

## Robert Fallgatter, 79

*Sept. 5, 1924 - Dec. 4, 2003*

**HARLAN** – Robert Keith Fallgatter was born Sept. 5, 1924, in Chickasaw, the son of Cleo Keith and Doris Edna (Cagley) Fallgatter. He graduated from Reinbeck High School in 1942. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Signal Corps in September, 1942, and was on active duty with the U.S. Air Force September 1943 - March 1946.

Nov. 29, 1946, he married Ermellin Simonsen at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Kimballton. They resided in Des Moines until 1954. He was employed at Iowa Lutheran Hospital during his college years. He received an Associate of Arts degree from Grand View College in Des Moines, and a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts from Drake University, also in Des Moines. He was awarded a Candidate of Theology degree from Grand View Seminary, Des Moines, and was later awarded a Master of Divinity degree from the Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, IL. Pastor Calvin Rossman and he had a different type of internship before ordination, developing a new congregation between Cedar Falls and Waterloo at Cedarloo (now St. Paul Lutheran).

In August, 1954, he was ordained a Lutheran pastor at the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church Synod Convention at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls, by the Synod ordainer Rev. V.S. Jensen. During that convention and for many ensuing conventions, he and his wife produced the convention minutes. He served Trinity Lutheran Church, Wilbur, WA; Juhl Lutheran Church and Germania Lutheran Church, Marlette, MI; and Trinity Lutheran Church, Brown City, MI (a three-point parish); and St. John Lutheran Church, Dunlap. While under call to the Executive Board of the Lutheran Church in America Iowa Synod, he served West Central Development Corporation, a ten-county community action agency based in Harlan, 1975-1989, the last 10 years as executive director until his retirement. During his years at West Central, he served as interim pastor in many area communities including Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Jacksonville; a two-point parish of Ebenezer Lutheran, Audubon; and Bethany Church, Kimballton; Brayton Lutheran Church, Brayton; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Kimballton; Hamlin Lutheran Church, Hamlin; Exira Lutheran Church, Exira; and Bethel Lutheran Church, Kiron, as well as preaching in many more southwest and central Iowa churches. After his retirement, he continued as a supply pastor in the area and was a full-time supply pastor at Salem Lutheran Home, Elk Horn, until his death. He was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Kimballton. He was a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He died Dec. 4, 2003, at Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, NE, at age 79 years, two months and 29 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers and an infant sister. He is survived by his wife, Ermellin; two daughters, Juleann Fallgatter (Dan MacMillan), Washington, D.C. and Michelle (Hisham) Elkhatib, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; one son, Spencer (Lilia) Fallgatter, Tucson, AZ; seven grandchildren, Kyle MacMillan, Alexandra and Kristian Fallgatter; Mazen, Rami, Samer and Sara Elkhatib; one brother, Stuart (Rosalyn) Fallgatter, Mesa, AZ; and one sister, Phyllis Martinez, Coachella, CA.

Funeral services were held Dec. 9, 2003, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Kimballton, with burial at Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery, Kimballton, with Pastor John Swenson officiating. Casket bearers were Dave Greve, Bruce Hoegh, Dennis Herskind, Gerald Jensen, Jerome Christensen and Winston Hoegh. Military rites were provided by Helmer Reyelt AL Post #150 and Shelby County VFW Post #941. Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.