



## Kathleen Erin Gahagen

March 21, 1969 - February 28, 2014

Kathleen Erin Gahagen, 44, known affectionately by her parishioners at Abiding Savior

Lutheran Church as Pastor Keg, because of her faith, entered into the Kingdom of God on

February 28, 2014. Through her ministry as a Pastor for the ECLA and her lifelong,

valiant battle against Cystic Fibrosis, Kathleen inspired and influenced everyone whom

she met. She leaves behind to celebrate her life and achievements so many people who

were all Family to her and who admired and loved her--her biological/extended and

marital family, her Lutheran Church family including St. James and Abiding Savior and her

fellow clergy, her family/friends from high school and college who have

comforted and

encouraged her for many years and all the staff who took care of her at Rainbow Babies

and Children's Hospital in Cleveland. It is impossible to capture with words her spirit, her

refusal to let her illness define her or stand in the way of accomplishing her life's work, her

generosity, or her gregarious nature. The memories and the joy she leaves behind are

immeasurable and will forever stay in our hearts. Breathe Easy, our dear Sunshine,

Breathe Easy.

The family extends to Dr. Robert Stern a special appreciation for his constant care of

Kathleen for the last nine years. Thank you.

Also, thank you to her neighbors who supported her faithfully and unselfishly during

this last difficult year.

Because Kathleen willed her body to science, there will be no viewing.

A Celebration of her life will be held Friday, March 21st, which would have been Kathleen's 45th birthday. That day Abiding Savior Lutheran Church will host an evening of sharing, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, where friends and family and parishioners can gather and share remembrances of Pastor Keg. Abiding Savior is located at 1534 Ruie Road, N. Tonawanda, NY.

There will be a memorial service for Kathleen at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on Saturday, March 22nd at 11:00 AM. Holy Trinity is located at 1080 Main Street, Buffalo, NY. Clergy are invited to process. The color of the day is Purple. There will be a light reception downstairs in Redeemer Hall following the service.

Family and friends are then invited back to Abiding Savior Lutheran Church to share a meal and fellowship. A donation to a memorial fund in her

honor may be made to Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, 1534 Ruie Road, North

Tonawanda, NY 14120.

PDF Printable Version

# Tribute Wall



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

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March 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Keg, I can't believe that the vibrant spirit that characterized you is no longer with us. My memories burn brightly of your vitality, laughter, wisdom, hospitality, and general sense of seizing life as it came. We will miss you! Our prayers are with your family and friends. Dawn & Thor*

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March 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Keg,*

*We have all been changed for good thanks to you.*

*May the comfort and hope you brought to others throughout your life bring comfort and hope to those that are now mourning your death and celebrating your life!*

*My fun memory of you goes back to Witt and the Alpha Xi house and you singing MC Hammer's Can't Touch This! How apropos, no one will ever be able to touch the legacy you left behind and the lessons you taught!*

*May you breathe easy and full and dance with the angels until we meet again.*

*Xi Love,  
Renee*

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March 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Sending prayers and comfort to Keg's closest family and friends. We were all touched and inspired by her, but you must feel the loss most deeply. I am still in awe of the kind of person you were, Keg, and know that you are now dancing freely...*

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March 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Keg was truly a light and an inspiration to me and so many others who had the privilege of calling her a sister. While not sisters by blood, we were all sisters by soul and I must say that your daughter, wife, sister was the best of all of us. Thank you for letting us share in her life.*

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March 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *My heart goes out to all of you. She was a great person and will be missed by many. Gone but never forgotten. Love you all.*  
*Deborah*

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March 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *May God bless Keg and let eternal light shine upon her.*

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March 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ I met Kathleen in a cottage in the mountains 35 years ago. She was a dynamic and delightful little girl that grew into a remarkable woman. I wish Anne and Kathleen's entire family peace with the knowledge that her spirit and energy will live on and continue to guide and inspire those of us fortunate enough to have known her.

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March 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ my prayer are with the family at the time of your lost

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March 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ May the Lord bless you and keep you.

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March 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ While I did not know Kathleen personally, I do know her very good friend, Dawn Pulliam and how Kathleen touched Dawn's life in a beautiful way. She was obviously a beautiful soul who loves our Lord Jesus with all of her heart, mind, soul, and spirit. I pray that all who knew her are comforted by her life's legacy and I offer my condolences for your loss. May God comfort you all and give you His peace which passes all understanding.

