



Harvey Lee Gustafson

May 6, 1933 - March 27, 2024

Gustafson, Harvey L, 90, was born on May 6, 1933 in Ely, MN. He graduated from Ely Memorial High School on June 7, 1951. He attended St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN graduating in 1955 with the degree Bachelor of Music, magna cum laude. He was Staff Organist with Radio Station WCAL where he gave daily programs. He attended Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary in Minneapolis, MN receiving the degree of Master of Divinity.

He served as pastor at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Stambaugh, MI for five and one-half years and St Matthew's Church in Fargo, ND for three years. In Fargo, he became known as the "Roller Rink Preacher." What attracted him to the roller rink in Moorhead, MN was the organ itself. It was said to be the only pipe organ found in a roller rink between Chicago and the West Coast.

In 1967, Harvey moved to Minneapolis, MN to become involved in full-time musical work. He was an instructor in organ at MacPhail Center for the Arts, University of Minnesota for 25 years. He was also organist and choirmaster at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Minneapolis, MN for 30 years. Harvey was also organist and director of the choir at Temple Israel for many years. He played for 21 years at the Heights Theater for silent movies, special events and before movies started.

Harvey enjoyed several trips to Europe visiting Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Switzerland. He was proud of his Finnish heritage and made many life-long friends during these trips. In the summer he enjoyed being at the family cabin in Ely, MN on Birch Lake. Harvey passed into eternity on March 27, 2024 in Minneapolis, MN.

He is survived by his Nephew Michael Landa and family, niece Janice Landa Taibi and family, niece Carolyn Landa Wittry and husband, Gene Vikre, his companion on life's journey, special friends Helen Vikre Marsh, Carol Vikre Bearth (Timothy) and his beloved dog "Maggie."

Harvey will be forever missed by his family, companion Gene Vikre, many loving friends, and fans of his music.

Private services have been held.

Tribute Wall

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“ God Bless you, Harvey. In the 60s when I was night clerk at your apartment hotel, I was going through major life issues. Your pastoral disposition helped me through the darkness. My life is blessed because of your contribution. My thanks! R.I.P.

William Harbottle - September 21, 2024 at 05:29 PM