



Jesse Daniel Michalak

November 22, 1992 - January 15, 2021

Jesse Daniel Michalak, 28, died unexpectedly while swimming in the Pacific Ocean in Washington State on January 15, 2021. Jesse was born on November 22, 1992, in Ypsilanti, MI, the youngest of six children. He graduated from Saline High School and attended Washtenaw Community College and Eastern Michigan University. As a youth, Jesse was both a Cub and Boy Scout, a skilled travel soccer player, and a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, MI, where he participated in many activities. He grew to love nature and water-related activities while spending time at the family cottage on Cavanaugh Lake in Chelsea, MI. Jesse was a hard worker who was eager to lend a hand when he saw a need. As an adult, Jesse read frequently and across a range of topics. He was continuously seeking deeper understanding and challenged those around him to examine their beliefs as he examined his own. He enjoyed taking road trips to explore the natural beauty of places like Wyoming, Colorado, Oregon, and Washington. He chose to experience nature by immersing himself in it (e.g. standing outside in a hailstorm to watch the beauty of the lightning). Jesse was welcomed and loved by all who met him and in recent years had been a part of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Saline, MI. We remember Jesse as an intellectually curious and spiritually-seeking student of the world. He was deeply empathetic and had a strong desire to be a healing force. Jesse is survived by his parents, Dennis (Nancy) Michalak, Paula (Jim Bergh) Michalak; siblings David Michalak, Matthew (Sarah) Michalak,

Christopher Michalak, Joel (Kathryn Skitt) Michalak, and Sarah (Jayme) Rubley; niece and nephews Ryan, Caleb, Asher, William, and Ruby (Matthew), and Benjamin (Joel); aunts Christy Walker and Michelle (Roger) Zahm; cousins Evelyn Maguschak, Amanda Bly, and Jacob Walker (Christy), Joshua Zahm, Cassie (Kyle) Hammermeister, and Alec Zahm (Michelle), Ian Johnson (Steve); and extended family John (Liane) Measell, Christine Measell, Kayla and Tyler Measell (John), and Gemma Hammermeister (Cassie). Jesse was predeceased by his grandparents Bernard and Rosemary Michalak, Fred Johnson, Frances Johnson Measell, and Howard Measell; uncle Steve Johnson; and cousin Carson Bly (Christy). The family would like to invite all who knew Jesse to attend a virtual memorial service on Saturday, February 20, 2021 at 1:00 P.M. For details of the services and to post memories, photos, and condolences, please visit www.rbfhsaline.com. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Peace Neighborhood Center of Ann Arbor (peaceneighborhoodcenter.org) or National Alliance on Mental Illness of Washtenaw County (namiwc.org). The family would like to thank the many caring people who supported Jesse throughout his life – encouraging, listening, sheltering, and loving him. We are deeply appreciative. Due to concerns about traveling during the pandemic, the family has made the difficult decision to cancel the funeral home service for 1/30/21. They would like to invite family and friends to join them on Saturday, February 20, at 1:00 P.M. for a virtual Celebration of Life. Please visit the following website for details about this online-only service:

<https://www.gatheringus.com/memorial/jesse-daniel-michalak/6552>

Tribute Wall



“ Robison-Bahnmilller Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Jesse Daniel Michalak



Robison-Bahnmilller Funeral Home & Cremation Services - January 27, 2021 at 03:06 PM



“ Jesse Daniel Michalak

October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ Your Remembrance of Jesse was very very touching, and it was a wonderful tribute to Jesse’s personality! It was certainly a very heartfelt reflection and allowed me to get to know Jesse much better! His presence will always be felt by all of you. And, as you portrayed in his memorial, with many wonderful and fun memories! Thank goodness for pictures! Sometime they tell stories we had forgotten! Continued prayers for all of you as you go through the grieving process. The love that was shown to Jesse in your memorial will help your family heal together! Wishing you strength and comfort in the days ahead! Virtual hugs all around! ❤️🙏❤️

Judy Herrygers - February 22, 2021 at 07:16 AM

CM

“ Jesse was the only male ever allowed to be part of our Upnorth girls weekend.

