



Reverend Robert Dean Schuler

June 13, 1934 - September 6, 2025

The Reverend Robert Dean Schuler, age 91, passed away on September 6, 2025, in Mentor, Ohio. A gifted theologian, devoted pastor, and cherished mentor, he shaped the lives of countless parishioners, colleagues, friends, and family through his wisdom, warmth, and deep sense of vocation.

Robert Schuler was born June 13, 1934, in Grand Forks, North Dakota to the late Herbert George and Alma Schuler. He married Barbara Ann Brandt from Fargo, North Dakota on September 9, 1956, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Fargo. Robert graduated from Concordia College, River Forest, IL in 1957 with a Bachelor of Science and Master's Degree in Education. He went on to teach at St. John's Lutheran School in Forest Park, IL from 1957-1963. In 1963 he accepted a call as teacher and principal at Trinity Lutheran School in Manchester, MO where he served until 1969. During this time, he enrolled in Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO where he earned a second master's degree, this time in Theology in 1968. Robert Schuler was ordained as a Missouri Synod Lutheran minister in 1969 and accepted a call to northwest Ohio where he served two parishes: Zion Lutheran Church in Willshire, OH and St. Thomas Lutheran Church in Ohio City, OH until 1982. Pastor Schuler then accepted a call to Trinity Lutheran Church in Willoughby, OH, where he served until retiring in 2017 at the age of 82.

During his many years in Willoughby, Rev. Schuler was also an active

member of the community. In addition to his involvement with the Ohio District - Missouri Synod, he served churches with pastor vacancies, was an active member of the Rotary Club of Willoughby, and chaplain at local hospitals for 15 years.

People loved Pastor Schuler's beautiful voice in church services as well as his positive and uplifting messages delivered in his sermons. He was a warm and kind person; people were drawn to him and wanted to be around him. Bob laughed easily and had a good sense of humor. He loved his wife and family and enjoyed spending time with them. His children often talk about what a wonderful listener he was. Most importantly, he loved the Lord. One of his favorite Bible verses was, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

Rev. Robert Schuler is survived by his beloved wife, Barbara Schuler, his six children: Paul (Regina) Schuler of Denver, Colorado, Martha Schuler of Evergreen, Colorado, Mary (Kim) Scott of Denver, Colorado, David (Debbie) Schuler of Woodstock, Georgia, Ruth (John) Huffman of Lima, Ohio, and John Schuler of North Olmsted, Ohio, twelve grandchildren: Hannah, Joey, Christi, JK, Charlie, Robbie, Anna, Sarah, Emily, Sarah, Mary and Jack, and 19 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his older brother, Donald Schuler.

The family will receive friends to celebrate Rev. Schuler's life from 2-6 p.m. Sunday, September 14, 2025, at the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060.

A funeral service to honor him will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, September 15, 2025, at Zion Lutheran Church, 508 Mentor Ave., Painesville, OH 44077.

Interment will be in Mentor Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are appreciated to Zion Lutheran Church, 508 Mentor Ave., Painesville, Ohio 44077.

Please offer condolences at www.brunners.com.

Cemetery Details

Mentor Cemetery

6881 Hopkins Rd.
Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 974-5733

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **14**. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center
8466 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 255-3401
ajs@brunners.com
<https://www.brunners.com/>

Funeral Service

SEP **15**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Zion Lutheran Church (Painesville)
508 Mentor Avenue
Painesville, OH 44077
(440) 357-5174

Tribute Wall

TS

“ *Tatum Schuler lit a candle in memory of Reverend Robert Dean Schuler*



Tatum Schuler - September 22, 2025 at 11:16 AM

LB

“ *I am so very sorry that Pastor Schuler has left us. He was an AMAZING servant of the Lord. He and Barb retired from my church Trinity Lutheran in Willoughby.*

One of my fondest / Personal experience is when he married Bob and I (Linda Rusnak Brown - in 1994). Such a gentle voice. What a blessed and happy day. He was truly a special person. Touched SO SO many lives.

We're in awe of all his degree's and accomplishments. I am very fond of Concordia College in River Forest Ill. ,visited there many times as my brothers and later my nieces and nephew's attended. Brother and nephew's all became pastors.

*Pastor will be so very missed. Blessings to the Schuler family.
Linda Brown*

Linda Rusnak Brown - September 15, 2025 at 04:41 PM

DB

“ Our prayers go out to each and every one of you at this difficult time. I wanted to share that growing up in my teens and twenties back at St. Thomas in Van Wert County Pastor encouraged me to get involved in education and suggested I take an active role in the leadership of my church. I have always been grateful to him for that and have often shared that he was a major influence in my life. While I recently retired from 40 plus years in education both my wife and I continue to be active in our church at St. Paul in Napoleon. Goods blessings to all of you!

Dan and Terri Baer

Dan and Terri Baer - September 14, 2025 at 12:31 PM

CL

“ My deepest condolences to the family. Captain Jack my Therapy Dog always loved his smile and pets. Prayers to you all.
Charlene Lorek and Captain Jack

Charlene Lorek - September 13, 2025 at 02:02 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Reverend Robert Dean Schuler.



September 11, 2025 at 12:51 PM

PM

“ *Barb, Paul, Martha, Mary, David, Ruthie & John:*

We are so sorry for the loss of Uncle Bob. He was a very special man.

I remember a few years back when Mom, Jessica and I visited with Barb and Bob and spent the night with them along with Steve, Sue, Aaron & Jennifer. That summer Jessica had 2 anoles (lizards) that she brought with and one of them died - Robbie. Uncle Bob performed a little service behind their home, which meant so much to Jessica, and your mom was gracious enough to let the other one, Lizzie, stay in her laundry room!!

My brothers, sisters and our spouses have made a donation to Zion Lutheran Church in memory of our very special uncle.

Our love and prayers are with you all!

Paula & Kevin Monson

Paula Monson - September 10, 2025 at 03:57 PM

CO

“ *Pastor Schuler was a great teacher, leader and friend. He not only saw the importance in being a good listener, it was part of his daily practice. I always enjoyed our conversations about life, family, sports and God. He had a knack for making you feel important. Heaven is a better place when him there! Rest in Peace Pastor Schuler and God Bless Barb and here family!*

Chris O'Brien - September 09, 2025 at 05:48 PM