

Pastor J. Harry Thomsen, 101

Aug. 23, 1900 - Dec. 29, 2001

ELK HORN – Jens Harry Thomsen was born to Kristina (Sorensen) and Theodore Marinus Thomsen, Aug. 23, 1900, at Saebby, Denmark. The eldest of four children, Harry sailed with his family to the United States at the age of 12 years. The Thomsen family settled in Racine, WI, where Harry's father worked as a bricklayer. His family later moved to Audubon. Harry was a member of the Audubon High School graduating class of 1922. He attended Southwestern University in Memphis, TN and Dana College in Blair, NE, where he received his undergraduate degree. He then attended Trinity Seminary of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Blair, NE, graduating in 1929. Pastor Thomsen's ordination to the United Evangelical Lutheran Church took place in June of 1929.



June 2, 1929, he married Helene Ragna Hansen of Elk Horn. To this union three children, Mark, Carol and James, were born. Following their wedding, the couple served congregations in Owatonna and Blooming Prairie, MN, from 1929 to 1932 and Luck, WI, from 1932 to 1939. From 1939 to 1949, Pastor Thomsen served the First English Lutheran and St. John's Lutheran Churches in Poy Sippi and Saxeville, WI. Helene died in 1941.

Feb. 24, 1943, he married Martha Mary Mortensen in Des Moines. To this union one son, Don, was born. The Thomsens made their home in Wisconsin serving Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Denmark, WI, from 1949 to 1967. Pastor Thomsen was called to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan, where he served as visitation pastor from 1967 to 1972. From 1972 until his retirement in 1987, Pastor Thomsen was chaplain at Salem Lutheran Home in Elk Horn. He was actively involved in the youth ministry of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church and served as president of the Wisconsin District. He was recognized by the Iowa Synodical Assembly in 1999, for the 70th anniversary of his ordination. Still active and healthy, he celebrated 100 years of living Aug. 23, 2000. He died Dec. 29, 2001, at the Cass County Hospital in Atlantic, at age 101 years.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wives, Helene and Martha; brother, William F. Thomsen; sisters, Margaret Mortensen and Thyra Thomsen, and one great grandchild, Mary Rose Thomsen-Keller. He is survived by his children, Mark Thomsen (Mary Lou) of Shorewood, WI; Carol (Kieth) Skogman of Seguin, TX; James Thomsen (Barbara) of Madison, WI and Don Thomsen (Andrea) of Denver, CO; 11 grandchildren; 18 great grandchildren; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Jan. 2, 2002, at the Elk Horn Lutheran Church. Burial was in the Elk Horn Cemetery. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.