



## Douglas Roper

April 10, 1933 - May 8, 2026

Douglas Ralph Roper, 93, of Cornucopia, Wisconsin, pastor, artist, author, pianist and friend to all passed away peacefully with family by his side on May 8, 2026. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, and his presence will be deeply missed by many.

Doug was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on April 10, 1933, to Amund and Dorothy Roper. Throughout his life Doug's charismatic and infectious love of life and God, brought joy to his friends, parishioners and family. For Doug, every day and experience was, "The best I've ever had," and worth savoring: whether it was fishing on Lake Superior, searching for agates with kids, discovering new adventures through travel and eating, or sampling bourbon. Doug's laughter and inquisitive spirit brightened the lives of all who knew him.

Doug graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg PA, where he received his theological degree in 1961. (He told a hilarious story of almost hitting President Eisenhower's car while at Seminary.) Doug served in the army from 1956-58 and revered his service--and bunny boots.

He began his ministry in 1962 at Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. He left the ministry for a short-time to pursue a career in business as general manager for Paul Revere Companies. Returning to his calling in the 70s he

went on to serve 23 years as pastor of Minnewashta Church in the Twin Cities, where he led groups to Israel, launched an active youth group, and wrote curriculum for ELCA. Even in "retirement," he continued to serve as pastor of Herbster Community Church in Wisconsin until he was 89 years old!

Doug imparted his love of nature and beauty with all whose lives he touched. His cherished home on Lake Superior was generously shared with church youth groups, friends, and family. Guest books of over 30 years capture the memories and relaxation he provided. He taught all his children and grandchildren to drive cars, motorhomes, boats, and motorcycles, and to fish, hunt, and celebrate each day. He implored everyone to, "Just try it and see what you think." His curiosity in life naturally fostered an interest in scholarship, people and cultures, and new cars every two years! And he provided concerts on demand for those around him to enjoy: whether playing Grieg or Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, or a hymn on the piano, or picking up a banjo and playing the harmonica, Doug's love of music delighted all.

Doug is survived by his wife Kathy Roper of 53 years; daughters, Lee Roper-Batker (John), Patti Roper, Heather Mitchell (Josh); son, Mark Roper; grandchildren, Astia, Kelsi, Sydni, Ashton, and Halaya; and great grandson, Sebastian.

A celebration of Doug's life will be held on Monday, July 13, 2026, at Washburn-McReavy Edina Funeral Chapel with visitation at 10:30 am and a service at 11:30 am, with reception to follow. The family invites all who knew him to attend and share their favorite memories.

# Upcoming Events

## Graveside Service

JUL 13. 9:30 AM - 9:45 AM (CT)

Fort Snelling National Cemetery  
7601 34th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55450

## Visitation

JUL 13. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Edina Chapel  
5000 West 50th & Highway 100  
Edina, MN 55436

## Celebration of Life

JUL 13. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel  
5000 West 50th & Highway 100  
Edina, MN 55436

## Reception

JUL 13. 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel  
5000 West 50th & Highway 100  
Edina, MN 55436