



**Robert S. (Bob) Sorensen**  
(April 13, 1941 – April 19, 2021)

Relationship to St. Andrew

Bob and Linda with two young children joined St Andrew in 1968, just after it moved from the funeral home to the property on Meridian Street. Bob served in various leadership roles.

Family

Wife: Linda Markins Sorensen

Son: Robert Scott Sorensen (Suellyn) - Indianapolis

Daughter: Anne Sorensen Inman (Andrew) – Madison, WI

Grandchildren: Sydney, Robert, Erik Sorensen, Sam, Alec, Ryan Inman

Siblings: Marilyn Sorensen Pratt (Thomas), John M. Sorensen

### Recognitions, Activities, Special Interests

Bob's earned his BS from Purdue in Industrial Management and then completed MBA at Northwestern University, followed by MBA and later a Ph.D from Purdue in Higher Education Administration. Professional he worked in the area of finance for Purdue, St. Louis University, and Ivy Tech State College, both in Lafayette and in the state office as Director of Computing for the Ivy Tech system.

Bob placed family first and spent considerable time on activities of family members, including coaching, Cub master, camping, planning family trips and excursions, watching grandchildren's sporting events. In addition, he took on leadership roles in Boys Scouts, at the troop, council, area, and regional levels. He led troops to National and World Jamborees, and served as director of Wood Badge Training for adults. He received both the Silver Beaver and Silver Antelope Awards, presented to volunteers.

Since he graduated from Purdue in 1963 he was involved with the Purdue chapter of Kappa Sigma Fraternity, serving as advisor, faculty advisor and in other needed roles. He was involved with many community organizations, often recruited to help with finances and then taking on the Board presidencies. He also served in leadership roles with professional organizations, at the regional and national level.

Bob was highly involved with the Mortar Board National Foundation, serving as President. He continued as a financial advisor. His vision for the future of this organization and many others was establishing financial stability, often achieved partially by recruiting funds for endowments.

Before and after retirement, Bob enjoyed participating in Accreditation teams, evaluating institutions of higher education.

### Special Interests:

Genealogy was a favorite study for Bob as he traced his Norwegian roots and then turned to Linda's family, tracing their Indiana pioneer heritage. Norway was a very special interest. He had cousins in Norway and a special friend who he met through Scouting. He and Linda visited Norway many times and were pleased to have taken all of their children and grandchildren to see the country and meet family and friends.

In Bob's free time, he enjoyed collecting stamps, especially Scandinavian stamps, and completing daily crossword and Sudoku puzzles, always in ink.

Use of Memorial Funds - It was Bob's wish funds be used for technology, especially for better sound delivery.



**Donations made in memory of Bob were used to purchase part of the technology needed for the Online Campus Ministry launched in 2022.**



**Touch screen computer was purchased and installed in 2023.**



**Funds were applied toward new projection system in the church in 2024.**

Obituary:



**Robert S. "Bob" Sorensen**  
(April 13, 1941 – April 19, 2021)

West Lafayette - Robert S. (Bob) Sorensen, long-time local resident, passed away on April 19, 2021. He was born on April 13, 1941 in Stoughton, Wisconsin to the late Sidney and Lillian Sorensen. He grew up in Oak Park, Illinois before moving to West Lafayette in 1957 and graduated from West Lafayette High School in 1959. He earned a B.S. in Industrial Management, M.S. in Industrial Administration, and Ph. D. from Purdue University, in addition to a M.B.A. from Northwestern University.

On June 20, 1964 he married Linda Markins of Gaston, Indiana and she survives. He is also survived by siblings, John, and Marilyn Sorensen Pratt (Thomas), son Scott (Suellyn) of Indianapolis, and daughter Anne (Andrew) of Middleton, Wisconsin. Grandchildren are Sydney, Robert and Erik Sorensen and Sam, Alec, and Ryan Inman.

Bob began his career with the Ross Gear Division of TRW, Inc., and moved into higher education administration at Purdue in 1966. He left Purdue in 1984 while serving as Comptroller. After serving briefly as Associate Vice-President and Treasurer at St. Louis University he returned to West Lafayette to join the staff of Ivy Tech Community College. He provided business and computing leadership for the local campus before serving as the Chief Information Officer for the college. After his retirement from Ivy Tech in 2006 he briefly taught accounting in the Krannert School of Management at Purdue.

Lifetime priorities for Bob were his children, grandchildren, and extended family, as well as volunteer service to others. Earning the rank of Eagle Scout as a youth provided him a value base and an obligation to provide duty to others that framed his outlook on life. Locally he served in leadership positions with Tippecanoe Schools Foundation, Leadership Lafayette, Tippecanoe Arts Federation, Tippecanoe County Historical Association, Museums at Prophetstown, St. Andrew United Methodist Church, Sagamore Council Boy Scouts of America, University Place Foundation, the Barbara Cook Chapter of Mortar Board, and the Kappa Sigma Fraternity. Beyond the local community, he held leadership positions at the Area and Regional levels of the Boy Scouts of America, Scientech Club of Indianapolis, Circle City Lodge of the Sons of Norway, Mortar Board National Foundation, and State and Regional professional associations. For the higher education community, he served on accreditation teams for the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Bob deeply appreciated his Norwegian heritage and its emphasis on family, music, and education. He traveled to Norway many times, enjoying cherished relationships with Norwegian family and friends.

Significant recognitions received included the G.A.Ross Award for Outstanding Senior Man at Purdue in 1963, Sagamore of the Wabash awarded by Gov. O'Bannon in 1997, and the Daniel D. Robinson Award for Outstanding Contributions to the field of college and university accounting in 1995. Other recognitions were Mortar Board Distinguished Lifetime Service Award in 2016, the Lafayette YWCA Foundation Win Hentschel Distinguished Service Award in 2014, and the Boy Scout Silver Beaver and Silver Antelope awards.

The family requests in lieu of flowers memorials be directed to endowment funds established by Robert and Linda Sorensen for the Sagamore Council of the Boy Scouts of America, PO Box 865, Kokomo, IN 46903  
<https://donations.scouting.org/#/council/162/appeal/4605> or Lafayette Ivy Tech College Foundation, P O Box 883, Indianapolis, IN 46206

(<https://giving.ivytech.edu/online-giving/>). Memorial gifts can also be made to St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 4703 N. 50 W, West Lafayette, IN 47906.

Visitation will be from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm, Friday, April 23, 2021 at Soller-Baker, West Lafayette Chapel, 1184 Sagamore Parkway West, West Lafayette, IN 47906. Current Covid-19 precautions will be observed along with social distancing and current government guidelines. Masks are required.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held for family at 10:00 am on Saturday, April 24, 2021 at St. Andrew United Methodist Church in West Lafayette. We invite others to view the live stream of the service available at <https://www.Andrew-umc.org>. The website will have instructions for viewing. Officiating will be Pastor Chris Danielson and Dr. Philip J. Klinger. Entombment at Tippecanoe Gardens, West Lafayette, IN. You may sign the guest book and leave condolences at [www.soller-baker.com](http://www.soller-baker.com)