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Johnson honored with Performing Arts Center dedication



Ed Anderson (left) presents Bryan "BJ" Johnson (center) with the plaque dedicating the Aitkin High School auditorium as the Bryan "BJ" Johnson Performing Arts Center, as BJ's wife Marilyn proudly looks on.

By LAURA HEGLUND

On a warm fall evening, September 28, the Aitkin High School auditorium was alive with excitement and gratitude as the community came together to celebrate Bryan "BJ" Johnson. The auditorium has been officially dedicated as the Bryan "BJ" Johnson Performing Arts Center, marking nearly four decades of BJ's unwavering dedication as the school's choral director and also a passionate advocate for the arts.

The night's festivities were expertly led by Ed Anderson, former superintendent of the Aitkin School District, who

set the tone with heartfelt words. "The contribution that he's made to this community, in this school, is unmeasurable," Anderson said, as he praised BJ for giving countless students the chance to shine on stage. He opened doors for students who "didn't even know they had that shine."

Planning for this momentous occasion began back in April, with Anderson teaming up with "co-conspirator" Karen Hillman to pull everything together. He expressed gratitude to everyone involved in the dedication, especially to BJ and his wife, Marilyn, for sharing their home and

treasured scrapbooks filled with memories of BJ's 39 musicals and 17 community theater productions. The final curtain call on BJ's theatrical journey was the hit musical, The Church Basement Ladies.



Roland Hill

Aitkin School Board Vice Chair Roland Hill, a proud graduate of the Class of 1983,

welcomed the audience and shared fond memories of his time in BJ's choir. "I was lucky, I was the youngest of four. I had three older sisters that could sing and were

Continued on Page 2



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Community honors Johnson with Performing Arts Center dedication | Continued from Page 1

smart. And I could sing—and that's where it ended," joked Hill.

He chuckled, recounting the joy and camaraderie of participating in BJ's musicals. Since he wasn't in one of the lead roles, he spent his time playing cards in between acts.

Hill shared a personal story, reminiscing about BJ playing the piano at his wedding in 1991. "If you got off key or forgot something, he'd just bang out the melody right there. You sounded good with him, no matter what," Hill said, pointing to BJ with admiration. He was an awesome teacher who could command the choir's attention with just a look.

The night's atmosphere was infused with nostalgia when Hill led the audience in a spirited rendition of "Sarasponda," a vocal warm-up that had become a beloved tradition under BJ's guidance. Laughter and applause filled the auditorium as attendees joined in, singing:

Sarasponda, sarasponda, sarasponda ret set set.

Sarasponda, sarasponda, sarasponda ret set set.

Ah door ray oh, ah door ray boom day oh.

Ah door ray boom ret set set, Ah say pa say oh.

Christine (Bright) Marwede, representing the Aitkin County Friends of the Arts, also took the stage. She shared a message from Peter Lowe, a former student who praised BJ's commitment to excellence. "BJ always gave his full commitment to whatever he was doing whether it was musical a performance or an event. He strove for perfection in every way and we as a community benefited from that attention to deep detail because we got to enjoy those high quality performances."

Marwede beautifully encapsulated BJ's impact: "We all want to be a part of the worlds that he creates. Whether it's through piano

playing, his singing or his theater production and direction. His plays and musicals created a space that was new to us. A place where we wanted to be with people we wanted to know. And isn't that the magic of the Arts? We transport ourselves into another world for a period of time and while we're hanging out there, something changes within us. Then when we return back to our regular lives, we have forever changed. And maybe that change allows us to see things a little bit differently understand others a little bit more, maybe become a better human."

Adding to the tribute, Mike Smith, former Aitkin High School and then Brainerd Choral Director, recalled how he encouraged BJ to take the choral director position in Aitkin when he left for a Brainerd teaching position. "Bryan is a wonderful musician...and every time that he touches the piano to accompany anything it's always better to those that are performing."

The evening was further enriched by the voices of other speakers, including Rebecca (Haguestuen) Wyffels, Class of 1980, and BJ's granddaughter Karly Shereck, Class of 2020. Their words echoed the community's shared love and appreciation for a man who has not only shaped the lives of countless students but has also enriched the entire Aitkin community through the power of the arts.

The dedication also included the musical stylings of various talented individuals:

• Tom Anderson (Class of 1997), son of Ed Anderson, entertained the audience on piano with a Program Overture. A former piano student of BJ's, Tom is now a church music director in Allen, Illinois.



Tom Anderson

• Jere Fremling (Class of 1987) sang "Cry" from Forever Plaid, accompanied by Becky (Nelson) Klingelhofer (Class of 1976) on piano.

• Brenda (Smith) Mehr (Class of 2005) performed "Hopelessly Devoted to You" from Grease, with Tom Anderson accompanying her on piano.

• Steve Olson (Class of 1975) captivated the audience with "Edelweiss" and "The Sound of Music" from The Sound of Music, accompanied by Becky (Nelson) Klingelhofer.

• Chris Nelson (Class of 1991) performed "Gratitude" by Brandon Lake, accompanied by Javier Olivas on guitar.

• Beth (Norris) Hill (Class of 1988) sang "I'll Never Let You Go" by Steelheart.

• An audio presentation featured the late Justin Johnson (Class of 1999) singing "Any Dream Will Do" from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Justin passed away in 2023.

Sally (Lake) Bowser, Susan (Jacobson) Ackerman, and June (Madsen) Cooper sang "May You Always" by The McGuire Sisters, accompanied by Jennie Hakes on piano (all from the Class of 1971).

BJ was surprised by and joined in a special performance from the Three Shades, a group he once performed with, made up of remaining members of the Four Shades. (The late Noel Bailey was also a member.) This group was formed in



Bryan "BJ" Johnson (center) performing with the remaining members of Four Shades. Ed Anderson quipped that the trio should be renamed BJ and the Baldies.

1988 to raise funds after the tragic death of Aitkin High School teacher Jon Kjelstrom, 1987. They sang "My Girl" (Let Me Be Your) Teddy Bear.

