



Rev James Edward Baseler

October 21, 1946 - June 24, 2025

The staff of Heishman Funeral Home sends condolences to the family of Rev James 'Jim' Edward Baseler.

Pastor James 'Jim' Edward Baseler, 78, of Toms Brook, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at Greenfield Reflections of Woodstock. He was preceded in death by his parents, Rev George Edward and Ruth Mardorf Baseler, his sister, Dorthy 'Dottie' Carvalho and nephew Eric Carvalho.

Jim was born on October 21, 1946, in Bloomington, Illinois. He graduated from Lowell High School, San Francisco, Ca., Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, Ca. His internship was in Hickory, North Carolina with Pastor Albert Keck. Pastor Jim was called to serve at Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas, Toms Brook Lutheran Parish, Hebron Lutheran Church, Madison and Mt Olive Lutheran Parish.

Jim, as a left hander, always said he was in his right mind. He was creative as a musician, singer and artist. His mother used to say he was going to be an architect or a minister as he was always drawing churches. He sang in many church choirs with his first solo in 2nd grade in Clinton, Iowa and also sang with the San Francisco Boys Chorus and appeared once on the Ed Sullivan Show, All City Choir in high school, The Castle Singers at Warburg College,

Manassas Choral Society, Madison Choral Society, Oratorial Society of Charlottesville and Masterworks Choir of the Shenandoah Valley. Jim, along with Lutheran Pastors Scott Benson, Terry Edwards and Jeff Marble organized the Bluegrass Gospel Group "The Kingdom Stompers" which spread the gospel for 9 years throughout the valley. They also wrote the "Bluegrass Mass" which is still being used at Emanuel Lutheran Church. Jim has played and sang at numerous nursing homes and events of all kinds in and around the Shenandoah Valley. Pastor Jim said, "I hope and pray that my music has brought Joy to many a heart."

Pastor Jim is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Peggy Ann of 38 years, brother Rev. John Strecker-Baseler (Rev Charlotte) Raton, New Mexico, sister Lois Baseler (Julie) Madison, Wisconsin his son, Brooks James Baseler (Mandi) Gordensville, Va., his daughters, Elizabeth Ruth Grossman (Michael) North Canton, Ohio and Dawn Helsley Keene (Bob) Lexington S.C. Grandchildren Rebekah Grossman, Jeffrey Keene, Kaitlyn Keene and Kelsy Brazell (Dustin). Great grandchildren, Ezekiel Brazell and Roman Brazell, Cassablanca, Morocco and many nieces and nephews.

His family will always remember his quick wit, his drawings on all their birthday cards and his guitar playing and singing funny songs. Peggy would like to thank the many family, friends, doctors, nurses and therapists who helped to keep him going as he maintained his sense of humor and his famous one liners that made us all laugh in the last 5 years as he battled Parkinson's Disease and Dementia.

A celebration of life will be held Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Woodstock, Virginia at 1:00 PM. The family invites friends and attendees to wear "grateful dead" t-shirts alongside the family for Pastor Jim's service. The family will receive friends Tuesday, August 12, from 6-8pm at Emanuel Lutheran Church. Memorial contributions may be made to

Emanuel Lutheran Church, 127 E High Street, Woodstock, Va and
Shenandoah Valley Local Ministries, P O Box 132, Toms Brook Va. As Pastor
Jim's mantra from the Grateful Dead's song "Truckin" : "Sometimes the light is
all shinning on me, Other times I can barely see, But lately, it occurs to me
What a long strange trip it's been."

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **12.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Emanuel Lutheran Church
127 E High St
Woodstock, VA 22664-1732
(540) 459-3837

Celebration of Life

AUG **13.** 1:00 PM (ET)

Emanuel Lutheran Church
127 E. High Street
Woodstock, VA

Tribute Wall

GR

“ I was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease four years ago. For over two years, I relied on Levodopa and several other medications, but unfortunately, the symptoms kept getting worse. The tremors became more noticeable, and my balance and mobility started to decline quickly. Last year, out of desperation and hope, I decided to try a herbal treatment program from NaturePath Herbal Clinic. Honestly, I was skeptical at first, but within a few months of starting the treatment, I began to notice real changes. My movements became smoother, the tremors subsided, and I felt steadier on my feet. Incredibly, I also regained much of my energy and confidence. It’s been a life-changing experience I feel more like myself again, better than I’ve felt in years. If you or a loved one is struggling with Parkinson’s disease, I truly recommend looking into their natural approach. You can visit their website at www.naturepathherbalclinic.com Email (info@naturepathherbalclinic.com)

Greta - January 18 at 12:59 PM

SW

“ Pastor Baseler taught me how to play the guitar when I was 15 at Bethel. He then officiated my wedding in 2015 when I finally married the boy that I dated during that same time. He would occasionally give me a ride home in his VW beetle. what a loss. Very fond memories.

susan wolford wilkinson - October 05, 2025 at 01:19 PM

AL

“ So sorry I just found out. What a calm and caring person, any time there was something, Jim had a story that brought out the best in us. And made us laugh. I still love the Bluegrass Mass and use it. I remember a time when I started singing 'Ripple' and he was surprised and joined. May the love he shared transcend all time and surround you and your family Peggy. Closer than we know.

Angela L Lambert - September 04, 2025 at 01:36 PM

PB

Thank you Pastor Angela. I remember the first time we met you and the girls.

peggy Baseler - September 17, 2025 at 12:46 PM

SJ

“ Shelby/Steve, Mary/Charlie, Jeff/Denise purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Rev James Edward Baseler.



Shelby/Steve, Mary/Charlie, Jeff/Denise - August 10, 2025 at 04:19 PM

RK

“ Peg of my heart, I. Am so sorry for your loss of Jim who was a friend and wonderful colleague I have not seen you two for awhile I always carry you two in my heart. Pastor Scott Benson told me of Jim's difficulties and I prayed for his good health. Again sorry g or your loss. Love and peace.

Pastor Rick Krasneck

Richard R Krasneck - June 30, 2025 at 06:52 PM

RD

“ Dear Peggy, I can only imagine how much you will miss James Dean. He was a sweetheart of a man and pastor. Will be holding you in prayer.
Blessings,
Debbie Dukes

Rev Debbie Dukes - June 30, 2025 at 11:15 AM

AC

“ One of the best memories of Pastor Baseler was how much fun he made bible school! I still remember the Rise and Shine song he taught us! Prayers to his family.

Anne Palmer Comer - June 28, 2025 at 11:51 PM

CJ

“ Pastor was always sincere and kind to me and my family
A loving man who I will always cherish in my heart!!!

Cleveland Jones - June 28, 2025 at 07:55 AM

PD

“ Dearest Peggy, I am so sorry to read of Jim's passing. He brought a smile, light and comfort to many. I count it a privilege to have known him even for such a short time. Please know how much we love and appreciate you. You and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers. May God's presence bring comfort and peace in this difficult time. Peace, Phyllis Diamond

Phyllis Diamond - June 28, 2025 at 07:16 AM

PK

“ We always enjoyed his visits to Faith Lutheran church in Fort Valley and the joy of listening to his songs and his joy for life. I can imagine quite a reunion with Linda telling jokes up in heaven and playing music together!

Pamuela (Pam) Kitner - June 26, 2025 at 08:57 PM

DL

“ I would always ask Peggy in Walmart about Jim. I will definitely miss him, his humor and musical voice.

Danny Lambert - June 26, 2025 at 04:10 PM

BN

“ Rest eternal, grant him , O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon him. Jim blessed me in his song, his words, his friendship and his presence. Blessings, Bill

Bill Nabers - June 26, 2025 at 03:46 PM