



LaVonne Althouse

March 30, 1932 - December 15, 2023

Rev. Dr. LaVonne Althouse, 91 of Lititz passed away on Friday, December 15, 2023 at Luther Acres. Born in Ephrata on March 30, 1932, she was the daughter of the late Harvey Shimp and Arletta Fry Althouse.

LaVonne graduated from Ephrata High School in 1949. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from Penn State in 1953. She received her Bachelor of Divinity degree from the Union Theological Seminary and Master of Religious Education in 1959. She received her Doctrine of Theology in 1980 from Eastern Baptist Seminary.

Pastor Althouse was the 12th woman Lutheran pastor in America, being ordained at age 42. She served the Salem Lutheran Evangelical Church in Philadelphia for 22 years, retiring in 2002.

LaVonne served as editor of the Woman's Pulpit for nearly 50 years, the Official Publication of The International Association Of Women Ministers. She was elected editor emerita by the board in September of 2022 She also served as the editor of Lutheran Women, the periodical of Lutheran Church Women.

LaVonne was a very independent lady who loved to travel the world and teach religion to others thru her writings. She was an avid reader and collector of

many books.

LaVonne is survived by her sister, Joan Althouse of New York; nephews, Erik Hare and Michael Althouse and many friends. She was preceded in death by her brothers, David, John, Neil and Harvey, Jr., Althouse, her sister, Inez Hare and her nephew, Bradley Hare.

Family and friends are respectfully invited to attend LaVonne's memorial service on Friday, January 12, 2024 at 11AM from the Lutheran Church of the Good Shephard, 750 Greenfield Road, Lancaster. Friends will be received at the church from 10AM to 11AM on Friday. Interment will be held in the Bergstrasse Cemetery, Ephrata. Please omit flowers, memorial remembrances may be made in LaVonne's memory to a favorite charity.

Tribute Wall

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“ My condolences to LaVonne's family. I got to know LaVonne through my visits with her on behalf of Penn State, and always looked forward to and enjoyed our conversations. She was delightful in her manner, thoughtful in her world views and charismatic with her engagement in life. We fell out of touch with my job changes and retirement, but I often would think about her. She had a life well-lived that served many.

Kevin Musick - January 31, 2024 at 09:59 AM