



Daniel W Midura

August 1, 1948 - June 14, 2025

If you are reading this, I am either walking, running, or (if you can believe it) dancing on the streets of heaven with Jesus.

My life began in the Chicago area when I was born to my parents Wally and Alexa Midura on August 1, 1948. We moved to South Minneapolis in 1953. It was there that I attended church and school, graduating from Minneapolis Washburn High School in 1966. It was also there where I met my lifelong best friend, Greg Peterson.

As I was growing up, I had the opportunity to attend Trout Lake Camp and experience the life-changing message of Jesus, first as a camper, then as a counselor, and eventually in 1970 as a staff member alongside my wife Shirley who I had met there in 1963 as a camper.

After graduating from high school, I attended the University of Minnesota, earning my degree in teaching in 1970. Growing up, I held a diverse variety of jobs that included being a paperboy and being a jail elevator operator. Those jobs enabled me to graduate from college debt free.

In the fall of 1970 I began my teaching career in the Roseville School District, teaching for the majority of my years at E. D. Williams Elementary, with the last eight years at Falcon Heights Elementary. I thoroughly enjoyed my

colleagues and students while teaching, but maybe not the staff meetings that included sitting around in a circle.

While teaching, my colleague and friend Don Glover and I wrote five books that centered on team building for youth. We spent several years conducting over 200 workshops and classes. I also served as an adjunct faculty member at Bethel University from 1994-2008 and taught graduate classes for St. Mary's University.

On March 1, 2015, my life changed significantly when I was diagnosed with Splenic Angiosarcoma. This disease would become part of our family journey for the next ten years. Due to radiation a year ago, in mid-January of 2025 I was diagnosed with a spinal injury that resulted in my loss of mobility.

While in no way minimizing the level of support I have received through the prayer and presence of many dear family and friends, I wish to acknowledge a few who have served as my ever-available hands and feet of Jesus during the final chapter of my story. My wife, Shirley, has gone far beyond her marriage vows to serve me, my son Seth and his wife Jess, my son Luke and his wife Mara, our neighbor Paul Keller, our friend Lee Cornelius, our neighbor at the cabin, Scott Oare, my sister Janet and her husband Paul, and my brother-in-law Jim and his wife Shirley. Thank you.

I also wish to acknowledge Glory Church in Aitkin, MN, for the many special years that we were part of their congregation.

I am leaving behind my beautiful wife of 54 years, Shirley; my sons Luke (Mara) and Seth (Jess); siblings Floyd (Kay) and Janet (Paul) Anderson; brothers and sisters-in-law Gordy (Judi) Cook, Judy (Bob) Merwin, and Jim (Shirley) Cook; and grandchildren Isaiah Daniel, Eliza Juneau, Cameron Alexa and Jacob Charles. I am grateful for them and for my many nephews

and nieces and their children, as well as countless other family members and friends.

For my entire life it has been my desire to follow Jesus in all that I do both personally and professionally. I leave you my life verse: "1 Peter 5:7 "Cast all your cares upon Him; for He cares for you."

Family and friends are invited to celebrate Dan's life on July 10th, 2025 at Westgate Church in Plymouth, MN at 11am. Visitation at 10am.

The service will be streamed online here is the link: <https://westgatechurchmn.subspla.sh/rq2d8zv>

In lieu of flowers, if you desire to send a memorial gift, please consider one of the following:

- Glory Church of Aitkin (<https://aitkinchurch.com/give.html>)
- Westgate Church (<https://www.westgatemn.church/give>)
- Wooddale Church missions (<https://wooddale.org/giving/>)
- Trout Lake Camp (<https://troutlakecamps.org/giving>)

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **10**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Westgate Church
705 county Road 101
Plymouth, MN 55447

Celebration of Life

JUL **10**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Westgate Church
705 county Road 101
Plymouth, MN 55447

Tribute Wall



“ I am late to the event but I wish to share that Dan Midura was one of my favorite teachers at EDW. He was funny and stern in a confounding way that I have tried to emulate in my own teaching practice. Seeing him credit Jesus delights my heart. So grateful for him.

