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**Rev. John Kucharik (b.1917-d.2001), Pastor of St. Luke's
1968-1982. Photos and obituary.**

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Rev. John Kucharik

OVIEDO, Fla. — The Rev. John Joseph Kucharik, 84, died Sunday.

Born in Garfield, N.J., he lived here for several years. The Rev. Kucharik, who attended the St. Paul Lutheran School in Paterson, N.J., was a 1941 graduate of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Miss. He was ordained in 1941 and served as pastor at John Huss Lutheran Church in New Kensington, Pa., until 1950.

He served with his father at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Garfield until 1965 and remained there until 1968. In 1968, he moved to St. Luke Lutheran Church in Oviedo, where he served until 1982 before retiring. He then served on the pastoral staff at Trinity Lutheran Church of Orlando and as part-time visitation pastor at the Lutheran Haven, both in Orlando.

He held a variety of positions within the Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Church and served as an editor of their publications, "The Lutheran Beacon" and "The Courier Youth Magazine." He worked as camp director for the youth and served on the Mission Board and the Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees.

He was also pastoral counselor for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. He made recordings for The Lutheran Hour Broadcast.

The Rev. Kucharik, a former chaplain of the Fire and Police Departments in Garfield, was appointed to the city of Garfield Labor Relations and Mediation Board, the City Welfare Board and the Neighborhood Center and served on the Garfield YMCA Committee of Management. He was also chaplain of Clara Maass Hospital in Belleville, N.J., and Winter Park Hospital in Florida. He was a member of the Lions and the Rotary clubs.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Eleanor Marie Kucharik.

Surviving are two sons, Thomas John of New Canaan, Conn., and John Mark of Chagrin Falls, Ohio; a daughter, Judith Jean Rambeau of Casselberry; a sister, Mil Hudgins of Goldsboro, N.C.; and five grandchildren.

Baldwin-Fairchild Oviedo Chapel, 501 East Mitchell Hammock Road, is in charge of arrangements.

Nov. 6, 2001



