



Southwestern Texas Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America God's work. Our hands.



In Memory of Rev. Vernon Breikreutz August 21, 1934-December 23, 2020

God blessed Vernon Edgar Breikreutz with many talents and 86 years, during which he used these talents to serve his Lord and Savior through the power of the Holy Spirit. He was born on August 21, 1934, in Lavaca County, Texas, to Edgar and Ella Breikreutz and spent his early childhood living, working and playing on his parents and grandparents' farms in Charlotenburg and Wied, Texas. He learned German and English at home and school in Charlotenburg before moving with his family to Cuero, Texas, at age nine. In high school he excelled in English, history and especially acting, twice winning best actor honors as part of the best one-act play honors for his Cuero High School acting class in the 1950 and 1951 Texas state finals competitions. He pursued his love of history and music at Texas Lutheran College (now University), earning a Bachelor of Arts in history, singing in the college choir and making life-long friendships. He then answered God's call by earning a Master of Divinity degree from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, California in May, 1957. He then completed a ministerial internship under Pastor Hahn at his family church, Saint Mark's Lutheran, in Cuero, Texas, before being ordained as a Lutheran minister in the summer of 1957. He served as pastor of his first church, Saint John's Lutheran Church of Goliad, Texas, from 1957 until 1969. During this time, he met and fell in love with congregation member Aline, whom he married on February 9, 1964. He also served as interim pastor to the Lutheran churches at Weesatche and Schroeder, Texas, on separate occasions while continuing to lead his congregation in Goliad.

In 1969, he answered the call to be the minister of Ascension Lutheran Church in San Antonio, Texas. Soon after he and Aline moved, he became an active and sought-after spokesman for the ecumenical Right to Life movement in the city, and continued to explore his love of music, wood working and pipe organs by designing and beginning construction of a tracker pipe organ for Ascension Lutheran Church. Aline and he were blessed with a son, Eric and daughter Claire. In between his pastoral duties at Ascension, helping the kids with their homework, composing the basic music and all lyrics to several original hymns of praise, and taking the family on trips to Texas historical sites and his beloved Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, Vernon took interior design courses with Aline at St. Mary's University. He also became a member of the San Antonio Choral Society, serving as the Society's president in the early 1980s. He completed and dedicated the pipe organ at Ascension Lutheran in 1979, built a workshop in the backyard by hand and launched Prestant Pipe Organs, Inc. with business partner and celebrated organist Madolyn Douglas-Fallis. The company designed and built large tracker pipe organs for House of Prayer and Hosanna! Lutheran churches in San Antonio and a portable "Fiesta" model tracker pipe organ featured in concerts at San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio and the Victoria (Texas) Bach Festival.

After the merger of Ascension Lutheran Church with another San Antonio congregation, Vernon became the pastor of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Inez, Texas, serving its congregation from 1991 until his retirement in 1996. He then moved to "Idylcroft Cottage" - a two-story house in Boerne that he built by hand - which showcases his and Aline's love of Colonial and early Texas architecture through its design, exterior woodcarvings and interior decoration. He remained active within his synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Aline and he joined Saint Helena's Episcopal Church of Boerne shortly after the creation of the concordance between the Lutheran and Episcopal churches in the U.S. When not tinkering in his workshop, babying his plants or enjoying breakfast and coffee with dear friends at the Bear Moon Bakery, he

loved taking family trips to Colonial Williamsburg, northern Virginia, New England and Canada and continuing to seek out and enjoy the best pies available in Central and South Texas. He joined the Lord he served so faithfully on December 23rd and is survived by his wife Aline, daughter Claire, son and daughter-in-law Eric and Cathleen, sister Ruth and sister and brother-in-law Bar-bara and Robert. Ruhe in Frieden, lieber Mann, Bruder, Vater und Onkel.

The family had a private graveside service due to COVID. To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Vernon Edgar Breitreutz please visit our [Tribute Store](#).

We remember Rev. Breitreutz's family in our prayers and trust that the promise of the Resurrection is true and sure.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Briner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Bishop Sue Briner