As the night drew to a close, it was clear that the newly dedicated Bryan "BJ"

Johnson Performing Arts Center would stand as a lasting tribute to a remarkable legacy—a place where future generations will continue to shine, inspired by a

man who dedicated his life to the art of performance.

A video of the dedication entitled: Auditorium Dedication to BJ - Aitkin Public Schools ISD1 can be viewed on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGX-4huXeWcU>.



Javier Olivas (left) and Chris Nelson (right)

Bryan "BJ" Johnson's inspiring journey from tragedy to triumph

Bryan "BJ" Johnson was born in 1945 into a family of missionaries. In 1947, they embarked on a life-changing journey to Southeast Asia, specifically Siam, now known as Thailand. The Johnson family—comprised of BJ, his brother Bill, and sister Becky and their parents—settled in a village in French Indochina during a tumultuous time, just as the regions of Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam were beginning to emerge.

Ed Anderson, former superintendent of the Aitkin School District, recounts this era: "It was French Indochina, and the French were being pushed out by insurgent groups. The family was right in the midst of that upheaval." At the tender age of six, BJ was sent to boarding school in what is now Vietnam, while his parents remained with Bill and Becky.

Tragedy struck when a group of bandits, seeking to rob a sugar factory, turned their attention to the Johnson family. In a horrific incident, BJ's mother was killed instantly, and his father succumbed three days later, witnessed by Bill and Becky. Following this devastating loss, the three siblings were sent to the United States to Northfield, Minnesota, to live with their grandparents.

BJ's introduction to music began in fourth grade, spurred on by his grandmother's insistence that he take piano lessons. He later pursued a degree in Choral Music from St. Olaf College, graduating in 1967. With dreams of shaping young minds through music, he made his way to Aitkin, bringing innovative ideas such as madrigals and musical theater, along with high expectations for his students.

In December 1968, BJ married Marilyn in Janesville, Wisconsin. Together, they welcomed a daughter, Jennifer, and a son, Stephen, and forged a life deeply intertwined with music.

BJ's contributions to the local arts are extensive. He has provided piano lessons, played at countless weddings and funerals, accompanied numerous choirs, and directed the Messiah in Aitkin for over 50 years. "He was also in the All-State Men's Choir and directed Legacy Corral for five years," Anderson noted.

Reflecting on his journey, BJ shared: "It was 57 years ago that I drove to Aitkin for the first time as a senior music major at St. Olaf College, applying for my first teaching position. I was fairly sure I'd end up in southern Minnesota, especially after encountering snowflakes in early May in Bennetville, [just south of Aitkin.] But I was struck by the friendly administration and staff, including Karen Hillman.

Despite some challenges—like a choir room prone to leaks and overpowering odors during wrestling season—BJ found joy in his work. By his second year, he embraced directing his own musical, kicking off a passion that would span decades. "My love of musical theater was firmly entrenched," he recalled.

For 39 years, BJ has delighted in creating memories, encouraging self-confidence, and nurturing the talents of students eager to explore music. "I want to thank my wife Marilyn for her unwavering support and encouragement her talent for taking pictures of all events and especially for her infectious laughter during theater rehearsals and performances," he said, highlighting the importance of family in his remarkable journey.

BJ's story is not just one of music; it's a testament to resilience, passion, a lifelong commitment to the arts and the community.

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OBITUARIES

KEVIN WENDORFF



Kevin Jay Wendorff, 62, of Crosby, died on Friday, September 27, 2024. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 12, 2024 at Peace Lutheran Church in Arlington, MN. Visitation will begin two hours prior to the service. Burial at the Arlington Public Cemetery and a luncheon will follow the service.

Kevin graduated from St. Francis High School in 1980. His employment began as a cook at various restaurants, then at Temroc Metals and H & F Manufacturing as a machinist. Kevin explored the commercial trucking industry which became his passion and turned into a lifetime career as an

over the road truck driver. His last employer was J.R. Schugel of New Ulm. Kevin's faith in the Lord was strong and he enjoyed reading his bible on and off the road. also enjoyed playing guitar, cribbage, shooting pool, riding motorcycle, and mechanical work. Kevin is survived by his father and stepmother, Cyrus (Darlyne Ernst) Wendorff of Deerwood; mother, Marian Wendorff of Crosby; two sons: Dusten Wendorff of Brainerd and Daniel (Jessica Giesselman) Wendorff of Fairbanks, AK; brother, Ron (Scott Ruffing) Wendorff of Aitkin; sister, Michele (Michael) Haas of Crosby; two grandchildren; nieces and nephews. Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home of Crosby. To leave a message of condolence go to www.koopfuneralhome.com.

HARLAN M. SIMONSON



Our strong Norseman's journey to Valhalla began on August 8, 2024 at 94. A Celebration of Life will be held Sunday, October 13, 2024, 1-4 p.m. at Kellerman's Event Center, 2222 4th St, White Bear Lake, MN 55110. Harlan was born on October 25, 1929 to Axel and Anna (Rappen) Simonson on the family farm in Seavey Township, NW of McGrath, MN. He was the seventh

son of seven children, who would later number 12. Harlan graduated from McGrath High School and enlisted in the Air Force serving in Greenland. He worked at logging, farming and gravel hauling with family before starting a job in the Aitkin County Assessor's office and eventually retiring as a senior appraiser for the MN Dept of Revenue after 26 years.

A chance meeting at a dance hall brought him the love of his life, red-headed Harriet Hensel. Although Harlan never liked to dance, they paired up and married on June 27, 1959 in Aitkin. Together, they raised six children on eight acres on the Mississippi, later building a retirement home in the woods of Thor in Glen Township.

