

Leland "Bud" Duane Ellingson, 90, revered longtime Crookston, MN educator, passed away Saturday afternoon, March 23, 2024, in the Benedictine Living Community-Crookston with many of his family by his side.

Bud, as he was affectionately known throughout his life, was born at Dahlen, ND on April 22, 1933, the youngest of eight children of the union of Tosten and Ella (Midtmoen) Ellingson. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith, educated in Dahlen schools, and graduated as Valedictorian of the Dahlen High School Class of 1951. Bud went on to attend Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Education in 1955. And as the saying goes, "Once a Cobber, always a Cobber" for which he was very proud. Bud accepted his first teaching position in the Climax, MN public school system. In 1959 he was asked to come back to his hometown to assist the School District with the closing of the Dahlen school. After successfully completing this sad task he moved to Lake Park, MN to teach for a year before coming to Crookston to teach in 1961, settling in the community that would ultimately become his forever home. Two important moments were about to occur in Bud's life during these earliest years: the first, marriage to the love of his life, Eldred, MN-born Judith Ellen Dragseth on December 29, 1963, in the First English Lutheran Church in Eldred; the second, attaining his Master's Degree in Education from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks a year later. Bud and Judy settled into their first home to start their family which would grow to embrace daughter, Mary, and sons, Todd and Dan. As Bud's career progressed, he became principal of Highland Middle School in 1972 and in 1982 began teaching junior high students at Central High. Throughout these years in education, Bud supplemented his income selling hail insurance and teaching behind-the-wheel driver's education. In 1993 Bud retired after 38 years of the most rewarding career he could have ever imagined.

Bud's interests away from the classroom were many and varied. He trained and showed horses for many years, while also raising cattle near their rural Crookston home and hobby farm. He also made many fishing trips to Canada with family and friends, and went deer hunting every fall on family land back in North Dakota. Memories were constantly being made keeping up with the kids, as he and Judy never missed one of their concerts and sporting events.

