



Jon Jay Huisken

November 14, 1942 - April 21, 2022

Our husband, dad, and granddad Jon Jay Huisken was born on November 14, 1942, at home in Edgerton, Minnesota, to Henry and Wilhelmina Huisken. He was received into glory on April 21, 2022.

Jon was the fourth of five children. He grew up with his older sister, Verla, two older brothers, Larry and Darrel, and his younger sister Beth. Jon married Joanne Grace Veldman on August 8, 1963 and graduated from Calvin College in 1965. Jon is survived by Joanne, their daughters and their families: Amy Beth Huisken Praestgaard and Jens Thomas Praestgaard of Boston, MA; Shelley Min Huisken-Coniglio and Mario Coniglio of New Hamburg, Ontario, Canada; Jana Lynn Huisken and Christopher Ashe of San Francisco, CA; and Jennifer Sue Huisken LaPointe and Lynn LaPointe of Lansing, MI; and six grandchildren: Emily Joanne and Jonathan David Spencer; Sofie Christina, Erik Jon, and Matthew Eigil Praestgaard; and Tahlia Shea DeCory.

Jon's life was one of service to his Lord and his community. He exemplified love in a gentle, wise, and witty way, always with a sparkle in his eyes and kind but firm advice to anyone who could use it. He was a loving husband, a much beloved dad, father-in-law, and granddad. He served the Protestant Reformed Church as elder for over 40 years, providing leadership and counsel in all manner of practical and personal situations, and leading catechism classes and Bible studies for all age groups. He was a faithful

advocate for the Protestant Reformed Christian schools and served as teacher and school board member throughout his life. A highlight of his service to the schools was the year that he, Joanne, and the girls spent in Redlands, CA, where they taught 36 covenant children during the inaugural year of the Redlands Protestant Reformed Christian school. Jon began his long career at Hope College in 1969 as Assistant Registrar, was appointed as Registrar in 1970, and promoted to Dean of Academic Services in 1989 as recognition of his service to the Hope community, especially to Hope students. Highlights of his Hope career included leading several international, nature-centric, and Indigenous programs. Our family especially treasures his deep commitment to, and involvement with the Rosebud May Term program. He retired in 2011, deeply loved by faculty and students.

Jon was loved so very much by all of us, our spouses and our children, his brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, the church and schools he served so faithfully, the Hope College community, his friends, and most of all by his heavenly Father.

These are all facts, known to most who read this. Here are a few additional tidbits – in no particular order of significance or chronology -- of how we remember our husband, dad, and grandad. He was an avid fisherman who spent hours and hours and HOURS in a pontoon boat on Hamlin Lake in Ludington, MI. He loved to garden, and he loved to watch and converse with birds -- joys he shared in a deeply personal way with Shelley. He loved to read books of all kinds. He loved “nature walks” with Jana, with her skipping along and talking, talking, talking, talking. He referred to Minnesota as the “Holy Land,” called his wife “Joey,” his eldest “Amos the Famous Mosquito” and his youngest “JenBabe.”

He did not enjoy eating outdoors because of flying insects, but he tolerated birthday picnics at Kollen Park in Holland, MI. One of the happiest moments of

his life was when Jen and Lynn surprised him with FRONT ROW seats for a Lake Wobegon taping. In high school, Jon was in the “B group,” and Joanne was in the “A group,” and only the As could be in the choir. This exactly exemplifies the dynamic of the decades-long relationship that followed. In his own words, “Jonny married up.” When Jon was a 4-year-old child, he walked around his Edgerton neighborhood (which is all of Edgerton) to see if his neighbors had any puzzles they weren’t using. When he was even younger than that, he played “good window, naughty window” in his parents’ garage. He and his brother Darrel almost ruined the suspension of the washing machine in their Calvin College boarding house. His Hope College office crew surprised him with a 50th birthday party at...wait for it...the McDonald’s in Holland, MI. He was a Twins’ and Cubs’ fan and was so very happy on November 2, 2016. He did not like his food to be delivered, because it “wouldn’t be hot” and “just doesn’t travel well.” He would, however, drive just about anywhere to pick it up, especially if grandchildren were hungry. He loved his four-legged family members and brought MANY little four-legged friends to his mom when he was a child because they “just followed me home” (never mind the piece of bologna in his pocket).

Jon Jay Huisken loved and was loved. He is now in the most loving arms of all – those of his Savior, who is the only comfort in life and in death for those who yearn to see him again.

A funeral service will be held at 1:00 pm, Monday, April 25, 2022, at Georgetown Protestant Reformed Church, 7146 48th Ave., Hudsonville MI 49426. (MASKS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED AT VISITATION AND SERVICES.) Visitation will be 2-5 pm, Sunday, at the Yntema Funeral Home, 251 S. State Street, Zeeland MI 49464. Private interment will be in Georgetown Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Protestant Reformed Special Education, 6340 Autumn Drive, Hudsonville MI 49426, or

the Protestant Reformed Theological Seminary, 4949 Ivanrest Ave. SW,
Wyoming MI 49418.

