



## Rev. Don Malcolm Michael

September 16, 1925 - June 1, 2011

Don Malcolm Michael, 85, of Salisbury, NC, passed away peacefully Wednesday, June 1, 2011 at home surrounded by his family.

Born September 16, 1925, Lexington, NC and was the son of the late James A. Michael and Thelma Fritts Michael. He was preceded in death by his brother Bobby F. Michael.

He attended schools in Lexington, High Point, and Asheboro, NC. He was a graduate of Lenoir Rhyne College, Hickory, NC, and the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC. He did his graduate work at Harvard Divinity School and completed the course of instruction at the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, VA, where he was the first Navy Chaplain to attend. Rev. Michael served Zion Lutheran Church, Hickory, NC as his first pastorate. He was commissioned as a Navy Chaplain in 1951 and retired as Captain USN on July 31, 1978. On the occasion of his retirement he was presented the Meritorious Service Medal for his service as Base Chaplain, Marine Corps Base at Camp Lejeune, NC. His tours of duty included the battleship USS Iowa, the destroyer tender, USS Bryce Canyon and the aircraft carrier, USS Enterprise. He also served tours of duty as Naval Chaplain Sigonella, Sicily; District Chaplain, 12th Naval District, San Francisco, CA; Depot Chaplain, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, SC, and Division Chaplain, Third Marine Division FMF based in Okinawa, Japan.

Rev. Michael then served as pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Salisbury, NC until his retirement in September 1987. During his pastorate, he was

active in outreach ministries of the Lutheran Church; the social ministry programs of Rowan Cooperative Christian Ministries and Rowan Helping Ministries. He was a member of the Parish Life and Ministry Committee of the NC Synod and chaired the committee for several years. He was also an active member of the Professional Service Committee of the Synod. After retirement from Gloria Dei, he had served as Vice Pastor of Lebanon Lutheran Church, Cleveland and Salem Lutheran Church, Salisbury.

Rev. Michael served on various committees at Ruffy Holmes Senior Center from 1988-2009 and the Board of Directors from 1997 to 2002. He was Local Coordinator for the Tax Aide Program from 1997 to 2003. He continued to help as a tax instructor and counselor until 2009. He was also a Charter Member of the Military Officers Association of America.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years Helen Waggoner Michael, his son Don Michael, Jr. of Georgia and Julia Hibbard (Dave) of Salisbury, his two grandsons Daniel Michael (Jenny) of Salisbury and Robert Michael of California and two great-grandchildren Nicholas and Kirsten Michael of Salisbury.

A memorial Service will be held Saturday, June 4 at 3:00 pm at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church with Pastor Bill Battermann officiating. Visitation will follow in the church fellowship hall. At other times the family will be at the home.

Summersett Funeral Home is assisting the family with funeral arrangements.

Online condolences may be made at [www.summersettfuneralhome.com](http://www.summersettfuneralhome.com)

In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1908 Statesville Blvd, Salisbury, NC 28144 or Rowan Regional Hospice, 720 Grove St., Salisbury, NC 28144.

# Tribute Wall



“ Please know our prayers are with you at this sad time. Uncle Don was a wonderful man, with a life made richer by all of you. He will be missed, but will live on in our memories.

*We're thinking of you.*

*Love, Jane, Jim, Tom & Renee, Bill & Geri, and Sally & Mike##imported-begin##Jane Waggoner & Family##imported-end##*

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June 04, 2011 at 04:39 PM



“ Dear Mrs. Michael and Family  
I have known Don for many years. He always remembered my name and was eager to greet. I have been blessed by knowing him. He was a faithful servant to our Lord as he served in the Navy and in pastoral ministry. He certainly was a caring and compassionate person. I pray God's blessings upon you and your family as you mourn the passing of Don. Tommy K.Beaver##imported-begin##Rev Tommy K Beaver##imported-end##

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June 03, 2011 at 09:41 PM



“ My prayers are with you all, I am very sorry for your loss.##imported-begin##Beth Carlyle Pond##imported-end##

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June 03, 2011 at 07:53 PM



“ Dear Helen, Julia, and family:  
I was a home health aide for you for several months. Don was a very nice man and I was impressed with his total background. I knew some of it, but wow, he was incredible!  
I am sorry for your loss, even though Don is with the Lord now. I wish you peace. Blessings, Carol###imported-begin##Carol Stritzel###imported-end##

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June 03, 2011 at 06:51 PM



“ ###imported-begin##Clara Hudson###imported-end##

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June 03, 2011 at 06:28 PM



“ I'm very saddened to here of Don's death and mourn with you. I got to know him while taking over his duties as treasurer of the Rowan Lutheran Ministerial Association. His dedication and hard work were inspiring and I will miss him. May you, his family, rest yourselves in the healing power of Christ's resurrection.###imported-begin##Brian Benton###imported-end##

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June 03, 2011 at 06:15 PM



“ Sending my deepest sympathy to the family and praying that God will give you the grace to get through such a hard time. Please know that I am here if I can do anything! Love and Prayers,  
Donna###imported-begin##Donna Overcash###imported-end##

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June 03, 2011 at 12:56 PM



“ Dear Michael family, my sincere sympathy is extended to each of you. I worked for a while as secretary at Gloria Dei Church where I met Pastor Michael. He always seemed to be such a caring person. May God bless each of you during this sad time.##imported-begin##Jerrie Peeler##imported-end##

June 03, 2011 at 09:03 AM



“ Rev. Michael was always a blessing to be around. He had a smile displaying the salt and light of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are lifting each of you up in our prayers and thoughts.##imported-begin##Pastor Joey Spry##imported-end##

June 03, 2011 at 01:21 AM



“ I'm so sorry to hear about your loss. Take comfort in knowing that he is no longer suffering. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers. May God continue to give you comfort.

Tricia (co-worker of Julia)##imported-begin##Tricia Loughlin##imported-end##

June 02, 2011 at 08:56 PM



“ We will miss our Friend and Beloved Pastor Don Michael who we were proud to worship with at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church at Salisbury, N.C.##imported-begin##Lois and Fred Gerhard##imported-end##

June 02, 2011 at 07:18 PM



“ *Julia & Mrs. Michael,  
I am with you and my heart breaks for you.....there are no words...  
Please know that I love you...##imported-begin##Dottie  
Ayers##imported-end##*

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June 02, 2011 at 03:33 PM