Jennifer Fitzpatrick - October 09, 2025 at 10:31 PM



“ Dan mailed me this photo with a great note back in 2017. Dan was my favorite teacher of all times. My heart goes out to your entire family.



Jennifer Sinna - August 06, 2025 at 12:01 AM

BH

“ Dan and I met when we were 6 or 7 (my memory of this is a little shaky). We attended Edgewater Baptist Church, played sports, went to Big Trout Lake Bible Camp every summer, were students at Washburn High School, and we sometimes rode together while attending the University of Minnesota. I remember Alexa and Wally very well, and affectionately. Alexa and my mother were close friends. Dan and I have long taken different paths, but I was very happy when Dan reconnected with me nearly 10 years ago.

Dan was always on the lookout for a way to give, and he was very good at giving.

Of all of the people I have met, in all stations and categories of life, believers and non-believers, Dan is the one person who actually made it his life's work to follow Jesus. Not to be a "Christian" or tell others what to believe or how they should live, but to simply be that person who uses kindness and grace to help others (especially children and those weaker or less fortunate than him).

I am proud to have been a friend of Dan's--it was a privilege to see how one person can actually live in this world as it exists, and still be a good person.

Dan was the finest man I have known in my life.

Boyd Barlow Hagen - July 11, 2025 at 09:08 PM

SH

Hey Barlow! Thank You for this genuine note with heartfelt memories. Dan loved to write notes of encouragement. In 2015 he wrote a letter to someone everyday of the year. This spring life became so challenging he was unable to write like before but your postcards brought a smile to his face and he mentioned them to Helen who has never stopped caring and praying for you along with so many others from Edgewater.

Shirley - July 21, 2025 at 11:11 PM

NS

“ Lately, I've found myself reflecting on what it truly means to live a good life. The world's tired metrics—wealth, status, recognition—seem to fade in significance as we age. As we wake from the trance of narrow ambitions, a clearer truth begins to shine through: that a good life is best measured by the depth of our relationships and the way we move through the world.

By that measure, Dan Midura lived brilliantly.

His life overflowed with laughter and connection. He stirred curiosity and wisdom in the students he cared for and lit that same fire in the teachers he taught. How lucky we all are that Dan spent these last years living his version of that good life—surrounded by his kids and grandkids, tucked into the peace of his cabin, or walking next to Shirley, steady in his love and presence.

How thankful I am to have grown up in Dan's company, to have experienced his joy and warmth, and to have known a life well lived.

Nate Smalley - July 10, 2025 at 01:05 PM

SH

Oh Nate! First came the birthday parties, cabin times, the vacation on Chincoteague Island, seaside eating your mom's apricot crescent cookies, then realizing as couples vacationing became even more fun without our kids (just kidding, or not!) 10 years ago in a tear filled phone call I asked your dad if he'd officiate at Dan's funeral...He kept his word like we knew he would. Little did we know that we'd share grandchildren before that day would arrive eternally. Your words are precious to our family and we are grateful you and yours are part of it!

Shirley - July 22, 2025 at 12:07 AM

YC

“ Shirley, Luke, Seth; I do not truly know your pain; can only imagine what you are experiencing in this moment of loss of BELOVED DAN!

We are unable to attend Dan's celebration of life as Yoli is recovering from surgery!

I know the MIDURA family via Shirley who was a co-worker in the Westonka School District! It took a few years to form our friendship since Shirley was on maternity leave when I started working in the district but once we met we shared an inexplicable bond at work and beyond! Our first outing as couples was attending CECE WAYANS Concert together! The concert was AMAZING but even more amazing was the spiritual bond and friendship we shared for decades! Dan's medical journey with Shirley at his side has been a roadmap for us in our marital & spiritual journeys! Even with all the health challenges; Dan & Shirley lived each day to the fullest; enriching their own lives and all whom they encountered along the way! Each day was a celebration of life and an example of how to really live a committed Christian married life! Shirley & Dan have been my spiritual & marital mentors (even if they were not aware of their role)!

