



## Steven E. Zill

January 3, 1954 - October 6, 2022

STEVEN E. ZILL

Hemlock, Michigan

Our heavenly Father put His hand upon our loving husband, father, Papa, brother, teacher, dear friend, and called Steven home on Thursday, October 6, 2022. He was 68 years old. Steven Edwin Zill was born on January 3, 1954, in Ann Arbor, MI, to the late, Edwin and Helen (Wackenhut) Zill. He married Julie B. (Priehs) Zill on June 23, 1979, in East Detroit, MI and she survives him. He is survived by his children, Steve (Elizabeth) Zill, Betsy (Kevin) Pruzinsky, Mike (Kayla) Zill, Scott (Laura) Zill; his grandchildren, Will Pruzinsky, Caroline Pruzinsky, Jackson Zill, Aaron Pruzinsky, Milan Zill; his sisters, Pamela (Leo) Otto, Janice Heligman; his In-laws, Warren (Karen) Priehs, Jan (Mark) Schiefer, Jayne (Bruce) Braun. He is also survived by his nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and dear friends. He was also predeceased by his mother and father, Edwin and Helen Zill, and his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Warren and Mary Ellen Priehs.

Steven Zill received his Bachelors degree in education from Concordia River Forest and his Masters degree from Eastern Michigan University. Prior to his retirement, Mr. Zill was a teacher at Valley Lutheran High School, having taught science and theology. In his retirement he enjoyed visiting his children and grandchildren and attending their sporting events. He also enjoyed

gardening, golf, fishing, breakfasts with his friends, morning chats with Don and Doc, cigars with Mike, teaching bible class, camping and visiting nursing homes with his dog Ruby. Most importantly he loved his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and studied His word daily.

In accordance with family wishes, cremation will take place.

The family is having a Celebration of Life for Mr. Zill at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 2565 N. Miller Rd. (Thomas Township), Saginaw, MI. The Rev. Kirk Abatelli will officiate. Service will take place Wednesday, October 12, 2022, at 11:00 am. Visiting with family and a light lunch will follow in the fellowship hall.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions, in memory of Mr. Zill, go to Valley Lutheran High School or St. Mark Lutheran Church or [operationbbqrelief.org](http://operationbbqrelief.org)

Memories and sympathies of Mr. Zill may be shared with the family on his memorial website at [WakemanFuneralHome.com](http://WakemanFuneralHome.com)

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

OCT 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mark Lutheran Church  
2565 N. Miller Rd.  
Saginaw, MI

## Memorial Gathering

OCT 12. 11:45 AM (ET)

St. Mark Lutheran Church  
2565 N. Miller Rd.  
Saginaw, MI

# Tribute Wall

JM

“Blessed be the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for giving his servant Steve 68 years on this earth.. Our three children, Philip, Laura, and Rachel, were blessed by being taught by him. During their years at VLHS, God prompted me to ask Steve to attend an Young Earth Creation conference out east that MS and PhD's invited to. My one request was that he share the information received with churches and students. Within a month God provided all the plane tickets and spending money to buy any books or materials. That event enabled Steve to speak more boldly about our Almighty Creator God. He shared with me that besides marrying Julie, that event was the “second best thing” he had done in his life. God gives us blessings to bless others. Praise God that His servant Steve lived that life. Joyce Melcheck

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**Joyce Melcheck** - October 20, 2022 at 07:47 AM

CB

“Being in his first class when he started teaching at VLHS, I still remember his infectious personality and that laugh. A true genuine and caring spirit with a passion for teaching that touched the lives of so many. Keeping his family in our prayers.

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**Craig Bergwall** - October 17, 2022 at 06:12 PM

DS

“1 file added to the album Retirement



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**don storck** - October 14, 2022 at 05:16 AM

KW

“ *Blessed to know Steve as a colleague at VLHS. He showed so many the love of Jesus. Always could make someone smile! Matthew 25:23 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'*  
*Thoughts and prayers to Steve's family and friends.*

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**Kay Waters** - October 12, 2022 at 08:18 PM

NO

“ *My cousin Steven has always, in our childhood growing up a fun and kind person. It's sad to loose touch as we grow up and have our busy lives. I will always remember our days when our families got together. So happy to hear he had such a wonderful life and touched so many others. My prayers for the families healing.*  
*Nola (Wackenut) Klink. Chelsea, Mi.*

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**Nola** - October 12, 2022 at 07:12 PM

DV

“ *Mr. Zill, a man I miss and love. I feel blessed to have known this great man. Never did I leave him not in a better place. He would talk soccer with me and genuinely talk and listen. He would ask me how I was, my family, and genuinely listen and care. He was an amazing man that will leave a legacy through everyone he met. My family and I send our deepest condolences to his beautiful wife, sons, daughter, many grandchildren and all extended family members. Steve was a great man, made the world a better place, I can think of no better legacy.*  
*- Vukorep Family*