Harlan was a quiet man (especially around the Hensel's); his intelligence came through in many ways, including his great memory and clever sense of humor. Harlan's mottos were slow and steady and KISS: keep it simple, stupid! He applied these methods to his projects. This included a hand-hewn log cabin he built with his children in the woods that he loved. He enjoyed many things about the woods and nature; including hunting, maple syruping and solitude-something he did not

get a lot of! His huge garden kept him busy, from planting, harvesting, and canning. He also knew his way around the kitchen, cooking, and baking for everyone, especially when Harriet was ill. Harlan participated in high school sports and enjoyed watching them in later years. He was always up for a spirited game of 500. Being a numbers man, Harlan kept a lot of detailed records, especially about weather. Harlan took pride in his creative repurposing, which was evident around his property. He was a member of the UCC Church, Aitkin Legion Post #86, and DFL party. Harlan's spirit will roam his beloved Aitkin County's woodlands forever.

We'll miss you Dad. Thank you for all you did for us. Rest in peace and love, your children: Kim Pittsley, Edward Kehn (Cheryl), Anne Kellerman (Terry), Madeline Aderman (Jeff), James Simonson (Kat), Christine Simonson (Todd); four grandchildren: Shay Anakkala (Matt), Levi Kehn (Amy), Courtney Kellerman Wells (David), Brittany Kellerman Bennett (Ricardo); eight great-grandchildren: Annika and Addison Kehn, Payton and Jayde Anakkala, Winter and Wilder Wells, Luca and Nico Bennett.

Survived by siblings: MaryAnn Zortman and Paul Simonson (Karen); sisters-in-law: Janice Hensel, Shirley Kehn Johnson, Phyllis Hensel, Paulette Torgerson (Ed); brothers-in-law: Rodney Hensel, Steve Hensel (Donna) and numerous relatives. He was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Harriet; parents; son-in-law, Paul Pittsley; siblings: Allan (Elaine), Lloyd (Carol), David (Lydia), Lee (Beryl), Alvin, Ted (Bunny), Helen, Bonnie (Brad), Lydia (Dick); in-laws: Dick Z., Lucy, Bill (Bev), Elizabeth (Chester), Sid, Joyce (Dick), Ken, Douglas, Mary. A special thanks to Waverly Gardens staff, Optage Hospice, Mari and Cindy for their loving care.

ROBERT LINDROTH



Robert "Bob" Lindroth, 104, of Everett, WA formerly of Deerwood, died on September 25, 2024 at the Cuyuna Regional Medical Center in Crosby.

Funeral services will be at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, October 11, 2024 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Crosby. Burial will be at the Lakewood Cemetery in Crosby. A visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church on Friday. A reception will follow at the Deerwood Legion from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

He was born on September 20, 1920 in Ironton to Clarence and Amanda (Nystrom) Lindroth. Bob worked in California as a tool and dye maker. He raised his family there. After he retired in the mid 1980's Bob moved back to Deerwood to be near his mom and siblings. In 1989, he met the love of his life Alice DeChaine, they were married on December 3, 2006 in Deerwood. They enjoyed dancing and playing cards. Bob started the dances at the Deerwood Legion over 30 years ago on the first

and third Friday of every month. He ran the dances until September of 2020 when the pandemic hit. At that time his daughter moved him to be with her in Washington. Bob was active in the community. In 2015, he was the top ticket seller for the Deerwood Summerfest. He kept very busy volunteering for other activities. He was truly one of the most selfless people. He looked forward to coming back to the Deerwood twice a year to dance. In spite of losing his leg at the age of 8, he remained fiercely and proudly independent until his final trip ended in a fall that fractured his hip.

He is survived by his two children: Robert (Bonnie) Lindroth of La Habra Heights, CA and Twyla (Jeff) Henson of Everett, WA; six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren; his late wife's children: Barry (Diane) DeChaine, Darice (Paul) Simon and Darren (Tammy) DeChaine.

Preceding Bob in death are his parents; the love of his life, Alice; five brothers and three sisters.

Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home of Crosby. To leave a message of condolence go to www.koopfuneralhome.com.

ELIZABETH JAHR-LANG



Elizabeth Mary "Betsy" Jahr-Lang, 90, peacefully passed to heaven on Saturday, September 14, 2024.

A Celebration of Life/Afternoon Tea was held at Sgt. Pepper's Bar and Grill in Oakdale, MN on Wed. Sept. 25, 2024.

She was born September 05, 1934 in St. Paul, MN to Lily (Harris) & Orlando Jahr. She graduated from the Harding H.S. in 1952, married Donald Lang on Aug 29, 1953, bought their first home in 1961 in Oakdale, MN, where they lived 40 years and raised four children. Betsy worked at 3M Company for 25 years before retiring to Island Lake, MN. After

Don's passing, she moved to Maplewood, MN where she lived until her diminishing health brought her to live under the care of her daughter Jody and son-in-law Bill at their home in Deerwood, MN.

Loved ones that cleared the path are husband Don, Son Mike, Siblings: Dick, Kenny, Wally, Grace & Nancy.

She is survived by her sister, Mabel Beane (Ray); daughters, Jody Bunio (Bill), & Kim Johnson; daughter-in-law, Shelly; 3 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home of Crosby. To leave a message of condolence go to www.koopfuneralhome.com.

More Obituaries on Page 4

LEGAL NOTICE

(Published in NewsHopper Saturday, October 5, 2024)
LIBBY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

The Libby Township Board will meet online at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 to discuss matters that may come before the board. The October 8 meeting will be conducted via Zoom. Contact Jane Jewett, clerk, at willowsedge.janesfarm@gmail.com to request the Zoom link.

