



## Donald Lee Besser

April 11, 1936 - November 28, 2021

Donald Lee Besser 4/11/36 - 11/28/21 age 85 of Minneapolis, passed away due to complications of breakthrough covid . After many days of competent and caring treatment, Don's family was allowed to enter his hospital room to say their goodbyes and let him go. The family would like to acknowledge with gratitude all those caring for Don in this journey (Allina Health United Family Physicians and United Hospital Staff).

During his 17 days in the hospital, Don drew his strength by reciting Psalm 121 with pastors, staff and family. He would start, saying, "I lift up my eyes to the hills---from where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord..." Leaning on memories, together we would join voices with him in completing the Psalm.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bert and Dora (Schmidt) Besser; and brother, Lawrence and his wife Lois. Don is survived by his wife of 62 years, Joyce (Tamminen). Also sons Carl (Jo Montie), Jon (Kathy Williams) and Brice (Jen). Grandchildren, Andy Besser (Madison Soto) Emma Montie, Lake Montie, Liz Besser, Erin Besser, Isabella Besser. Great Grandchild, Chase Besser. Sister in Law, Jean Terrio and husband Rev. Gary Terrio. Brother in Law, John Tamminen and wife Deborah Jahn.

Don was born in Duluth and raised in Hermantown. Graduated from

Hermantown High School in 1954. Earned a degree from UMD in Speech Language Pathology. He worked in that field for twelve years in public schools. Next, following a move to Hermantown, he was a stay at home dad for two years. Then, he became a partner in a wholesale electronics firm, Northwest Radio of Duluth for 12 years. Beginning in 1986, he worked for several years until retirement in a variety of retail electronics businesses in the Twin Cities.

Some family memories of Don:

- Life long musician: singer from the age of 3, choir director, composer, attendee at Mn Orchestra and SPCO Concerts, lover of all kinds of music.
- Joyce remembers: Don sang at different times with all three of his sons. Carl and Jon in their younger years and Brice, many times as an adult. (It is a generational thing you know)
- Family was everything to him: Devoted Grandfather, interested and involved in events important to his grandchildren, Head Chef at yearly "Grandma Camp" (Specialty Mac & Cheese).
- Theatre enthusiast: actor, stage crafting, enjoyed live theatre.
- Involved member of many church congregations
- Becketwood Senior Cooperative: workshop (with good friends), spiritual resources committee, zoom meeting master, fixer of lamps, friend to many.
- Life long learner: became a potter (age 59), self taught zoom facilitator (age 84), always learning new technology.
- Lover of all people: Generous, kind, friendly, accepting.
- Carpenter, electrician and mechanic: built houses, garages and cabins, poured slabs, fixed cars and repaired many electric items.
- Inventor
- Lover of Saunas:

Don came from a singing family. They sang so much there was once a newspaper article published called, Formula for Family Harmony all about

"The Singing Bessers". In a photo with that article you could see Don and his parents, Dora and Bert and brother Lawrence, washing dishes in their kitchen singing. They sang at church and performed in the Carillon Chorale in Duluth. Don, his dad and brother often sang together. We hear them now, once again singing "How great thou art"

Celebration of his life will be held in the spring. More specific information will be shared as dates are set.

Memorials may be directed to organizations of one's choice or to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E 31st St, Minneapolis, Mn 55406

# Tribute Wall

JL

“Joyce, I'm so sorry to hear about Don's passing. I so enjoyed singing with him in choir all those years ago at St. Mary Magdalene Lutheran Church. May God give you comfort and strength during this difficult time.

---

**Jessica Lamker** - December 10, 2021 at 08:40 PM



“Joyce, my sympathy as you grieve the loss of your dear husband, Don. Prayers for you and your family. I have missed seeing you and Don at PoP. I know it's been a while, but you haven't been forgotten! I think of you as two gentle souls. May you be comforted by God's promises and the love of family and friends.

---

**Sharon Johnson** - December 10, 2021 at 09:40 AM

KP

“Joyce, my prayers are with you and your family as you grieve. I so enjoyed getting to know Don through the years of choir rehearsals and Sunday worship services. His beautiful voice, kindness, and gentleness of spirit were such a gift to us all.

*With sympathy,  
Kyle Pederson*

---

**Kyle Pederson** - December 07, 2021 at 10:23 PM