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**Denis Vukorep** - October 12, 2022 at 11:29 AM

FR

“ I met Mr. Zill when I went back to school as a older student at Delta, it was a science fair.  
My special needs son was about to enter 8th grade, we had been homeschooling and had a great amount of anxiety over sending him to school with his difficulties.  
When I found out who Mr. Zill was, I talked to him about my concerns for my son, with a sharp look in his eye and a caring confident voice , Steve stated"bring him to me, no worries, I will take care of him"  
This man did exactly what he said he would do, he took my son under his wing and helped him develop his talents and confidence, with Love and Christ in his heart he helped me raise a special kid who has now gone on to be a kind , caring , fruitful adult.  
My family will be forever grateful for the man of Steven Zill.  
Godspeed Mr. Zill.  
May God keep his family blessed and protected.

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**frazier** - October 12, 2022 at 04:40 AM

JB

“ "Oh my gosh" (to quote Steve), the life lessons he taught so many would fill this page but they all came down to this. "Love God" and "Love your neighbor." He took Jesus' words to heart and showed us that Jesus truly is the way, the truth, and the life.. Praying for God's grace and peace for Julie, his family and countless friends.

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**John Brandt** - October 11, 2022 at 10:07 PM

JP

“ I have fond memories of him and my time at Valley Lutheran!! Steve was always a student favorite, someone who they always looked up to! I am honored to have know. Him for only 2 short years!! God's faithful servant!! Thoughts and prayers for the family! 🙏

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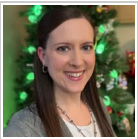
**Jennifer Pralle** - October 11, 2022 at 08:18 PM

GR

*“ I've known Steve since 1972 when we met at Concordia. He was a man of faith, husband, proud parent and grandparent. A true teacher, of both school subjects and the Word. Scientist, yet a short earth creationist. Soccer addict, both player and coach. Golf disciple, both player and coach. A fisherman and a fisher of men. Shipwright; tomato lover; recording star; avid, voracious, reader; always questioning; praying for the waitress every time. True practitioner of Christian hospitality and steadfast friend. I see Him welcoming you saying "well done good and faithful servant." Hey Buddy, will see soon (and thanks for the golf lessons). Greg Rotter.*

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**Greg Rotter** - October 11, 2022 at 04:09 PM



*“ Mr. Zill contacted me on Facebook for my birthday every year asking how I was doing and I would give him updates on my life and he would pray for me and ask questions about my life. He was the most caring and compassionate man I have ever met. I pray God will wrap you with His comfort and peace during this difficult time.*

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**Liz Burkett** - October 11, 2022 at 02:45 PM

BB

*“ Steve was a colleague and good friend during the years we were both on the faculty at Valley Lutheran. Truly a man of God who impacted the lives of so many students, parents, and fellow teachers. I can still hear his laugh. Julie and family, I pray that God will unfold you with the peace and comfort that only He can provide! Steve, I will see you again!*

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**Bill Busacker** - October 11, 2022 at 10:23 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Steven E. Zill.*



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October 11, 2022 at 09:17 AM



“ *Steve was an excellent teacher and coach who truly loved seeing his students and athletes succeed! He was also a very kind and nice person who I enjoyed talking to when our paths crossed. Prayers for his family and all who have been a part of Steve's life!*

*God Bless,  
Warren Wood*



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**Warren Wood** - October 11, 2022 at 09:08 AM

PR

“ Our dear friend Seven (Mr. Zill) was truly a man of God, a prayer warrior, and a teacher of the word who loved people unconditionally and it showed.

*He will be missed by all who knew and loved him, and our hearts are heavy with sadness for the loss of his knowledge, inspiration, and loving spirit.*

*Just this past Sunday he told the Bible Class (with excitement in his voice) that "I can't wait for God to take me home to Heaven."*

*Although we are sad for this tremendous loss, we are confident that, Steven (Mr.Zill) is at peace in the loving arms of his faithful Master, and Savior, Jesus the Christ.*

*The Petre Family, Ron, Ellen, Pam and Christine*

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**Petre, Ellen and Ron** - October 10, 2022 at 11:10 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Steven E. Zill.*



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October 10, 2022 at 01:40 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Steven E. Zill.*



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October 10, 2022 at 12:27 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Steven E. Zill.*



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October 10, 2022 at 11:12 AM