Dated this 26th day of September, 2024
Jane Grimsbo Jewett,
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INDUSTRIAL FORKLIFTS & RELATED: Load Lifter 4400 turbo diesel series D four wheel drive industrial fork lift, with #12 load lifter forks, 15,000 LB lift capacity 3103 hrs excellent running unit, Nissan Propane forklift model #MPL01A18LV, Haugen hydraulic snow bucket fork attachment model MFOB72, Haugen fork attachment snow bucket no hydraulics MFOB-M75 **PONTOONS & RELATED:** 20 ft. Forester Cruiser model pontoon (for up to 115HP OB) needs wiring & additional seats installed for completion, 14 ft. Forester pond hopper model pontoon (for up to 30 HP motor) needs wiring & additional seats installed for completion, Older house boat on buck style trailer (selling as a package) (3) 18 ft. aluminum toons, (2) 16 ft. aluminum toons, Older Evinrude 115 OB motor, Numerous Honda motor props most new in the box, **PONTOON SPECIFIC MANUFACTURING & INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT:** 2020 Carell Corporation roller press model 4RHMS 3100x200 w/digital control 480V ser. 61033, Pacific model J40-8 26 ton break press 230V 3 PH 14 GA X 8 ft. max capacity ser. 9930, Wysong & Miles Co. peerless metal shear mild steel cap to cap 3 PH 480 V, Homebuilt backbone or pneumatic auto welder powered by Bug O Systems bug 5100F controller w/power mig Lincoln 300 welder, Marbel Bel Inc. 5 ft. flat press model RR661, Spring Press unknown manufacturer for making leaf springs, Approximately 250-20 ft. x 1 1/4 in. tube aluminum, Large quantity of 24 ft. aluminum rub rail, Hundreds of rolls of vinyl, indoor/outdoor carpeting & other deck/seat making material, Hydraulic metal arch bender double motors 220V, Factory made 32 1/2 in. radius tin bender 1 1/2HP, Homebuilt eighteen radius tin bender, 19-25 in. cone roller & L channel jig, Scotchman industrial punch press, Philip South Dakota, 16 ft. side rail jig, Speedglas cone toon maker w/Hercules HTR 3010 hydraulic ram, Home built tin roller, (2) Fiberglass console makers, Color tin siding for rails, 12 ft. lengths blue, black & white in color, Large quantity of pontoon seats of all different sizes and lengths, pedestals, steering wheels & other pontoon related supplies, (16) sheets of aluminum flat stock sheeting, Large quantity of tube aluminum, deck pieces, aluminum railing & aluminum canopies, Electrical wire, fuses, wire covering & industrial bolts & related supplies, Pontoon windshields, Steel frame pontoon rack bunk style **INDUSTRIAL WELDERS:** Miller Syncrowave 250DX Tig/Mig welder, foot control, Miller Dynasty 400 Tig welder pedal control, Miller Dynasty 400 Tig welder pedal control, Miller Dynasty 400 Tig welder pedal control, Millermatic 250 wire feed arc & tig welder, Lincoln Tig 200 square wave welder w/cooling unit & pedal control, Millermatic 350P Mig welder trigger fed, Lincoln 350 power Mig welder, hand control **INDUSTRIAL SHOP TOOLS & RELATED:** Champion model HRA25-12 industrial air compressor (220), Manchester Ohio Marvel Armstrong Blum series 8 MKII industrial metal cutting band saw, Alliant RT2 heavy duty drill press, Bridgeport F537 heavy duty drill press w/acuuc-rite III calibration Furnas Ingersoll Rand T30 industrial air compressor 220V, Genie mix & match 800lb hand crank lift, Jet CTAS 10-3 tilting arbor saw, Harvi vertical lumber saw jig & other saw jigs, Jet floor model drill press, Dozens of welding clamps & large quantity of welding rod, Factory Cat #34 floor sweeper, Milwaukee & Dewalt metal cutoff saws, Corded hand power tools, Numerous older floor model industrial shop tools, Acetylene tanks some empty some full, Large industrial floor fan, Shop & garage lockers, Rolling ladders **TRAILERS:** Roll In Dock inc. 30 ft. double deck quad pontoon hauling trailer, 2020 Sledbed by Lund manufacturing 19 ft. bunk pontoon trailer w/heavy duty torsion bars, Low Boy 48 ft. tandem axle equipment trailer unknown manufacturer, Tall Bent 48 ft. tandem axle low boy equipment trailer **FLATBED TRUCK:** 1995 Ford F700 truck w/23 ft. flatbed unknown mileage VIN1FDM-F72J7SA24439 **ITEMS OF INTEREST:** Large quantity of industrial pallet shelving & other metal shelving racks, Large quantity of scrap metal & related, (2) Large cube van boxes for storage, Large house boat (no trailer), Variety of 4x8 sheets of plywood & other lumber, Large pile of pine logs 8 ft. lengths for firewood

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OBITUARIES

DAVID PETERSON



David August Peterson, 86, of McGregor died September 24, 2024 at his home.

A gathering for family and friends will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 5, 2024 at the Lengby Community Hall in Lengby MN. A procession from the hall to Cross Lake Cemetery, Fosston for a Graveside Service will begin at 11:00 a.m. Service at the cemetery will begin at 11:30 a.m. Lunch and fellowship to follow back at the Lengby Community Hall.

He was born March 19, 1938 in Devils Lake, North Dakota the son of August and Sophie (Bruers) Peterson. He was a U.S. Army Veteran serving from 1961 - 1963. David was united in marriage to Alice Mae Peterson on July 3, 1965 in Clearbrook, MN. Together they enjoyed bowling, gardening and traveling with his sister Eldora and brother Gay. He was a talented woodworker, making desks, bookcases

and other items for his family and friends. He was a member of the American Legion.

David is survived by his daughter, Marcia (Darren) Lemmerman; son, Craig (Jill) Peterson; three grandchildren: Jessica Lemmerman (Holly), Daniel (Morgan) Lemmerman, Megan (Jon) Weikle; four great-grandchildren: Mia and Alaina Lemmerman and Bjorn & Henrick Weikle; sisters: Avis Sundbom and Junette Crain; brother, Paul Peterson; many other special relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his son, Steven Peterson; brothers: Don McNeese, Gay McNeese, Gordon McNeese, Henry McNeese, James Peterson, John Peterson; sisters: Eldora Tice, Gayle Schuroff, Ellen Marfut, Paulette Warner and his parents.

Arrangements were with the McGregor Funeral Home and Cremation Service in McGregor. Leave online condolences at www.srtfuneral.com.