Cora McCalla - February 20, 2021 at 12:26 PM

AS

“ Dear Dennis, and Family, So very saddened for your loss of your Beautiful Son Jesse. Always in my prayers for peace and comfort at this difficult time. 🙏 Annamarie 💕 🙏

annamarie sinn - February 18, 2021 at 01:03 AM

AS

“ Annamarie Sinn lit a candle in memory of Jesse Daniel Michalak



annamarie sinn - February 17, 2021 at 10:03 PM

AS

“ My husband Andy and I, had the most amazing pleasure to know Jesse, in that time we found him to be an Amazing, Beautiful persons in this life. Trying to find his place, as so many young people do. I, Annamarie had the most amazing talks with Jesse, on so many occasions, they always left hopeful, but sad in some ways. He was and still is an amazing spirit in our life. God Bless You Dear One, Rest 🙏🙏🙏

annamarie sinn - February 17, 2021 at 09:19 PM

BK

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Brad Kuykendall - February 17, 2021 at 10:47 AM

AP

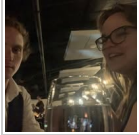
“ We remember the Michalak family from Saline schools and grieve with you. We really enjoyed our association with Jesse. We had many visits with him over the last several years. He was a seeker of truth in all aspects of life-in the foods he ate, in mind over/body meditation, and in spiritual principles. We worried about him taking life too seriously and talked to him about it before he left Michigan for the Northwest. We didn't want him to be lonely or unhappy. He showed concern for us too and wanted to help us with our challenges. We will miss him. What a beautiful person!

Amy & Rick Paxman - January 31, 2021 at 07:39 PM

MS

“ Jesse had a kind heart and an active mind, and I always enjoyed our conversations. He was generous with his time and labor if a friend was in need, and I will miss his dry sense of humor. My family and I send love and condolences to the Michalak family in this difficult time. ♥

Mary Simkins - January 30, 2021 at 11:06 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Alec Zahm - January 29, 2021 at 07:51 PM

RD

“ *Sending love and healing to the whole family, and to all those who love Jesse. Though the service for tomorrow had to be canceled, we will be thinking of Jesse and lighting candles for him. Jesse was only in my life for about seven years, but he made a lasting and loving impact. He always looked out for me, and I can't thank him enough for that. He had a way of really seeing someone and listening to them. Have fun on your next adventure Jesse, and thank you for stopping by and touching our lives along your way.*

Rainbow Dickerson - January 29, 2021 at 01:56 PM

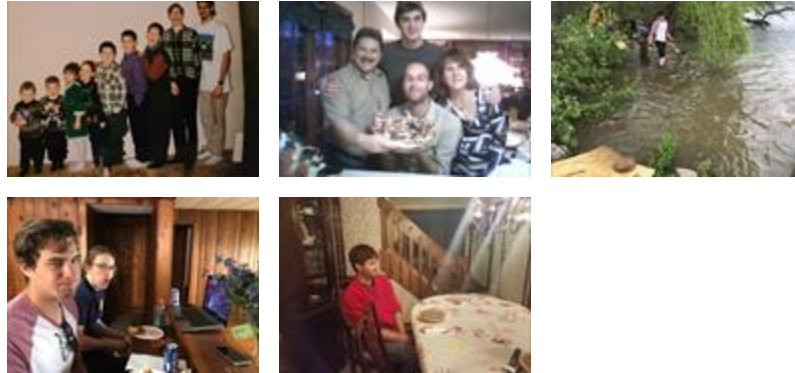
JB

“ *Pam and Jay have all in our prayers.....*

Jay E Barth - January 28, 2021 at 07:37 PM

AR

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Aunt Michelle and Uncle Roger - January 27, 2021 at 10:02 PM

RB

“ 102 files added to the album Life Tributes



Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services - January 27, 2021 at 02:40 PM

SH

“ Heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family.
~With love and friendship. Sue and Brian Hartlen

Susan Hartlen - January 27, 2021 at 09:35 AM

SH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Susan Hartlen - January 27, 2021 at 09:28 AM

CC

“ I was so sorry to read of your family's loss. I have so many fond memories, Paula, of the years your children spent at Pooh Corner when I was their teacher. My heart goes out to you with the loss of your son Jesse. You all have been in my prayers. Carol Church

Carol Church - January 26, 2021 at 03:06 PM

CH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cassie Hammermeister - January 25, 2021 at 09:27 PM



“ I met Jesse when he was learning about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Saline congregation. He introduced me to Evelyn, a widow he was watching over after delivering her a pizza and seeing a need. Only Jesse does that. His complete compassion and sincerity was a powerful influence for good and has left a legacy of love within the ripples of his influence. We shared many holiday meals and had many wonderful family evenings with Jesse. We will miss you. Love, The Mitton family.

Karen Mitton - January 25, 2021 at 06:32 PM

HN

“ Jesse was truly one of a kind and an amazing friend. Not many people are as courageous and bold as him yet still so gentle and sensitive. I am so grateful to have met him when I did. He inspired me to grow, let go, love more, never stop exploring, and to appreciate all the little miracles that surround us everyday. I can 100% say I would not be the person I am now had I not shared as much time and space with him as I did. I will miss him more than I am able to express in words and my heart goes out to his family and all those who are grieving his departure. See you in the great beyond Jesse, love you.



