

Ray David Reisig

September 1, 1948 – February 7, 2025

John Reisig

Ray David Reisig was born at Emmanuel Hospital in Portland, Oregon to David Henry Reisig and Evelyn Alta (Hall) Reisig. Ray was named after Uncle Raymond Hall (Mother's only brother) and father's middle name. The Sacrament of Baptism was performed by Pastor Joseph S. Gyorog at Second German Congregational Church in Portland, OR. Ray attended Faubion Elementary School where each class could choose their own mascot – Ray played basketball for the “Faubion Skunks”. While in grade school the family transferred to St. Michael's Lutheran Church (LCMS) – meeting at Upper Room of Concordia High School/Junior College while St. Michael's was under construction near the school campus. Ray was confirmed at St. Michael's by Pastor Amos Schmidt, and was active in many Walter League activities.

Ray attended Concordia Synodical High School in Portland – training to become a Lutheran Teacher (which would become his life-long mission). During High School he lettered in Baseball (3rd Base), Basketball (shooting guard), and Football (Quarterback & Team Captain). Ray was known for being a friend to all, easily approachable, and always willing to lend an ear, or a helping hand.

Continuing his education at Concordia Junior College – Portland, he also continued in Football and Baseball (Brooks Robinson type of 3rd baseman). In Junior College, Ray developed his habit of being friendly, gathering many life-long friendships, and being “fun” to be around. During these years Ray also became known for his dancing, performance, and storytelling skills – especially for his “Ray jokes” that went on and on and “went nowhere” – but, kept the group's rapt attention.

Senior College took Ray to Concordia Teacher's College – Seward, Nebraska – majoring in Elementary Education. His college football career ended due to a broken wrist, but led him to develop a championship intramural flag football team – much to do with Ray's ability to draw people to him, become friends, have fun, and make others successful. He was known for bringing the “less accepted” students into his group – making all welcome and part of his family of friends. Many of his new friends had to also endure Ray's taste in music – 1910 Fruit Gum Company “Yummy, Yummy, Yummy, I've Got Love In My Tummy”, The Archies “Sugar Sugar”, and The Royal Guardsmen “Snoopy vs. The Red Baron”.

After Student Teaching and Graduation in 1970, Ray began his Lutheran Teaching Ministry which would continue faithfully for the next 41 years (35 years at Trinity), until his retirement in 2011. He accepted God's 1st Call to Serve as Teacher and Coach at St. Peter's Lutheran School in Fort Wayne, IN. During this time Ray developed his classroom and coaching skills. Indiana was the

“hot bed” for High School and College Basketball – coaching, watching and learning “Indiana basketball” served Ray well when he accepted the Lord’s Call to serve Trinity Lutheran School in Portland, Oregon. Bringing Indiana basketball to Portland proved to be a winning combination for decades of Lutheran Grade School Basketball, LEST, and even led to a complete set of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place National Championship Trophies in the National LBAA Tournament at Valparaiso University – Indiana. At Trinity, Coach Reisig also notched his 800th Basketball Win (and the plaque and T-Shirts to commemorate the accomplishment). Ray developed assistant coaches, allowing them to go on to coach their own teams. In his role of Coach, Friend, Mentor and Competitor Ray earned a lasting reputation among Lutheran School Administrators, Coaches and Teachers not only in Oregon and Washington, but those he came in contact with at Regional and LBAA (National) Tournaments.

Lutheran Teachers are known for their selflessness in meeting the needs of their students and families of the school and church. Ray certainly embodied this in coaching basketball, soccer, maintaining the field and gymnasium, providing extra academic and athletic skill building, working with past students to prepare for High School, College, and even professional athletics. When the need came, Ray would answer the call including school plays, musicals, and productions.

Although “sports” comprised much of his free time, Ray had a lifelong hobby of collecting and running his Train Sets. With vintage electric trains, and other newer and different units, running simultaneously over multi-level tracks through and around landscape and village scenes – completely filling the room of the house, and taking hours to build, rebuild, add to and just run them for enjoyment.

Ray has always been “a performer” -- from jokes, storytelling, making up dances, to writing, producing, directing, and starring in his own “home movies”. All with the rolling credits of “Directed by Ray Reisig”, “Produced by Ray Reisig”, “Written by Ray Reisig”, “Starring Ray Reisig” in a “Ray Reisig Production”. Family members and neighbors played parts in his various productions.

Ray’s love of dancing became his outlet to meet new people, and led him to the Love of his life Cathy. They began their married life with God’s Blessing on April 26, 2014 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Portland. Dancing continued to be part of their life together. Teaching dancing and artistic skills to students led to school productions, and Ray & Cathy’s “Song & Dance” performances for students, video and also for their dance group events – all with elaborate costumes and staging. Their Dancing, their Love, and their Faith brought them together, and continued to grow and strengthen their life together.

Ray is survived by his loving Wife and Life Partner Cathy (nee Jakes) Reisig, sister Gwen E. Maddalena (Emmett, ID), brother John H. Reisig (wife Janice) Houston, TX, brother Robert L.

Reisig (wife Michelle) Kent, WA, Sister-In-Law Karen Snow (husband Jerry) Portland, OR, and nephews and nieces Jenny Cammack (husband Michael), Julie Yancey (husband Dino), Jodi Baldys (husband Matt), John D. Reisig (wife Shannon) Alex Reisig, Teagan Reisig, Lucas Reisig, and Anna Prosser (husband Nate) and Jake Prosser (wife Melissa). Uncle Ray and Aunt Cathy maintained a presence in the lives of their nephews, nieces, great-nephews and great-nieces.

Ray is preceded in entry to Heaven by his Father David and Mother Evelyn Reisig, Mother-In-Law Phyllis Jakes and Brother-In-Law Bill Maddalena.

A Memorial Service conducted by Pastor Mark Hoelter, will be held at 1:00 PM, May 10, 2025 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 5520 NE Killingsworth St., Portland, Oregon. A link for streaming will be available at: <https://trinitylutheranportland.org>.

With appreciation and gratitude, the family would like to thank the Students, Teachers, Administrators, Pastors, Coaches, Care Givers, and many friends that shared their Faith, Lives and Talents with Ray and Cathy over these many years.

In lieu of flowers, the family would favor donations to Trinity Lutheran School, 5520 NE Killingsworth St., Portland, Oregon 97218.