

Remembering the Life....

Gerald Conrad Peterson, 73, of Fergus Falls, died unexpectedly on Wednesday, June 12, 2024.

Gerald "Jerry" Conrad was born December 6, 1950, in Buse Township, the son of Conrad and Ruth (Kronemann) Peterson. He grew up on the family farm in Fergus Falls, was confirmed at First Lutheran and graduated from Fergus Falls High School in 1969. After graduation, Jerry attended Fergus Falls Junior College and Moorhead State University for Mechanical Engineering. He had a lifelong passion for music. He played bass for the Green Jade band in high school with his lifelong friends. They played at college events and in small towns. His passion for music carried on throughout his lifetime. He always made sure there was music playing loudly wherever he was working: on the deck, in the shop, in the yard, or in the garden. Some of his favorites included Elvis, The Beach Boys, 60's and 70's, and Country music.



Jerry's devotion to his high school sweetheart, Christine Knutson, was unwavering. They married on August 14, 1971, at Trinity Church, in Fergus Falls, then settled on the family farm in 1973 when Jerry took over the dairy and grain operations. After 37 years, Jerry retired from farming in 2010 and continued his hay operation until 2022. Jerry worked at Stonel until 2018. His semi-retirement job was currently at Earl Strande Excavating, hauling gravel and farming as needed.

Jerry was actively involved in the community through his participation in 4H growing up, where he assisted with livestock and coached softball. He always ensured that everyone had the opportunity to play, demonstrating his inclusive and caring nature.

Jerry had many hobbies and ongoing projects at any given time. He treasured projects that were with his grandchildren. Jerry loved to garden, perhaps a nod to all the years of farming. An avid gardener, Jerry planted enough vegetables to feed the entire family and anyone else he knew would enjoy them. While relaxing on the deck, he enjoyed watching the many birds that frequented the yard and kept them well-fed. Jerry was a tinkerer. Tractors, antique farm equipment and motorcycles were a longtime hobby of his, whether riding, restoring, or fixing them. He also loved woodworking projects, building and refinishing any request that came his way. He thoroughly enjoyed "Puzzling" with Christine or his grandkids in the winter.

Jerry loved to playfully get a rise out of anyone! If you knew him, there was always joking, laughter, shenanigans, and belly laughs. If anyone were home for the weekend, you would find him making a big breakfast on the deck on Sunday mornings. The kitchen was the heart of the home for Jerry. He was always involved in canning or freezing garden produce and making lefse with his girls to share with friends. He would, of course, always have some candy stashed in his toolbox in the shop ... and in the blue shed, barn, freezer, wherever he had projects going on.

Jerry's love for his children and grandchildren ensured there were enough toys on the farm growing up. There were always enough minibikes, snowmobiles, and sleds to keep us kids and our friends entertained. As a Grandpa, there were always toys for all the grandchildren to keep busy with, like Nerf gun wars, ride-on toys, a long enough garden hose to chase around the farm yard, swing sets, a playhouse, and a bouncy house. He bought many grandchildren their first bicycles.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Christine, and Four children: Andrea (Tony) Loomer, Heather (Curt) Rostenbach, Brandt (Katie) Peterson, and Brittney (Josh) Rud. Many grandchildren: Kyra (Logan Barker) Loomer, Koryna (Ethan Ellingson) Loomer; Issac (Sydne Koppang), Owen and Elliana Rostenbach; Riley, Avery, Raelynn, and Otto Peterson; Gage, Payton and Krew Rud; one Great-grandbaby, Fynn Rostenbach and was excited about the news of one on the way. Special cousins Robert Peterson and Mark Peterson, as well as numerous other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Conrad and Ruth Peterson, in-laws, Clarence and Mabel Knutson, and beloved grandson, Archer Peterson.

Blessed be the Memory of Gerald Peterson



So God Made a Farmer

And on the 8th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, "I need a caretaker." So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in the fields, milk cows again, eat supper and then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board." So God made a farmer.

"I need somebody with arms strong enough to rustle a calf and yet gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild. Somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry, have to wait lunch until his wife's done feeding visiting ladies and tell the ladies to be sure and come back real soon -- and mean it." So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a newborn colt. And watch it die. Then dry his eyes and say, 'Maybe next year.' I need somebody who can shape an ax handle from a persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire, who can make harness out of haywire, feed sacks and shoe scraps. And who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his forty-hour week by Tuesday noon, then, pain'n from 'tractor back,' put in another seventy-two hours." So God made a farmer.

God had to have somebody willing to ride the ruts at double speed to get the hay in ahead of the rain clouds and yet stop in mid-field and race to help when he sees the first smoke from a neighbor's place. So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody strong enough to clear trees and heave bails, yet gentle enough to tame lambs and wean pigs and tend the pink-combed pullets, who will stop his mower for an hour to splint the broken leg of a meadow lark. It had to be somebody who'd plow deep and straight and not cut corners. Somebody to seed, weed, feed, breed and rake and disc and plow and plant and tie the fleece and strain the milk and replenish the self-feeder and finish a hard week's work with a five-mile drive to church.

"Somebody who'd bale a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing, who would laugh and then sigh, and then reply, with smiling eyes, when his son says he wants to spend his life 'doing what dad does.'" So God made a farmer.

In Loving Memory Of Gerald Conrad Peterson

December 6, 1950 ~ June 12, 2024

Funeral Service

Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 2:00 PM

First Lutheran Church

Fergus Falls, Minnesota

Prelude.....	Keith Melberg
Tolling of the Bell	
Thanksgiving for Baptism.....	ELW page 279
Opening Hymn.....	The Old Rugged Cross.....Insert
Prayer	
Welcome	
Family Reflections.....	Tony Loomer
Prayer	
Scripture readings.....	Isaiah 43:1-3a - Psalm 23 - John 14:1-6
Sermon.....	Pastor Tiffany Sundeen
Solo.....	Amazing Grace..... Sarah Velde
Apostle's Creed.....	Inside back cover
Prayers/Lord's Prayer	
Commendation/Committal	
Benediction	
Recessional Solo.....	How Great Thou Art.....Elvis Presly Recording
Postlude.....	Keith Melberg

Honorary Casketbearers

All Jerry's Grandchildren

Casketbearers

Brandt Peterson

Bob Peterson

Tony Loomer

Katie Peterson

Curt Rostenbach

Josh Rud

Interment

First Lutheran North Cemetery

Fergus Falls, Minnesota

Appreciation

Jerry's family is grateful for your attendance at this service. Your many expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated. Please join family and friends for lunch and fellowship following the service.

Arrangements by

Glende-Nilson Funeral Home ~ Fergus Falls ~ www.GlendeNilson.com