“ *Mr. Zill was a one of a kind. Both my kids had him for a teacher at Valley Lutheran. He was always upbeat and had a magic experiment to share with his students to accentuate whatever he was teaching at that moment. My daughter Sarah was assigned to him for two years as a student assistant. ("Organizational skills" were not in his tool belt.) We will miss you Mr. Zill.*

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**Susan Breen** - October 09, 2022 at 11:36 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Steven E. Zill.*



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October 09, 2022 at 09:57 AM



“ *I was the sports editor at The Township Times though the 1990s and can say Steve was one of my favorite coaches to interview. Always friendly, up beat and positive. He was also the only coach I would interview by phone who would sometimes get interrupted by a goat that "walked in" on him during our conversation. Just a super guy, and great neck ties.*

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**Jerry Kent** - October 09, 2022 at 09:50 AM

DS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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don storck - October 09, 2022 at 08:43 AM

DS

“ Is there anyone who has never met Steve Zill?  
Facebook would be out of business if it wasn't  
for everyone that knows Steve!

He was my best buddy, and we shared much  
discussion time together. We had the same  
interests, even politics . We shared books,  
rocks, seeds,... and coffee. I got Steve to drink coffee!  
He will be so missed, but I'm sure Steve is laughing with someone  
else right now...



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don storck - October 09, 2022 at 08:27 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the  
family of Steven E. Zill.



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October 08, 2022 at 05:33 PM

KC

“ I met Steve when he visited my dad's 7-11 almost daily about 15 years ago. He always had time to hang around and talk, making sure everyone was doing well. He always wished me happy birthday, even though we hadn't seen each in years. Not really sure i have ever met someone like him. you will be missed my friend!!

Kenneth chappell - October 08, 2022 at 05:33 PM

AW

“ Steve was one special believer in Jesus Christ. I learned so much about God and the Bible from Steve, a friend I will never forget. Two of his favorite pictures of mine. Serving friends and being a wise man of Jesus.. Love You, Steve.



Al Walter - October 08, 2022 at 01:46 PM

KK

“ Was sad to hear of Stevens' passing. He was my next door neighbor growing up. No doubt he is one of heavens angels. God bless and comfort his wife and family especially his sister and my dear friend, Pam.

Kathie (Lucas) Kennedy - October 08, 2022 at 11:24 AM

KS

“ Steve was a great friend that I got to know from Concordia. Once you knew him, you wanted his friendship because he was so genuine. Prayers of comfort for the whole family. No doubt Steve has entered heaven's gate.

Kim Streeter - October 08, 2022 at 10:40 AM

KA

“ Steve was the most Joyful Christian I have ever known.! His Life Song Sang His Response To Christ for Forgiveness, Redemption and Salvation! Steve was bold in the declaration of our Jesus and this free gift! He was a power and fearless nemesis of Satan, never missing an opportunity to unmask him to others! There never will be another Steve, but he leaves us a shining example of how to Live the Christian Life!

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**Karl** - October 08, 2022 at 10:40 AM

KM

“ My wife and I knew Steve from Concordia Ann Arbor. Our paths crossed many times over the years. He touched our lives in so many ways. He touched our children's lives at Valley Lutheran. He touched the lives of the youth members at my church. God used him mighty ways. I will miss his authentic faith and his hearty laugh.

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**Keith Alan Minda** - October 08, 2022 at 05:30 AM

WF

Your family will be in our prayers.

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**Walsh family** - October 08, 2022 at 10:53 AM



“ He was my best friend at River Forest and room mate. He made everyone feel genuinely, a friend to him and always regarded your thoughts and words. He expressed his musical admiration for Bob Seger as we played and jammed his music which was heard all the way down the dormitory halls. When I met Karen, my wife, he regarded her as a best friend to me and showed the same agape love. I had the privilege to keep in touch by Facebook every now and then, all the way up till Sept 11 this year without a clue of him having any health issues. It was never about himself, but you. What a man! Miss you as he would always say heartfully, "Later dude!"

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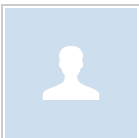
**Randal Tritch** - October 07, 2022 at 09:47 PM



“ I can not say enough about this man. He was my only brother but also a very close and dear friend. He was always there for me in my toughest times. He prayed constantly for my well-being and I will never forget that. We would talk a lot but more so over these past few years. I enjoyed playing golf with him and just hanging out. I have never known another who could love so unconditionally for everyone he met. He truly was a beacon of light filled with the love of G-d to each and everyone he met. He will truly be missed. I still can hear him laughing across the golf course. His hug was an embrace of love that I will surely miss. Steven, I look forward to seeing you soon again. I love you, Janice

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**Ms. Janice Heligman** - October 07, 2022 at 09:08 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Steven E. Zill.



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October 07, 2022 at 08:58 PM