Haley Nusbaum - January 25, 2021 at 10:15 AM

ME

“ I don't remember the exact day I met the Michalak's but I do know that I cannot think of my childhood without thinking of Jesse. Even though Jesse was the younger brother of one of my best friends, he definitely completed our trio on the lake. Many a days spent being pulled behind the boat yelling over the waves and coming up with new tricks or ways to knock each other off the tubes. It always made sense that the 3 of us had plans on the lake, building (not so successfully) forts, playing board games, and our all time favorite... covering ourselves with mud because what kid wouldn't want to do that. I don't remember being so little in the first picture but remember laughing way too hard the summer before Sarah and I went off to college while trying to recreate the amazing mud covered photo shoot. Jesse was a great kid and always so fun to be around. He will be missed dearly and I am so thankful for all of the great memories we were able to create over the years.



mel - January 23, 2021 at 08:32 PM

PD

“ Paula, My heart goes out to you in the loss of your son, Jesse. I hope you can find some comfort in the memories you have and the 28 years that Jesse graced many lives.

Pat Doyle
NAMIWC

Patricia E Doyle - January 23, 2021 at 07:09 PM

PA

“ I was so saddened to hear about Jesse. My deepest condolences to the family. There are few words that can be said to help loved ones feel better. His presence is there with you in spirit even if his physical being is not.

Penney Acosta

Penney A Acosta - January 23, 2021 at 01:37 PM

LL

“ I love Jesse very much. He was much like one of my own. I know he took a part of my heart when he left. Now my heart hurts very badly. My love, prayers and thoughts are now, and will continue to be with Michalak at family.



Laurel Lavery - January 23, 2021 at 01:34 PM

KF

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jesse's family. We got to know him at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He was such a joy to be around, very genuine, sincere and didn't take himself too seriously. We'll miss him very much.

Kim and Matt Smith family - January 23, 2021 at 11:32 AM

“ Jesse was a bright light in my life for more than a decade. He changed my life 100 times. I have many, many warm memories of him, but I wanted to share a poem I wrote several years ago that was inspired by him. Jesse, I will see you in the next universe.

real lady ferns

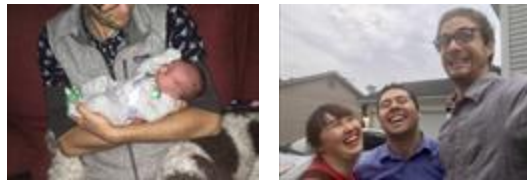
*imagine my right elbow turned inside out
and cracked upward. imagine in the crack
where it breaks, maidenhair and staghorn
patiently waiting for sun. imagine walking
past them and wanting a photograph.
imagine they don't mind and let you get as
close as you want. imagine that
underneath, where the two parts of my arm
are coming apart at the seam, you can
reach your hand in, pick up a handful of dirt
and wet leaves, and sleep on top of a root.
imagine there are pebbles in my pelvis.
imagine they're heavy and your feet slip
while trying to climb over. imagine the moss
that grows on the north side and all the
times they've been overturned and placed
facedown again. imagine how surprised I
was when you kept holding them. imagine
none of the sounds during the night made
you want to know what was making them
and made me want to pretend there was
nothing there. imagine that by then we
didn't feel scared. imagine the story the
spider told when the rain stopped and we
were only the sounds of bodies breathing
and she didn't need us for safety anymore.
imagine the story I told when the rain
stopped and we realized we were floating
and you remembered how dry the porch
was. imagine that imagining the middle of*

our foreheads to the tips of our noses touching was just as good as touching them. imagine we were skipping stones with the pebbles and whispering stories to the ferns, and the stumbling and hacking through the forest led to the same spot in the clearing where the mist was coming up out of the green and yellow and orange trees and there weren't still acres and fallen branches to walk through, and birds and setting suns and paths we could take out, before we could lay down together under and inside every universe.

Hannah Carl - January 23, 2021 at 10:30 AM

JO

“ *Jesse was and always will be my best friend. He was the most genuine guy I know and an amazing example to me and anyone who met him. He was there for me for some of the most important moments of my life. Until we meet again, my friend.*



Jon - January 22, 2021 at 11:37 PM

HC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Hannah Carl - January 22, 2021 at 08:02 PM

RD

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Rainbow Dickerson - January 22, 2021 at 06:18 PM

SR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Sarah Rubley - January 22, 2021 at 04:52 PM

CT

Jesse had a light and goodness about him that I remember from the chance conversations we had at church. I am so deeply sorry for your loss and wish you the comfort that only God can bring. Christine Tanner

Christine Tanner - January 24, 2021 at 09:55 AM

BS

I will miss the deep philosophical conversations I had with him. He was a true seeker of knowledge and truth, always trying to improve himself. And always watching and learning, with his analyzing but happy gaze. Sad to see you leave us, Jesse!

Bill Stacey

Bill Stacey - January 25, 2021 at 05:28 PM