RICHARD MILLS



Richard Charles "Charlie" Mills, 86, of Crosby, died on September 28, 2024 at home with Carol and Henry by his side.

A Memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 5, 2024 at the Cascade United Methodist Church in Deerwood. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday. Burial will be at the Lakewood Cemetery in Crosby.

He was born on June 24, 1937 in Boone, IA to Charles and Murrel (Gratton) Mills. He married Carol Schellin on August 1, 1970 in Aitkin He was a

retired custodian for the Cuyuna Regional Medical Center in Crosby with 25 years of service. Charlie was a member the Cascade United Methodist Church in Deerwood and the Aitkin American Legion Post #86.

Charlie is survived by his wife, Carol and his canine companion, Henry; brother, William (Dawn) Mills of Brainerd; sister, Rose Mills of Pillager, sister-in-law, JoAnn Schellin of LaCenter, MN and several nieces and nephews.

Preceding Charlie in death are his parents and brother, Robert Mills.

Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home of Crosby. To leave a message of condolence go to www.koopfuneralhome.com.

ALICE PETERSON

Alice Mae Peterson, 83, of McGregor died September 24, 2024 at her home.

A gathering for family and friends will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 5, 2024 at the Lengby Community Hall in Lengby MN. A procession from the hall to Cross Lake Cemetery, Fosston for a Graveside Service will begin at 11:00 a.m. Service at the cemetery will begin at 11:30 a.m. Lunch and fellowship to follow back at the Lengby Community Hall.

She was born November 27, 1940 in Fosston the daughter of Oscar and Caroline (Melby) Peterson. She graduated from Fosston High School. Alice was united in marriage to David August Peterson on July 3, 1965 in Clearbrook, MN. Together they enjoyed bowling, gardening and traveling with

Dave's sister Eldora and brother Gay. She was a member of the Lady Slipper Homemakers Club and the VFW Auxiliary.

Alice is survived by her daughter, Marcia (Darren) Lemmerman; son, Craig (Jill) Peterson; three grandchildren: Jessica Lemmerman (Holly), Daniel (Morgan) Lemmerman, Megan (Jon) Weikle; four great-grandchildren: Mia & Alaina Lemmerman and Bjorn & Henrick Weikle; many other special relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her son, Steven Peterson; two brothers: Marvin & Orville Peterson and sister-in-law Mary Peterson and LaRee Peterson.

Arrangements were with the McGregor Funeral Home and Cremation Service in McGregor. Leave online condolences at www.srtfuneral.com.

PAUL ANDERSON



Paul Harvey Anderson, 81, of Aitkin died Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at his home.

Funeral Service will be at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 12, 2024 at Glory Baptist Church, Aitkin with Pastor Randy Stauter officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will be in Glory Baptist Cemetery.

He was born June 4, 1943 in Aitkin the son of Harold Wesley and Selma Cecelia (Pearson) Anderson. After graduating in 1961 from Aitkin High School he joined the Peace Corps from 1963 to 1965 where he served in Colombia, South America. He attended the University of Minnesota and earned a Masters Degree in Education from the University of South Carolina. While in South Carolina, he was a member of the Teachers Corps. Paul was united in marriage to Susan Kay Steinhans on December 16, 1967 in Minneapolis. He was a science teacher for

Mahtomedi Schools and the CFO for Sunrise Health Services Inc., providing home health care services in Chisago County and surrounding areas. Paul was past president for the Minnesota State Home Care Association. He enjoyed traveling, gardening, photography and beekeeping.

Paul is survived by his wife Susan Anderson of Aitkin; children: Nathan Anderson and wife Carolyn from Elk River and Rita James - Anderson and wife Kenya from Oakland, CA; two grandchildren: Gunnar Sinclair Anderson and Piper Sinclair Anderson; brothers: Maurice Anderson and Tami Buetow of North Branch and Tim Anderson of Mora; sisters-in-law: Bethel Anderson of Duluth and Jackie Johnson of Aitkin; other special relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and his brother Len Anderson.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Aitkin. Leave online condolences at www.srtfuneral.com.

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

* Indicates handicap accessible. NOTE: All times are Sunday morning (a.m.) unless indicated otherwise.

ALLIANCE

Aitkin* — New Life; Larry Burg & Tyrel LaVelle, pastors; Worship 10:15 am; youth group Wed. 6pm; 11-1st Street SW; newlifeaitkin.com 218-927-2823.
Baxter* — Pointway Alliance Church; Rev. Charles Bolstridge, 218-537-6505; 7756 Highland Scenic Road; Worship 10; www.pointway.org
Garrison* — Worship 10:30am
Onamia — Vineland Native American Chapel, Hwy. 169 north of casino; Worship 11; Pastor Boeringa 320-532-4449

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Aitkin — Pastor Andrew Jergenson; Sunday Morning Service 10.
Baxter — Heritage Church, Pastor Heath Beard; 8:30, 10 & 11:30 Sundays, 6:30p Wednesdays, iamheritage.org
Crosby — Pastor Dustin McCaleb; Worship 10:30
Crosslake — Crossroads Christian, Rev. Gary Espeseth; SS at 9:30; Worship at 10:45
Hill City — Interim Pastor John Koppel, Staff Pastor Lisa Jordan; Worship 10; hilcityagchurch@gmail.com; 218-697-2662
Palisade — Pastor Charlie Bell; SS 9; Worship 10; Kids Church; Small groups during the week 218-845-2726

