

Dale Herman Gratz was born on January 22, 1944, in Willmar, Minnesota, to Eldor and Dorothy (Kalkbrenner) Gratz. He was baptized in February of 1944 and confirmed in the Christian faith in May of 1957 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Atwater. He graduated from Atwater High School in 1961.

On March 14, 1965, Dale married the love of his life, Mary (Landers) Gratz. In their 57 years of marriage the two were seldom apart. Dale and Mary were blessed with four children and nine grandchildren. Dale loved the Atwater community of which he was a part all of his life. His family, his friends, and caring for his farmland were his joy and his passion. With love and devotion, he taught us: the value of faith, hard work, responsibility, the importance of community, and leaving your corner of the world a little better than you found it. His amazing perseverance and uncomplaining way to "Keep on Keepin' on" through his battle with cancer inspired all who knew him. His final and most enduring lesson will be his ability to face hardship with grace, dignity and a touch of humor mixed in. He will be greatly missed, but in his honor we will "Keep on Keepin' on".

He is survived by his loving wife, Mary Gratz, his children: Dean (Michelle) Gratz of White Bear Lake, Anita (Douglas) Bastian of Jordan, Fay (Jerome) Susa of Buffalo and Paula (Steven) Noll of Norwood Young America; nine grandchildren, Dayna Bastian, Taylor (Michael) Zuidema, Adam Bastian, Mikayla Gratz, Calista Susa, Brock Gratz, Eric Susa, Katheryne Noll, and Wyatt Noll. Also surviving are two brothers, Gerald (Darlene) Gratz and David (Joyce) Gratz, both of Atwater and a sister-in-law, Frances Syverson of Willmar.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Eldor and Dorothy Gratz and father-in-law and mother-in-law, Daniel and Alma (Fig) Landers.

## *Celebrating the Life of*



*Dale H. Gratz*

**1944 - 2022**

## God's Farm

*God needs someone in heaven to plow and plant the rows.*

*And when he calls on me, I know that I must go.*

*Remember that I won't be gone.*

*I will just be away, working on God's farm*

*till we're united again one day.*

*There will be no storms in heaven and*

*the fields are long and straight.*

*When it's time for you to join me*

*I'll be waiting inside heaven's gate.*

*Remember, until the day arrives,*

*when once more our lives we'll share,*

*to look in the green fields growing*

*And you'll see me working there.*

Arrangements By  
*Peterson Brothers Funeral Home*  
*"Celebrating A Life Remembered"*

In Loving Memory

# Dale H. Gratz

January 22, 1944  
Willmar, Minnesota

April 12, 2022  
Atwater, Minnesota

### Celebration of Life Service

Monday, April 18, 2022 - 11:00 a.m.  
Rock of Life Christian Reformed Church  
Willmar, Minnesota

Prelude	Shirley Rolffs
Processional	
Opening Scriptures & Prayer	
Songs	"Rock of Ages" & "The Old Rugged Cross"
Remembrances	
Music Ministry	"Whispering Hope" Darlene Bratberg & Lori Anderson
Prayer of Illumination	
Reading of Scriptures	
Song	"What A Friend We Have In Jesus"
Message	Pastor Jeff Van Der Hooft
Song	"Because He Lives"
Prayer	
Music Ministry	"The Lord's Prayer" Eric Kalkbrenner
Benediction	
Recessional	
Postlude	

### Casketbearers (Grandchildren)

Dayna Bastian	Taylor Zuidema	Adam Bastian	Mikayla Gratz	
Calista Susa	Brock Gratz	Eric Susa	Kate Noll	Wyatt Noll

### Interment

Cloverleaf Memorial Park Cemetery  
Willmar, Minnesota