I've been amazed by Dan's resilience; to keep living life with a joyful heart in spite of cancer's pain! Dan was a "real man" who showed many of us how to live & love (GOD & family)! Preston & I didn't get to spend a lot of time with Dan & Shirley in later years as health issues took tolls of Dan & Preston but we often talked about you both & reflected on our chats with you about PROMISE KEEPERS & Bible verses!

You've both left an imprint on our hearts for life! THANK YOU DAN & SHIRLEY! AMEN! 🙏

Yolanda Clark - July 10, 2025 at 01:35 AM

SH

Our Family has been in such a whirlwind of activity these past few months that I have not had time to read comments until now. Your beautiful note of the bond between us and our families is so well put and I marvel at the gift of writing that you and Dan both shared. Our bond strengthened because of our hope being in Jesus and that fact means we will forever be reunited in Heaven where there is no more pain or suffering! What a Joy that will be!

Shirley - July 21, 2025 at 11:40 PM

SW

“ *Shirley, Seth ,Luke and family. Danny was a prince among men. I can honestly say that I have not one negative memory during all the years I was privileged to know Dan. We will all miss his sublime presence here on earth.*

Steve Walburg - July 09, 2025 at 09:58 PM

BH

Thanks, Steve--I completely agree with you.

Boyd Hagen - July 10, 2025 at 02:40 PM

SH

Loved seeing you at the funeral...getting the parents together before they passed was a highlight ... always enjoyed being with you and Carol and even if it wasn't often enough we could pick up where we left off... now that will be when we're all in the presence of Jesus!

Shirley - July 22, 2025 at 12:14 AM

LS

“ I praise God for all the times I was stressed or flustered and in need of encouragement, I would get a phone call from Dan with a word of encouragement. I'm sure that it would have been hard for me to be as cheerful to give words of encouragement if I were going through what he was! It was if someone told him that I needed the exact time I needed the call too!!

Wayne and Louise Sulack

Louise Sulack - July 01, 2025 at 11:49 PM

SH

A very special time I'll not forget was the time we shared at our cabin with you two at the time of Dan Behymer's funeral ! The unexpected dip in the lake

Wayne took, and what a great sport he was! I am keeping you both in my prayers and know that these difficult times will be looked back on as a privilege not a burden some day.

Shirley - July 22, 2025 at 12:24 AM

“ I want to share a little about the Dan Midura I came to know. Dan was an elementary physical education teacher within the Roseville School District when I arrived as a, new to the district, elementary principal in 1989. I learned early on that Dan was held in high esteem among his elementary physical education colleges, district administrators, as well as the community at Emmet Williams Elementary School. When I reflect on that time, I believe the esteem came his way was as a result of Dan’s being so very child centered, someone who was intelligent, quick witted, hardworking and caring.

The Roseville School District had a strong emphasis on excellence, and Dan’s commitment to this philosophy perfectly aligned with his values. He served for many years as the district’s elementary physical education coordinator. He also was selected as Minnesota’s Physical Education Teacher of the Year as well as being chosen for the Paul Schmidt Award . He went on to be elected president of the Minnesota Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. As if that wasn’t enough, Dan co-authored five books on team building, facilitated well over 200 workshops on this topic and performed as a college instructor.

The final eight years of his career within the Roseville School District, Dan and I ended up at Falcon Heights Elementary School. It was here that I was better able to appreciate how genuine Dan was in striving for excellence in his teaching and relating to children, their families, and staff. I was so impressed with his ability to relate to others in such a caring way that I asked him to be the person who would interact with family members should we ever have a building-wide crisis.