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March 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Pastor Gahagen's family are in my prayers.

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March 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM



*“ May the Spirit of Kathleen continue in your hearts. Joy and Peace for the family.*

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March 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM



*“ Thoughts and prayers and with Kathleen, Patrick, Anne and the entire family.*

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March 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM



*“ My thoughts and prayers are with Kathleen's family at this time. Kathleen was a great friend and always made you laugh! She will be missed! Rest in Peace KEG!*

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March 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM



*“ Memories from St. James Lutheran Church in East Cleveland, Oh are too many to mention! Prayers to all her family.*

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March 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM



*“ Tommy and I wish to extend our condolences and pray that God gives you strength. Tommy and I will always remember how Kathleen embraced us both with a warm and welcoming hug as if she knew us before we actually met such a beautiful spirit she will be greatly missed.*

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March 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“Keg, we are poorer without you, but oh, so much richer for having had you. You brought the love of Jesus home to countless people. You are missed even as we know you are now, and always will be, in the presence of God.

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March 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“Keg your time on earth was way to short but the lives you touched are far greater than most people who have lived twice as long as you. You have been an inspiration to many, especially to me. I will never forget you my friend. I love you.

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March 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“We all will miss you- you have been an inspiration to all of us. I will always remember your cheerfulness and beautiful smile even when you were not feeling well. Rest easy.

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March 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“So many memories my friend—so much light passed on to others—we love you and will miss you! Kim, Tim & Max

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**Kim Hort** - March 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“May all creation rejoice at the forming of a new angel: KEG -- please get the Holy Spirit to inspire those researchers to do more for Cystic Fibrosis!

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March 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



*“ We rejoice that she went to meet Jesus face to face. What a gift for her. God be with you all as you celebrate her life, mourn her death and give thanks for her new life.*

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March 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



*“ To Kathleen's family, I am so sorry for your loss. My prayers are with your family.*

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March 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



*“ My mom lived at Greenfield retirement home for several years. She told me once that the pastor who had preached there one Saturday was barefoot. I immediately knew that it was Keg!*

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March 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



*“ I knew Keg at Wittenberg, and I have great memories of her infectious smile, her loving actions, and her always-positive outlook on life! She brought joy to everyone who met her, and I am thankful to God for having known her. Know that you, her family and friends, will be in my prayers in these coming days. Peace be with you.*

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March 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



*“ If we live, we live to the Lord. If we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.*

*Met Keg several years ago - remember 2 things about her - her smile and her Luther tatoo. A mighty fine pastor!*

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March 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Rest in peace*

March 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Life often wasn't easy but Keg knew how to laugh and inspire laughs. Her faith is an inspiration to me. It has a blessing to know you and be your colleague. See you at the feast without end.*

March 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *So many memories my friend....so much light passed on to others...we love you and will miss you! Kim, Tim & Max*

March 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



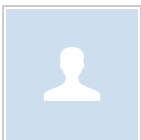
“ *Keg was my RA at Witt, and a wonderful person. I give thanks to God for her life.*

March 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Tiffany Bonner has sent this Expressions of Sympathy card.*

March 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our friendship began at Witt in North Hall.I have treasured you every day since. We take comfort in how Kelly put it, breath easy now...and rest, faithful servant..our love Sharbear and Gregg*

March 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ As a former houseboy of yours at Witt, good luck up there. I'm glad I got to follow you these past few years on Facebook and hope you did find a new home for your dog. I heard a Keg sermon once live in person, when you first started, and you were great then. Things were always tough with your health, but you did a lot with your life even with all the struggles and had a lot of fun so congratulations!

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March 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Best minister we have ever witnessed at a wedding, she will be missed. Friends and congregations will all pray for her and her family at this time.

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March 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ My dear Nuts has left this Earthly plain and I am experiencing a mixture of sadness for myself and happiness that she can now "Breathe Easy". She will never be forgotten and I am so blessed to have known her and been such an active part of her inner circle for 30+ years.

*Party On, Garth, Que Lastima and I Thank You For Your Support for all these years... Love You Always Coco*

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March 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Beautiful words!!!! I am a better woman because I had Keg in my life. . . peace and love to you- Forever remembered, always missed. . . eternally loved. . . Dawn Miller

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March 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Rest in peace my dear friend! You made such an impact on my life!  
I will treasure the memories always! Love you forever*

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March 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM