good doctor and I shared many a cup of espresso and vibrant conversation at Dosie Dough. He told me all about love, and I listened, I read every book that he recommended and he wrote the introduction for my book; URBAN GOTHIC 2. I really miss this old guy, we had some really interesting times. On the way back from a Dr Spong lecture, I let him drive my Mustang GT. It was a beautiful summer day and the top was down, I told him to punch it coming down Rt 322, and he did. you would have needed dynamite to get the smile off of his face. It was a good day and I am glad I had the opportunity to share part of my life with him, and he deemed it reasonable, to do the same with me. It is needless to say that I miss Clem, that is a given, what I miss the most is the ability to have more summer days with Clem, roaring down 322, exceeding the speed limit and enjoying every single second of the experience!*  
*sincerely,*  
*Jason P. Goodman*  
*PS: I don't have anyone to " spot " me in the gym these days either.*

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**Jason P. Goodman** - March 05, 2021 at 05:21 PM

JT

“ *From all of us here at Juniata College, Clem's alma mater, we share our condolences with the family but also celebrate a life well lived. Clem was the epitome of what we hope our graduates become: citizens of high character, unquestioned integrity, intellectually curious, and community driven. Clem, thank you for ALL you did to support Juniata and its students. We are grateful...*

*President Troha*

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**James Troha** - March 05, 2021 at 09:30 AM

TM

“ Leslie,  
My heart felt condolences to you on the loss of your father.  
Trudy McComsey

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**Trudy McComsey** - March 03, 2021 at 01:01 PM

CR

“ Dear Cindy, Leslie, Jeff & Jan,  
Just learned of your Dad's passing.  
We will never forget Clem & Margaret & family as our kind  
neighbors on Becker Drive in Lititz. So many memories together as  
families!

Sending our heartfelt sympathy and love to you all.  
Bill & Connie Rishell

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**Connie Rishell** - February 25, 2021 at 07:41 PM

DB

“ Our condolences to the Rosenberger family. I had the great  
pleasure of working with Pastor Rosenberger in the late 70s at the  
Church of The Brethren in Lititz. He was such an inspiration to me,  
a young man just married and starting a new chapter in my life. I  
would talk to Clem about life in general and to this day I am certain  
he played a huge role in me becoming the man I am today. Rest in  
peace my dear friend. Don and Sharon Bradnick.

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**Don Bradnick** - February 08, 2021 at 08:01 AM

AQ

“ I feel so fortunate to have known the Rosenberger family during your time in La Verne. Playing tennis, sharing the Airedales and spending time in your home were wonderful gifts I will always remember. Clem offered very sage advice when needed and his love of family was truly inspirational. God Bless you all. I'm sure both Clem and Margaret are making beautiful music in Heaven.  
Ann Quay

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**Ann Quay** - February 07, 2021 at 08:31 PM

JM

“ As Jeff's varsity wrestling coach, I came to know and appreciate this wonderful family. Clem was always a supportive parent with such a positive attitude. He quickly pointed out strengths and things that went well. He was supportive of the program as a whole and was an encouragement to me as the coach. Both Clem and Margaret were such a friendly, caring couple to know through the years. I always thought the Rosenberger children were very blessed to have such great parents.  
Jerry McDonald

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**Jerry McDonald** - February 06, 2021 at 04:01 PM

JC

“ Clem's service on the Juniata Board of Trustees was the context in which I came to know him. I always looked forward to our conversations because he was so thoughtful and insightful about many matters going far beyond the details of the business of the Board and, of course, kind and generous in trying to understand his fellow man.

*John Cramer*

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**John Cramer** - February 06, 2021 at 01:02 PM

DL

“ I knew Clem as a colleague in ministry in Lancaster through the Council of Churches. We collaborated on several educational events for Lancaster Church of the Brethren. I knew him as a child of God who strove to exemplify the love of God in all he did and said. He always was searching for understanding the church, the world and humanity at a more profound level. We have lost a true servant of the church and a model human being in the passing of Clem

*Daniel Long  
Pastor of the Lutheran Church*

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**Daniel Long** - February 06, 2021 at 08:43 AM

BL

“ I had just graduated from high school when Clem came to the New Enterprise CoB. I was considering Thiel College, Westminster College, and Juniata. He took a firm hand in steering me toward Juniata, and I began as a pre-med major later feeling called to ministry I shifted to communication and religion. Pastor Clem was sharp as a tack with a quick mind and keen intellect, and yet could be gentle too. My family had him and his wife over for dinner several times during his time at NECoB and his pastoral heart allowed him to relate to all members of our family in personal and unique ways. I am certain that without Clem, my own life path would've been very different indeed. I am thankful for the way God in infinite wisdom weaves our lives together. I am thankful for the bright light of the intersection of our paths. Clem will be remembered fondly and with love. May God's loving arms embrace you and give you comfort during this transition and time of grief. --Rev. Brandy Liepelt