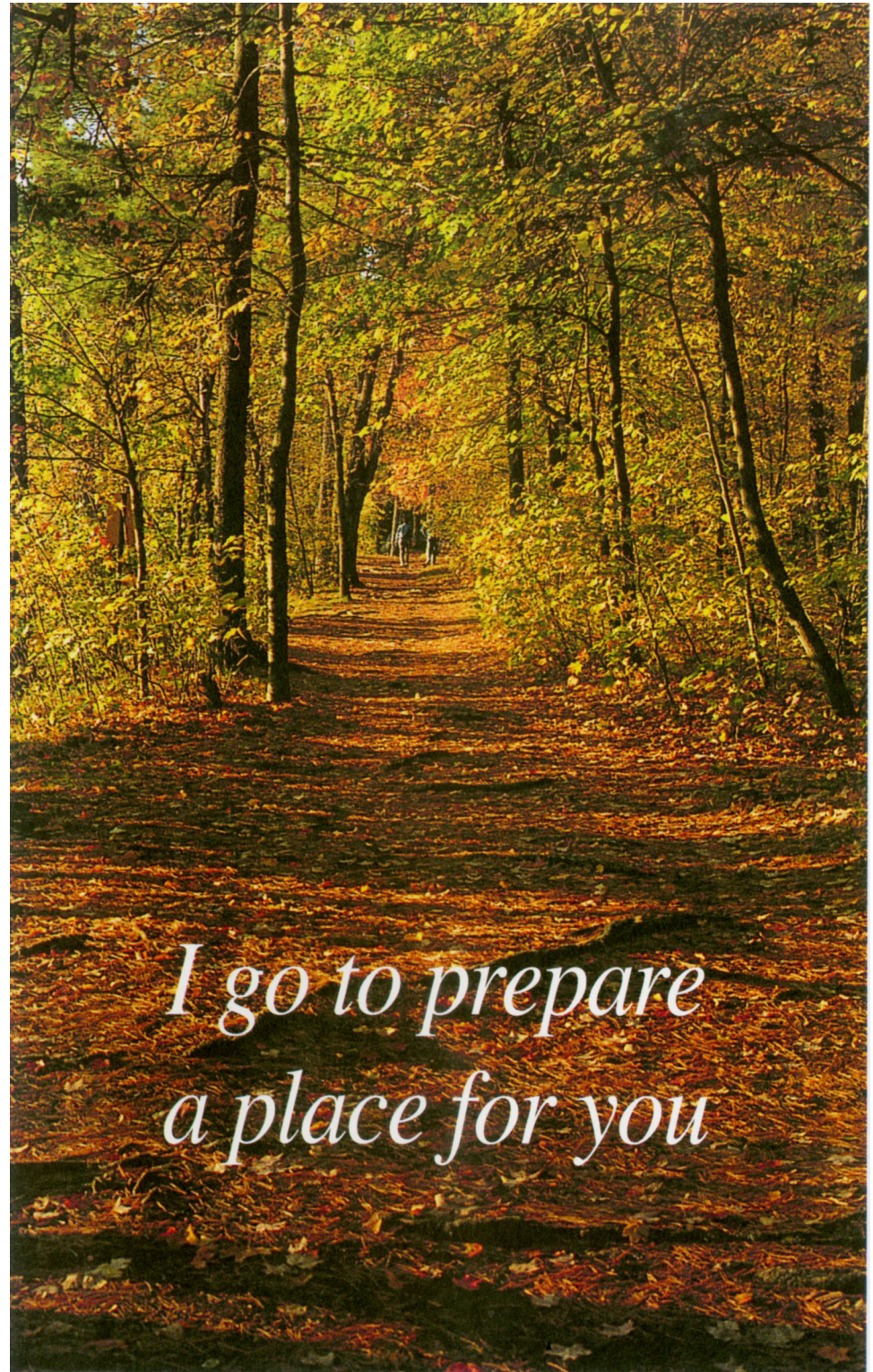
Bud and Judy were longtime members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church where Bud served on the Church Council and spent 2 terms as the congregation's president. He also served as Superintendent of the Sunday School, led an adult Bible class, and sang in the Church's choir. In later years he and Judy became members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Bud was a kind, caring, honest man of integrity who showed great devotion to his Christian faith as well as a deep love and dedication to his family, friends, and neighbors. He was loved and respected by those he worked with, known as being strict, but fair and effective, and he had a well-developed sense of humor to balance out his personality. These unique traits made him a skillful leader and peacemaker which proved effective in both his personal life and in his career in education. Bud was also well-loved by his extended family, especially his many nephews and nieces. They, along with his children, grandchildren, and others close to him, often found themselves with a nickname given to them from their Uncle Bud/Dad/Papa. Outside of work, Bud's form of recreation was staying busy on his hobby farm, taking care of his horses or his cattle, which allowed him to continue many of the activities and the work ethic he learned growing up on a farm, even while working in the field of education. In 2013, Bud was diagnosed with the beginning stages of dementia, but through medication was able to function quite well until the dementia began to take over in 2018. Bud was able to continue living at home under the care of his wife, Judy, until he entered the Benedictine Living Community Crookston, in March 2024, shortly before his death. Bud's family would like to give special recognition and thanks to the staff of RiverView Health, Benedictine Living Community-Crookston, and Hospice of the Red River Valley, for their excellent care given to Bud in his final days.

Very grateful to have shared a lifetime with Bud is Judy, his sweetheart and partner in everything for over 60 years; their 3 children and son-in-law and daughters-in-law: Mary and Scott Tolbert of Grand Forks, ND, Todd and Andria Ellingson of Glendale, AZ, and Dan and Kathy Ellingson of St. Louis Park, MN; 10 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren: Matthew Tolbert and his children, Hunter and Harper Tolbert, Sarah (Stephen) Bucher, and Michelle Tolbert; Ella, Zebadiah, Esther, and Eliza Ellingson; and Hannah, Aaron, and Abby Ellingson; a sister-in-law, June Ellingson of Park River, ND; and from Judy's side of the family: brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Allan and Judy Dragseth of Crookston and sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Jane and Robert Sandberg of Crookston; together with nieces, nephews, extended family, and many friends.

The last surviving member of his immediate family, Bud is preceded in death by his parents, Tosten and Ella Ellingson; and 7 brothers and sisters and their spouses: Alpha (Gus) Lundmark, Irvin Ellingson, Omer Ellingson, Clarice (Norrin) Emerson, Trueman (Betty Jean) Ellingson, Clayton (Ione) Ellingson, and Dennis (Darlyn Joy) Ellingson; and from Judy's family: parents-in-law, Andy Dragseth, Victoria "Vicki" Dragseth Irwin and step-father, George Irwin; nephew, Paul Dragseth; and great niece, Victoria Jo Dragseth.

Treasured by the memory of Leland "Bud" Duane Ellingson.