BAPTIST

Aitkin - Northwoods Community Church, Pastor William Verbeke, Worship 10:30, northwoodscommunitychurch.org
Baxter - The Journey North, Worship 9 & 10:30, 218-824-5617 thejourneynorth.com
Brainerd* - Faith Baptist Church, Pastor Jim Stephens, 218-829-3191; SS 9:00, Worship 10:30 and 6 p.m., Wed. Classes and Clubs 6:30 p.m.; fcbbrainerd.com
Brainerd - The Church On The Wise Road, Pastor Todd Stumbo 218-829-4673, Worship 11:00, SS 9:45 www.thechurchonthewiseroad.org
Breezy Point — Eagles Nest, Pastor Zach Broom 218-562-5252, Worship 9:30, SS 11.
Crosby — Bible Baptist, Pastor Jon Thorson; SS 9:45; Service 10:45 and 6 p.m., Bible Study Wed. 7 pm
Deerwood* — Jeff Shadrick, SS 9:30; Worship 10:30 and 6 pm; Wed. Service, 6:30 pm.
Glory* — SS 9:15; Worship 10:30 a.m.; Wed 6pm Glory Family night, KidMin grades kindergarten - 6, Mad4Christ grades 7-12, aitkinchurch.com
Hill City — Pastor Lonnie Lee; 218-697-2645; Adult SS 9; Worship 10 am; Bible Study, Fri., 7 pm.
Isle — Pastor Nick Skogen; 676-3171; SS 9:30; Service 10:30; Bible Study, Wed., 7 p.m.
Opstead — 676-8859; SS 9:30; Worship, 10:30; Bible Study Wed., 7 p.m.

CATHOLIC

Aitkin* — St. James, Fr. Mike Patullo, 218-927-6581; Mass Sat. 5 pm, Sun. 10:30. Confession Sat. 10-10:45 and 4-4:45 pm.
Brainerd — St. Andrew's, Fr. Gabriel Wawer, Sat. 4:30; Sun. 10:00 and St. Mathias Sunday 8:00.
Brainerd — St. Francis, Fr. Michael Garry, Sat. 5:00; Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 11:15 and All Saints Saturday 4:00 and Sunday 10:30.
Cromwell/Wright — Immaculate Conception, Mass: Sat. 5 p.m.
Crosby* — St. Joseph's, Fr. Eli Gieske, Mass: Thurs. and Fri. at 8; Tues at noon, Sun. 8:30 & 10:30.
Crosslake — Immaculate Heart, 218-692-3731; www.ihmstemihs.org; Mass: Sat. 4 pm; Sun. 8:30; Confession Sat. 3 pm.
Emily — St. Emily, Mass: Mon. & Wed. 8; Sun. 10:30; Confession 1st Sat. 11 or by appt. 218-763-2101.
Garrison — Our Lady of Fatima, Fr. Eli Gieske, Mass Wed. 9 & Sat. 4 pm, Confession Sat. 3:30 - 3:50 pm
Grand Rapids — St. Joseph's, Fr. Jerry Weiss, Mass: Sat. 5 pm; Sun. 8 & 10:30. 218-326-2483
Hillman — Holy Family; Sun. 10 to Mass Sat. 6:30 pm (only through Labor Day) w/ confession before or by appt.
McGregor — Holy Family, Fr. Mike Patullo, 218-927-6581; Mass Sun. 8; Confessions Tues. 5:30-6:30 pm
Vineland — St. Therese, Mass Sun. 11; Holy Days 8:30.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Baxter, Lakes Area — Nondenominational; 7001 Highland Scenic Road; Bible Study every Wed. 7 pm; Worship 10:30-11:30. 218-828-1362
Tamarack — Pastor Terry Banker, 608-475-1528, Worship 9:30; SS 10:45; Wed Youth 4 pm.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Aitkin — Co. Rd. 12, Chapel Ph. 218-927-4454; Kevin Haffner 218-792-5684; Sacrament Mtg. 10

COMMUNITY

Aitkin — Nondenominational; 927-2749; at 219-1st Ave. NE., Aitkin, Services Sun. 10, 218-927-6959
Brainerd - Community of Hope Church of the Nazarene- Pastor Dave McGaffey Sunday worship at 10, SS 9; 16549 Johnson Rd -church phone 218-829-9005
Glen — Pastor R. F. Stauter, 218-838-1981; Worship 9 May-Oct.
Grand Rapids — Solid Rock Church of God, Pastor Robert Kimberling; 218-326-0711; Sun. BS 9:30, Worship 10:30; Wed. BS 6:30 pm
Jacobson — Jacobson Community Church, Pastor George Collins, 218-252-5938, Sun. SS (All ages) 9:30, Worship 10:30; Family Time 2nd & 4th Sundays; Wed. BS 7 pm
Kimberly — Nature Ave. Rev. Rick Perry; Worship 9; Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30; 218-927-6256.
McGregor — The Lighthouse Christian Church; Worship 10; 99 South 1st Street (at the McGregor United Methodist church [shared] in downtown McGregor) Pastor Joel Seibel.

McGregor — Victory Mission, Pastor J. Gould, 218-768-2160; Sun. 10; Wed. Bible Study, 7:30 pm.
Merrifield — Community Church of the Nazarene, Pastor Ron Christenson; Service 11 & 6 pm. Wed. Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m.; 218-829-7536.
Merrifield — Ossipee Community, SS 10; Service 11; Wed. Bible Study Prayer, 7:00 p.m.

Nisswa — Christ Community Church, Pastor Richie Bean; Service 10; Fellowship 9:30-10
Outing* - Narrows Community Church, Pastor Kenny Holm, 218-792-5530 Worship 9:30; 6297 Woods Bay NE, just north of Hwy. 6 bridge

Palisade — Hilltop Chapel (Waukenabo Twp)* - service 10 a.m.; Adult and Children's SS 9 a.m.; 49448 Osprey Avenue, Palisade.
Tamarack — Church of Christ, 218-768-3898; Service 9:30; SS 10:45.

EPISCOPAL

Aitkin — St. John's, Holy Communion or Morning Prayer 9
Brainerd* — St. Paul's, Rev. Joyce A. Rush. In-person worship service at 10 am Sunday. Online at 5 pm Saturday. Call the church 219-829-3834 and leave a message with email to receive a Zoom invitation.