FUNERAL SERVICES WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED Monday at 1:00 PM
Eastern @
<http://georgetownprc.org/live-stream/>

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **24.** 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Yntema Funeral Home
251 S State St
Zeeland , MI 49464
(616) 772-2173
info@yntemafh.com
<http://langelandsterenberg.com/>

Funeral Service

APR **25.** 1:00 PM - 2:10 PM (ET)

Georgetown Protestant Reformed Church
7146 48th Ave.
Hudsonville, MI 49426

Tribute Wall

KD

“ *Jon was a student of mine at SWMCHS in '58-'59, and he is goofing off with Gary Kok and some other guys in the back row of a group of SW alumni at Calvin at a cookout in Grand Rapids that I helped instigate. I'd love to reconnect with any still in GR. (I'm in GR now, too.)*

Ken Van Dellen - January 18 at 08:04 PM



“ *Jon Jay Huisken*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM

KI

*I just learned of the passing of Mr Huisken as we called him at Hope College.
Sad news indeed.
I know him as one of the great men that walked on this earth; no exaggeration.
The kindness he showed to my brother and I at Hope College while we went through difficulties in the early 80s made him so dear to our hearts.
So long as we live his memory as a gentle wise man with an open heart shall remain with us.
Sincerely;
Koorosh ilami*

koorosh ilami - October 02, 2022 at 05:14 PM

RK

“ *So sorry for your loss! Jon was a wonderful colleague at Hope College. May you receive a special measure of God's mercy during this difficult time.*

Ruth Overweg Klungle

Ruth Klungle - April 25, 2022 at 01:15 PM

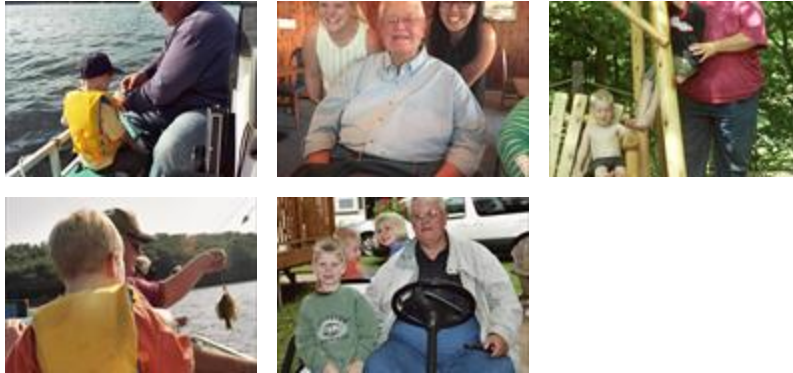
TF

“ *Mr. Huisken was a very kind to me during my days at Hope College. As a student who returned to college at age 28, he understood my work schedule and was always willing to ask a professor to sign me into a class. He was always nice to meet while walking across campus and easy to spot with his signature pipe. My life was enriched by knowing him. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.*
Thomas M. Folkert

Thomas Folkert - April 25, 2022 at 08:34 AM

AP

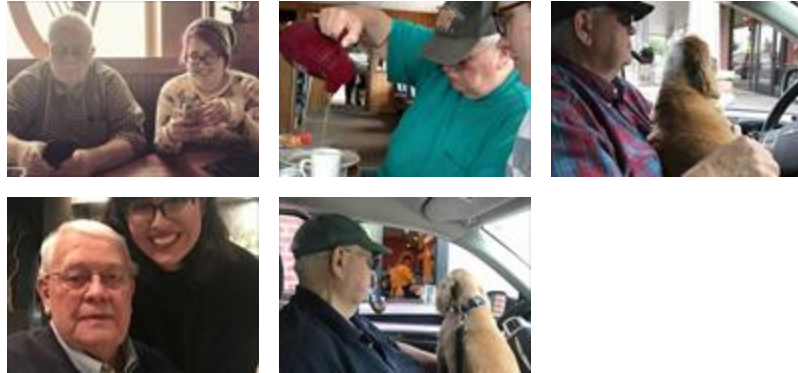
“ *8 files added to the tribute wall*



Amy Praestgaard - April 24, 2022 at 11:52 AM

JL

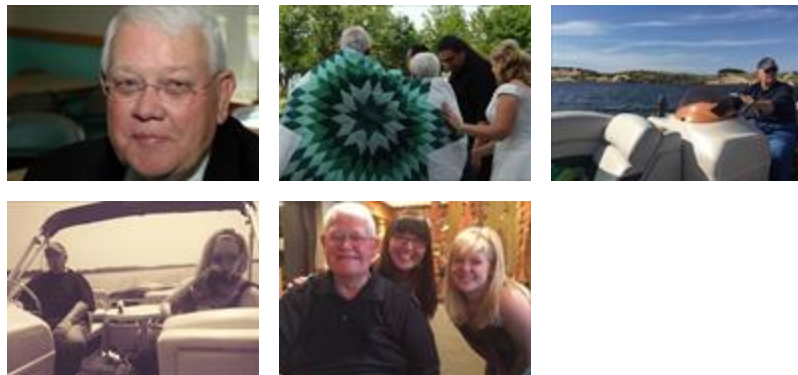
“ 9 files added to the album Memories Album



Jen LaPointe - April 24, 2022 at 09:12 AM

JL

“ 8 files added to the album Memories Album



Jen LaPointe - April 24, 2022 at 09:06 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Jon Jay Huisken.



April 23, 2022 at 04:19 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Jon Jay Huisken.*



April 23, 2022 at 11:35 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jon Jay Huisken.*



April 23, 2022 at 11:05 AM