



Beth Huener

April 16, 1956 - May 14, 2026

Beth Sue Huener, age 70, passed away on May 14, 2026, in Toledo, Ohio. A devoted student of faith, a compassionate community leader, and a cherished sister, Beth's life was defined by her intellectual curiosity and her deep love of words and connection to others. She authored two books: *Life on the Edge of Faith* and *The Word has Come Down*. Most recently Beth was writing skits based on Lectionary readings that she wanted to share with pastors and lay leaders.

Born on April 16, 1956, in Battle Creek, Michigan, Beth was the daughter of the late Edgar and Lillian Huener. She received her bachelors degree in journalism from the University of Toledo in 1974. Then her journey took her from her Midwest roots to the San Francisco Bay Area, where she joined her sister for 10 years. She enjoyed the national parks in Californian especially Yosemite where she climbed Half Dome. Beth and Jean also enjoyed white water rafting and hiking. Beth had always wanted to be a pastor and eventually answered a call to Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California, earning her Master's degree. Her time in California was foundational, shaping a worldview that balanced rigorous scholarship with a gentle, inclusive ministry.

Beth graduated from the seminary and was later ordained there with her sisters Jean Kay and her parents in attendance. Her first congregation was in West Virginia then she was pastor at a church in Union Corners, OH, then another in Monroeville, OH, both near Sandusky OH. She then returned too

Toledo in 2000 after father's stroke. Beth became a cornerstone of the local Lutheran community. She was pastor at First St. Mark's Lutheran Church and then Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church. Known for her intellectual depth and gentle spirit, she was a fixture in the life of the church, participating in the community's rich traditions and fostering a sense of fellowship among the congregation.

Beth found great joy in working with children. Whether through Sunday School, youth programs, or community outreach, she had a unique gift for making young people feel seen and valued. Her patience, creativity, and infectious kindness left an indelible mark on the youngest members of her congregations, who knew her as a mentor and a friend.

Beth was preceded in death by her parents, Edgar and Lillian. She is survived by her four sisters, who will miss her dearly: Kay Huener, Jean Huener, Joy (Kruse) Huener, and Grace Huener.

A memorial service to celebrate Beth's life and legacy will be held at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran in Toledo on June 20, 2026 at 11:00 with a gathering time at 10:00. In honor of Beth's lifelong commitment to faith and education, the family suggests donations be made to a favorite charity.

Upcoming Events

Visitation

JUN **20**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church
106 West Plumber Street
Toledo, OH 43605

Memorial Service

JUN **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

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