Dan’s infectious use of humor easily endeared him to students, families and staff. I’m very proud to have worked alongside this pillar of a teacher and human being. Dan, may you be blessed in heaven for all that you brought to those around you. You were clearly one of the great ones. Thank you my friend.

And by the way, I'm guessing I was one of those who had you and your colleagues sit in circle during various staff meetings. Sorry about that!

Paul Charest

Paul Charest - June 28, 2025 at 10:41 PM

SM

Oh Paul! Your thoughtful words have brought tears to my eyes! All relationships in life really are a 2 way street aren't they? Your interaction with both of us deepened as you went the extra mile as you continued to check in on us, years after retirement. When life's Journey became a tremendous challenge for Dan, your calls and other Roseville colleagues always brought a smile to our faces! Thank you for your consistent caring ways! Shirley

Shirley Midura - July 01, 2025 at 02:01 PM



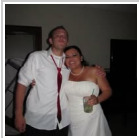
“ I loved any opportunity we had with Dan and Shirley. I am super sorry I will not be able to be at his celebration of life. Both Dan and Shirley glorified God in their professions as educators and throughout their lives. Both of them have inspired me in a similar profession!! What a gift to be married over 50 years although I am sure it was not enough time. What a great joy to know that you will someday have a heavenly reunion that will last for eternity!! Praising God for His servant Dan!

Debbie Loomis - June 28, 2025 at 10:22 AM

MG

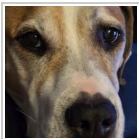
“ Mr. Midura was such a bright light in our children's lives during their EDW days that I wrote a supporting letter for his nomination for Teacher of the Year. I remember him best running joyously in his tuxedo for the 623 Walk Run, with a large flock of students in his wake. He taught them to be lifelong healthy and joyous movers. He also embodied and taught them the fruits of character. Prayers to his family.

Mindy Greiling - June 26, 2025 at 08:26 PM



“ I went to EDW in the late 80s in to the 90s. Jungle tag is still highly talked about along with track and field day. Coming to school early to help set up for jungle tag was a fond memory. I never had another gym teacher like him. May he rest in peace. I think wr should play a game of jungle tag in his honor!

Torri Sauve - June 26, 2025 at 07:25 PM



“ I went to ED Williams from 81 to 87 and will never forget gym class with Mr. Midera. Jungle tag, mile run, fitness tests and all the other ways he kept us motivated to move. Since I lived so close to school, always waved as he passed my house. He's one of those teachers you never forget.

Sharon Rumans - June 26, 2025 at 05:36 PM

MI

“ I was one of “Mr. Midura”s students at Falcon. I absolutely loved gym class and certainly can attribute much of my love for sports and an active lifestyle to that time I spent in his classes. It’s rare to find someone that passionate about what they do for a career and I am very fortunate to have known him. His Happy Birthday Song, if you know it, is legendary and still gets talked about in our circles!

Mike - June 26, 2025 at 04:37 PM

GS

“ I attended EDW from 83-90, and will never forget.how fun Mr.Midura made gym. From field day to jungle gym tag, he was a great teacher. He had a sense of humor, and sorry to hear of his passing. Anyone that remembers the EDW song hats off to thee...thanks Mr. Midura

Gigi Soud - June 26, 2025 at 01:45 AM

RP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Richard Peterson - June 25, 2025 at 11:18 AM

RP

“ Richard Peterson lit a candle in memory of Daniel W Midura



Richard Peterson - June 25, 2025 at 11:05 AM

RP

Dan was a great mentor of mine and a true example of leading a Christian life. I will miss his great sense of humor and his kind and caring soul. God's peace to Shirley and family. We will be reunited again someday, that is for sure!

Dick Peterson/son of Bob and Phyllis Peterson. "Edgewater Baptist church" back in the day.

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Revelation 21:4

Richard Peterson - June 25, 2025 at 11:17 AM