

Good Shepherd, Decorah wins national energy saver award

Congratulations to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Decorah for winning the energy saver category of Interfaith Power & Light's 2024 Cool Congregations Challenge!

IPL awarded congregation winners in six categories and 16 runner-ups for their work in responding to climate change by reducing their carbon footprint. Good Shepherd received the \$1,000 Energy Saver Award for eliminating the use of fossil fuels in heating, cooling, lighting, and powering their buildings. They have converted their building to all-electric with heat pumps to heat and cool their buildings, powered entirely by solar on their property, preventing 25 tons of carbon emissions annually.

The Cool Congregations Challenge, is an annual national contest to recognize "Cool Congregations" that are becoming energy efficient and sustainable role models within their

communities. The contest is available through Interfaith Power & Light, a nonprofit organization inspiring and mobilizing people of faith and conscience to take bold and just action on climate.

Learn more at www.neiasynod.org/care-for-creation.



A solar pergola is part of the energy saving additions at Good Shepherd, Decorah.

OBITUARIES

The Rev. Dr. William ("Bill") Paul Thalacker died Jan. 31, 2024, at the age of 89. He was ordained May 28, 1961. He graduated from Wartburg College, Waverly, and Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque. He also earned a master's degree in religion from the University of Iowa and a Doctor of Ministry from Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul.

He served as pastor for Bethany, West Branch; Ridgeway Parish (Peace, Madison, Orleans); Trinity, Hawkeye; Trinity, Waterloo; and St. John's Bennington, Dunkerton. He retired March 1, 2000. The funeral service will be April 20 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Waverly.

Rev. Thalacker is survived by his wife, Marilyn, five children, 14 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. The full obituary is available at www.kaisercorson.com.

The Rev. Harold McMillin, Jr. died March 2, 2024, at the age of 78. He was ordained on June 10, 1973. He graduated from Wartburg College and Wartburg Theological Seminary. He served as pastor at St. John's Crane Creek, Tripoli; First, Dows and Vernon, Williams; Emmanuel, Fontanelle; Elgin, Elgin and Highland, Elkader; and St. John's, Guttenberg. After his first retirement in 2011, he served St. John, Luana and St. John, Farmersburg. He retired again in 2019 and was most recently serving as contract interim pastor for St. Peter, Garnavillo and Peace, Clayton.

Rev. McMillin's funeral took place March 9 at St. John's, Guttenberg. He is survived by his wife, Linda, two children, two stepchildren, and six grandchildren. Harold's full obituary is available at www.graufuneralhomes.com/2024/03/15910.