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**Brandy Liepelt** - February 04, 2021 at 11:24 AM

LZ

“ I remember Clem from Seminary days when I first met him; and then learned about a Youth Club program which revitalized a congregation. We were friends for more than 60 years; and, also had the privilege to minister to his mother while she lived at Brethren Village. Good memories. Levi J. Ziegler

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**Levi J. Ziegler** - February 04, 2021 at 09:14 AM

BC

“ Clem was pastor at Lititz COB when Jefferson and I moved from Detroit with our daughter, Kirsten. Jan was her first babysitter. I remember both of your parents fondly. I reconnected with your Dad at your Mother's service and spoke with him once after that. Your family has a special place in my heart. Sending you sympathy but rejoicing that your parents are now together. Holding you in the light, Beth Crosby

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**Beth Crosby** - February 03, 2021 at 10:16 AM

DB

“ *Clem was a dear friend and supporter of mine at Juniata College since 2002 when I joined the college as a professor of religious studies. His passing grieves all of us in the department.*

*Clem was a generous man in his estimations of others. I know he embraced the vocation of a servant -leader in his ministry and his service of various boards of trustees to Juniata College.*

*What I remember most about Clem is his concern for the future of the church and its young people. He wanted the younger generations to be nourished in the church the way he himself was nourished. We had many conversations on how the church can speak to young people in this age.*

*I will miss kind presence and gentle spirit.*

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**Don Braxton** - February 01, 2021 at 02:53 PM

CS

“ *Lieber Clemens,  
ich werde Dich vermissen. Leider gibt es im Leben Verluste, die einmalig und unwiederbringlich sind und es bleibt nichts anderes, als sich damit abzufinden.*

*Dein Freund aus Deutschland.*

*Christoph Schwemlein*

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**Christoph Schwemlein** - February 01, 2021 at 02:24 PM

LG

“ *Rejoicing in Clem's Life. And claiming the Lord's promises.*

*The Lord bless you all.*

*Love, Verna Sherick*

*Senior Orchestra pianist and Wetherburn Neighbor.*

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**Lisa Groff** - February 01, 2021 at 01:53 PM

DR

“ Clem, Nancy and I all attended Juniata College at about the same time where we became good friends. We kept in touch over the years. Clem was Pastor to our youngest son Jim and his wife Rachel in Laverne, CA. We were very happy when they moved to Brethren Village which gave us the opportunity to spend more time together. Clem & I both loved to talk about Theology & Juniata. He was one great guy and will be sorely missed. We send our sympathy to his family and many friends. Love, Don & Eleanor Robinson

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**Dr. Donald Robinson** - February 01, 2021 at 01:05 PM

JP

“ Dear Cindy, Jeff, Leslie, and Janice,  
We were so saddened to hear about the passing of your dear dad! He had such a wonderful outlook on life, a very positive person, so uplifting to be around. I remember how much he and your mother did to find rehearsal and performance spaces for the Warwick choral groups when he served at the Brethren church in Lititz. We were always honored when he made a special effort to attend Good Friday services at Trinity church in Lancaster when Peter was the organist there. I remember how he brought others to this service, especially Jeff. His accolades were so lovely.  
We know you will miss him more than words can say, but you were all so fortunate to have been able to call him Dad!  
Sincere sympathy,  
Peter and Jane Pippart-Brown

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**Jane Pippart-Brown** - February 01, 2021 at 10:46 AM

HR

“ Jan -

*I am so sorry to hear about your loss. I am sending love, light, and comfort to you and your family.*

*Heather Rineer*

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**Heather Rineer** - February 01, 2021 at 08:06 AM

JN

“ *To Clem's children and his sister, Nancy: You have my deepest sympathy.*

*Janet Faus Neiswender - Bob Faus's cousin*

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**Janet Neiswender** - January 31, 2021 at 10:14 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc** - January 30, 2021 at 01:08 PM

MK

*I remember Pastor Clem showing up in the visiting locker room at Warwick HS. My wrestling coach said someone was here to see me. I wondered who could that be? Well it was Pastor Clem wishing me a good and safe wrestling match. He prayed with me at that point. Pastor Clem came to a lot of my wrestling matches. My friend said to me who was that jumping and hollering with my parents in the stands? I said that was my pastor! Peace to his family! Mike Keeney*

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**Mike Keeney** - January 31, 2021 at 09:19 AM