

SYLVESTER RUE

Lutheran Pastor

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Dear Hannah:

The Anniversary Bulletin for the Bethlehem Lutheran Church mentioned that you were present, and that in September you would be observing your 92nd birthday. For this reason I am moved to send greetings and congratulations. I note also that you are the only charter member of the congregation that is with us today. The Lord has blessed you with a good and long life. There is a Word which says: "For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life." Prov. 9:11. Here no doubt it is the Lord that is speaking, for He alone can accomplish this. I have known persons, eight or more, who have reached over one hundred, one who is now 109. As long as we have a sound mind and a thankful heart, life can be meaningful. You are also very fortunate to be with your son and a wonderful daughter, for excellent comfort and support. May the good Lord continue to sustain and keep you in His gracious love, and His eternal, abiding hope!

It would have been a most satisfying experience to have been at the Bethelhem Anniversary, to have renewed experiences and to have been with you and Gudrun and others that we know, but I did not feel that I could make it just now. Recently we have experienced a deep sorrow through the departure of Margarite and our daughter Sylvia. They were both precious individuals, and we know that the Lord knows best. But it is the goodness of the Lord that has sustained me, and I have said that I cannot afford to feel sorry for myself. In my loneliness, however, I felt the need for companionship and found it in a sister of Margarite, who lost her husband seven years ago. Hence, I am living here, where I am also closer to four grandchildren who lost their mother last December, the 13th.

Many times our thoughts have gone back to our sentimental journey in 1974, when we also visited with you folks in Saskatoon. Those were precious days, which might remind us of what awaits us in the new heaven and earth, with loved ones that have gone before. Every moment should be precious, motivating us with the greatness and goodness of the Lord. Then we can also think back to the times we visited in your home at Loreburn and in the Skudesness Church. There were many young people filled with expectation and confidence, and I was young myself. Yet there is also a confidence which is generated through a Christlike faith. And this is the confidence which makes us rich and a life with a positive meaning. When life then approaches the intended and final journey, we can with the gifted singer of the Old Testament say: "I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me." But our Lord also speaks: "While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." John 12:36.

Greetings to all of the Tasta family. May the love of Christ also constrain and keep you all in His great and precious love!

Fraternally yours,

*Sylvester Rue*