EVANGELICAL FREE

Baxter — Lakewood EFC, Pastor Matt Nagel; Worship at 9:00 and 10:45. Wednesday for all ages 6:30 pm.
Crosslake — The Log Church 9:30, Pastor Troy Nelson; 218-692-4141, 37218 County Road 66, www.crosslakeefc.org
Isle — Pastor Mark Lee; Sunday School 9:00 am; Worship 10:30 am, Sun. Youth group 6:00 pm, Wed. Adult Prayer 6:30 pm and Kids Connect 6:30 pm
Malmö — Pastor Glenn Browning; SS 9:30; Fellowship 10; Worship 10:15
Wright — Pastor Ken Mitchell, 218-426-5115; SS 9:30; Worship, 10:30; Thu., Bible Study, 7 pm.

HEBREW/MESSIANIC

Glen — Beth Shalom Tabernacle of Truth, for information 320-684-2804

LUTHERAN

Aitkin — Bethlehem (ELCA), Rev. Rebecca Hinz; Worship 9:30; Holy Comm. 1st & 3rd Sun each month.
Aitkin — First* (ELCA) Pastor Reggie Denton; worship Sun. 9am (9am service also available via livestream on YouTube — First Lutheran Church, Aitkin and broadcast on KJIN 94.3 FM radio at 10am), take out community meal every Mon. & Thurs. 5pm and Tues. 12pm; food shelf 2nd & 4th Thurs. each month 9am- 4pm.
Aitkin (Cedarbrook) — St. John's (ELCA) Pastor Sarah Stadler, 602-318-6876, 27452 St. John's Church Road, Aitkin. Worship on Sundays at 9:00 am and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. VBS Aug 5-8; register online at stjohns-cedarbrook.weebly.com.
Aitkin — St. John's (Missouri Synod), Pastor D. Becker; Worship Sun. 9, SS 10
Baxter — Christ Lutheran Church and Preschool (WELS), Pastor Bill Werth. Sunday Worship 9. Sunday School/ Adult Bible Class 10:15. 13815 Cherrywood Dr. in Baxter. (Corner of Inglewood and Cherrywood). 218-829-4105. www.christbaxter.com
Baxter — Prince of Peace (LCMS); Communion every Sunday 9, Fellowship 10:15, Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am 218-829-7092 www.princeofpeacechurch.org

Beaver Township — Finnish EA, Hwy. 27, Worship 1st & 3rd Sun., 10:30.

Brainerd — First Lutheran Church (ELCA) Pastors: Patty Bjorklund and Jordan Gades, Sunday worship 9, Sunday School following worship. Services also available on YouTube and Facebook. 218-829-9552 fcbbrainerd.com 424 8th Street South, Brainerd
Brainerd* — Good Shepherd Free Lutheran Church (AFLC), Pastor David Franz, find service info at www.goodshepherdfreeelutheran.church, 5878 Pine Beach Road, Brainerd, 218-824-3052

Brainerd — Laestadian Lutheran Church, 1501 So. 8th St. - Sunday Worship Services 10:30 am. (www.lchurch.org)
Brainerd — Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) 1420 South 6th St. Brainerd, Worship time September through May 8:15am & 10:30am; worship (June through August) 9 am. 218-829-5147. Website: www.trinitybrainerd.org. Email: trinity@trinitybrainerd.org

Brainerd — Truth Lutheran Church (LCMC, Pastor James Walth, Corner of 5th and Kingwood, Worship 9
Brainerd - Zion Lutheran Church (LCMS) Pastor Steve Benson, Sunday Worship 9, Monday Worship 6 pm. Education hour Sunday 10:15 am. 220 N. 8th St. Brainerd. 218-829-4317. www.zionbrainerd.com

Cedar Lake, Norwegian Lutheran — Third Sun 11, May - Oct. Crosby — Immanuel (LCMC, NALC) Rev. Paul Mattson; Sun. 9 & 10:30 worship; SS (Sept.-May) 10:40.
Crosby — Zion (LC-MS) Worship 9 (alternates with Immanuel Iron Hub) 218-546-6910.

Crosslake Lutheran Church (ELCA) www.crosslakelutheran.com Kristin Oltmann, Pastor / Becky Swanson, Pastor 218-692-3682 September 8-Mid-May: Sunday at 8:30am & October-Mid-May: Wednesday at 6:15pm
Crosslake — Mission of the Cross (LCMS), Pastor Leslie Uhrink; Worship 9:30 with every Sunday Communion, Fellowship 10:30, Adult Bible Class 11, 218-692-4228, www.missionofthecross.org

Deerwood* — Salem (ELCA), Pastor Amanda Kempthorne; Worship 9; Sunday School 9:50.
Garrison — Light of the Cross (ELCA), Worship 9 SS 9; 320-692-4773 or 877-406-9101.

Garrison — Shepherd of the Lake (LCMS), Rev. Caleb Worrell. Worship 10 with Communion Every Sunday. Adult Bible Study 8:30am, Sunday School Sept-May, 8:30am. Fellowship 11am. 320-692-4581. www.shepherdofthelake.org.

Giese — Immanuel, Rev. R. Langhorst & Rev. R. Lovaas; Worship 9; SS 10; Holy Communion 1st Sun. of month 8:45.

Hill City — Trinity, (Missouri Synod), Pastor M. Eckert; Worship 9; Bible Study 10:15.
Hillman — Immanuel, (ELCA) Sun. Worship 11, fellowship follows. Located on the corner of Hwy. 27 and Co. Rd. 47. (Handicap accessible)

Iron Hub — Immanuel (LC-MS) Worship 9, (alternates with Zion of Crosby) 218-534-3069
Isle — Faith (ELCA), Pastor Josh Blair; Worship 9:30; handicap accessible.

Isle — Holden (ELCA), SS 9:30; Worship 10:30.
Isle — Trinity (Missouri Synod), Rev. Mark Maunula; Worship 9; Fellowship follows; SS 10:30; Adult Bible 10:30.
Jacobson — Carmel, Vicar Mark Wagner; SS 1st & 3rd Sun. 10, Service 11, fellowship follows.

Lake Shore — Living Savior Lutheran Church, 8327 Interlachen Rd.; Worship 9 Sunday mornings, followed by fellowship and Bible study. (Located on Co. Rd. #77 N)
Malmö — Bethesda (ELCA) Rev. James Muske; Sun. Worship 9am. Fellowship following Service. Communion every Sunday.