*I go to prepare
a place for you*



Dad

My dad, my friend and guiding light,
A gift from God and in His sight.
You taught me by examples set,
With wisdom which was heaven sent.

Never judging, always fair,
Ever present, always there.
This sturdy rock and gentle soul,
A kinder man I'll never know.

Throughout the past and years we had,
I was so proud to call you "Dad."
In bursting pride you never knew,
Just how much Love I had for you.

While God has willed that we must part
We'll stay connected heart to heart.

For He has smiled and said, "My son,
Welcome home, a job well done."



IN LOVING MEMORY

Leland "Bud" Duane Ellingson

April 22, 1933 - March 23, 2024

The Funeral Service Honoring Bud's Life

Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church - Crookston, Minnesota
The Rev. Steve Bohler, officiating

Special Music

"Softly and Tenderly"

Trumpet-Lon Enerson, nephew

Piano-Cathie Helland, niece

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Solo-Terry Ellingson, nephew

Accompanist-DeeAnn Ellingson, his wife

"God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again"

The Ellingson Family

Congregational Hymns

"Just As I Am"

"Amazing Grace"

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

Carol Weber, organist

Casket Bearers

Bud's Beloved Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren

Matthew Tolbert

Ella Ellingson

Hannah Ellingson

Sarah Bucher

Zebadiah Ellingson

Aaron Ellingson

Michelle Tolbert

Esther Ellingson

Abby Ellingson

Eliza Ellingson

Hunter Tolbert

Harper Tolbert

Honorary Casket Bearers

The Kids

Mary and Scott - Todd and Andria - Dan and Kathy
and

Roger Sondrol - Bud's Lifelong Best Friend

Interment

Middle Forest River Cemetery
Dahlen, North Dakota

We are grateful to everyone for your very kind expressions of sympathy and your presence, whether in body or spirit as we Celebrate Bud's Life. He was a Child of God and his Steadfast Faith an inspiration to our family.

With Love,

Judy - Mary and Scott - Todd and Andria - Dan and Kathy -
Two Generations Who Called Him Grandpa - Brother - Uncle - and Family

Forever Memories of Papa by his Grandkids



Songs and sayings

- Singing “Turkey in the Straw” including falsetto parts on the chorus.
- Singing “Three Little Fishes” with pokes in the tummy on the “boop boop” parts.
- Singing “How Much is that Doggie in the Window”.
- Singing “Be a Good Brother/Sister” lullaby, customized to each kid’s name.
- Bouncing kids on his knee and singing “Soo-didda-doo-didda-doo”.
- Saying “Shoe the horse and shoe the mare, but let the little colt go bare” while patting the bottom of the kids’ feet.
- Calling out the reminder to “Wash your paws” to the kids before meals.
- Telling the kids to “Eat your points”, meaning eat the crusts of the bread.
- Saying the table prayer all together and then Papa saying it in Norwegian.
- Calling something “Slop-osis” if it wasn’t done well or out of pure luck, especially in sports.
- Correcting any (and all) grammar mistakes.
- Giving nearly everyone a nickname.

Outdoor memories on the farm

- Flying kites at the farm.
- Taking the kids to the barn to feed the cats table scraps in a jar.
- Baling hay.
- Giving wheelbarrow rides to the kids.
- Sitting on the sleigh outside at Christmas time.
- Giving lawnmower rides to the kids.
- Giving toboggan rides to the kids.
- The time he got sprayed by a skunk.

Other memories

- Patting each kid on the head after the mealtime prayer.
- Blowing on the kids’ thumbs to make their biceps bigger.
- Threatening to “spank bottoms” as kids ran away giggling.
- Pretending to sit on kids who dared to sit in “his chair”.
- Trapping kids with his legs if they got within reach of him in his chair.
- Giving “birthday spankings”.
- “Snapping” the kids on the top of the head by clicking two fingernails together.
- Using his fingers to dig around the kids’ collar bone area, pinching different areas with his fingers, and saying the specific body part, like “sternocleidomastoid”. It was less of an anatomy lesson and more of a torture session.
- Saying “Can you say ‘Papa’” to the kids as they were learning to talk, wanting to make sure “Papa” was one of their first words.
- Stealing the kids’ treasured blankets.
- Playing ping pong in the basement.
- Challenging kids that he would time them to go get the mail at the end of the driveway.
- Putting his cold hands on any available bare skin after coming in from working outside in the winter.
- Sending money home for treats after visits to Papa and Grandma’s house.