McGrath — Grace; Wed. potluck 5 pm, Bible study 6 p.m.; SS 10; Worship 11.
McGrath — Zion (ELCA), Worship 9; SS 9.
McGregor/Big Sandy Lake — Grace Lutheran Log Church (LCMC), Pastor Lorelie Robinson; Worship 9, Fellowship follows, SS 10.

McGregor — Our Savior's (Missouri Synod), Pastor Joshua C. Reinke; Worship 9; SS 10; Bible Study Tue. 9, Wed. 7 pm
Outing — Our Saviors ELCA; Pastor Luke Lekander, Worship 9.

Palisade* — Bethel (ELCA), Pastor Steven Teff; Worship 9:30.
Pequot Lakes - Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (LCMS) Pastor Monte Meyer Worship 9 am, Fellowship 10 am, Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 10:15 am
Pequot Lakes* - Our Savior's Lutheran Church (ELCA) Rev. Stephen Blenkush Worship 9:00 a.m., SS 9:15 a.m., Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Wed. Adult Bible Study 11:00 a.m.

Rosburg — Bethesda Lutheran (LCMC) Congregations in

Mission for Christ) 11:30 service. Communion 1st & 3rd Sunday each month.

Tamarack (AFLC) — Pastor Ron Staudinger; 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays 10 am; 41163 Kestrel Ave 3.3 mi. South of Hwy 210

Thor — Zion, Worship 11; 1st and 3rd Sun. April through December.
Wright — Bethlehem, Worship; SS 9.

Wright — St. John's (Missouri Synod), Pastor Joshua Reinke; Worship 10:30; Bible Study and Sunday School Sun. 9:30; Lent services Wed. 5:30 pm.
NON-DENOMINATIONAL
Brainerd—Oak Street Chapel, Pastor Todd Wooden, Worship service is Sunday at 9:30, 523 SE 11th Street, Brainerd, 218-454-0984
Brainerd—Remnant Ministry Center, Pastor Ben Davis, Worship service is Sunday at 10am, 512 S 8th St., Suite 2, 218-829-2989.

PENTECOSTAL

Baxter — Christ Alive, 12485 Forestview Drive, Baxter, MN 56425. Pastor Walter Starr, 763-316-7270, Sunday Worship 10:00am, Wednesday Bible study 6:30pm
Emily — Cornerstone Church; Pastor Earl Ready; Worship 10, 41536 Birchwood Drive, Emily; 218-763-2939.
Ironton — Iron Range Christian Center; Pastor Dwight Semler; 218-546-6523; meeting at Irondale Town Hall*, Co. Rd. 12, (Deerwood Shortcut); Worship 10 & Wed. 7 pm.
Tamarack — Warriors of the Rainbow Ministry, Pastors Ken and Ron Fairbanks, Sat. 11. 218-768-3585

PRESBYTERIAN

Crosslake - Pastor Mark Ford, 218-692-4769; Worship 9; Fellowship 11. 14444 Daggott Pine Road, Crosslake, just passed the Community Center; www.crosslakepres.org.
McGrath — Calvary, Pastor - Todd Oltmann; Worship 9.
McGregor/Round Lake — Pastor Talley; Worship Sat. 5 pm.
Tamarack — First, Rev. J. Yingling; Worship 11.

REFORMED

Crosby — Lifespring Church, a member of Fellowship of Independent Reformed Evangelicals, 9:30, 30 Hallett Ave NE 218-545-5433, www.visitlifespring.com

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Aitkin — Pastor Roger Hagen; Worship Sat. 9:30, Bible Study 10:30; Prayer Mtg. Wed. 5:30 p.m.; www.aitkinadventist.org; 423-805-0933
Brainerd — Pastor Roger Hagen; Worship Sat. 11:20, Bible Study 10; Bible Study & Prayer Mtg. Wed. 6:30 p.m.; 2910 Oak Street, Brainerd, 218-829-1676

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Pequot Lakes — 28877 State Hwy 371, Pequot Lakes 10:30 1st and 4th Sundays. 218-330-3476

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Brainerd — First Congregational UCC, 415 Juniper St, Brainerd. Sunday worship at 10. Pastor; Leslie Moughty. Handicapped accessible.

UNITED METHODIST

Aitkin* — Aitkin - Pastor Dawn Houser; Worship 10, Wednesdays at 5:30 pm Bible & Brew, Facebook live.
Crosby/Deerwood* — Cascade, Pastor Gary Taylor; Sunday Worship with Youtube live streaming 10 am with fellowship to follow. Cascade Ladies meet on the first Wednesday of each month at noon. Come & Eat Community dinner on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm. Please call the office to sign up: 218-534-3507.
Cutler* (South Aitkin County) — Pine Lake Chapel, Pastor Gary Taylor; Worship Sunday 1 p.m. Fellowship follows.
Cromwell — Pastor Tim Homstad; Worship 10; SS 9
Emily* — Pastor Gary Taylor; Sunday Worship with Facebook live streaming 8:30 with fellowship to follow. UWF meet on the first Sunday of each month following worship. Men's prayer breakfast 2nd Saturday of each month at 8. Bible Study Thursdays at 6 pm.
Fleming* — (Northern Lights Parish) SS 9:15; Worship 10:30; fellowship follows

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Fri., Oct. 11 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Grilled Ribeye
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Dinner Roll & Dessert

Wed., Oct. 16 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Cook's Choice

Wed., Oct. 123 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Spaghetti Dinner

Wed., Oct. 30 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Super Burgers

Moose Homemade Pizza
Thurs., Oct. 3 & 17
(1st & 3rd Thursday)
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Sunday

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Picnick
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Entertainment Tent
Bingo 1:15 -2:15 p.m., 2:30-3:30 p.m., & 3:45-4:45 p.m.
Joey Johnson Band 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Bear Pine Bar Tent
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