



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

John Curtis Gunvalson

SEPTEMBER 28, 1927 – APRIL 29, 2023

Services At:

Trinity Lutheran Church - Cyrus, Minnesota
Tuesday - May 9, 2023 - 11:00 a.m.

Officiating Clergy:

Reverend Chris Richards

Readers:

Lonnie Anderson, Mary Royer, & Jill Johnson

Pianist:

Diane Hanse

Soloist:

Jere Solve

Remembrances:

Leah Nelson, James Gunvalson, & Bev Alsleben

Pallbearers:

Eugene Olson, Ryan Gunvalson
Scott Alsleben, Ryan Butler
Kenny Veum, Jeff Gunvalson

Interment:

Scandia East Cemetery - Cyrus, Minnesota

So I say to you:

*Ask and it will be given to you;
seek and you will find;*

knock and the door will be opened to you.

For everyone who asks receives;

the one who seeks finds;

and to the one who knocks,

the door will be opened.

*“Which of you fathers, if your son ask for a fish,
will give him a snake instead?*

Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?

If you then, though you are evil,

know how to give good gifts to your children,

how much more will your Father in Heaven

give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Luke 11: 9-13

John Curtis Gunvalson, ‘Curtis’ was born on September 28, 1927, in Cyrus to Sverre and Anna (Mickelson) Gunvalson. He was baptized and confirmed at Cyrus Lutheran Church and graduated from Cyrus High School in 1945. On August 28, 1947, he married Genevieve Skogstad. They lived in Hibbing, MN for a short time, moved back to Cyrus, and celebrated 66 years together. In his early years, he worked at several Cyrus businesses.

Curtis began his 23-year career at the Cyrus Farmer’s Creamery as a buttermaker. Later, he leased and managed the creamery and remained there until it was the last independently owned creamery in Minnesota. After the creamery closed, Curtis went to work as an operating engineer at the University of Minnesota, Morris heating plant. He worked there until he was in his early 80’s.

Curtis was very active in his community, especially volunteering. Throughout the years, his volunteer efforts were as a school volunteer helping to convert the ag shop into a daycare center; helping with ‘cookie bakes,’ and boiler operation, a firearm’s safety instructor and a first responder in Cyrus. Additionally, Curtis was active in Boy Scouts as a Cub Master and enjoyed several trips to Camp Wilderness. When the town restaurant closed, he worked with others to keep it open and also served on the Minnewaska Hospital Board.

Curtis was a lifelong member of Trinity Lutheran Church and served as the treasurer for 43 years. He served on the council, sang in the choir, and was involved in the “Godly Women” presentations. He spent countless hours preparing for and working at the church bazaars. Curtis enjoyed the outdoors - trapping, hunting and fishing. He also loved sports, particularly the MN Twins. Curtis enjoyed celebrating special events with family. He attended games, concerts and programs of his great-grandchildren.

When Curtis moved to Woodbury to be close to family, he volunteered at his senior residence and helped organize a choir. He was known as “John” and everyone loved his wonderful krumkake, his positive outlook, friendliness, smile and humor. He enjoyed the senior Bible study at Resurrection Lutheran, he made many friends, and truly lived out his faith.

John died peacefully on Saturday, April 29, 2023, surrounded by his family, at Artis Assisted Living in Woodbury. He was 95 years old.

He is survived by his son, James (Janet) of Woodbury; daughter, Beverly (Thomas) Alsleben of Woodbury; grandchildren: Kristen (Ryan) Butler of Woodbury, Scott (Ellen Palmer) Alsleben of Minneapolis, Ryan (Jeanne) Gunvalson of Woodbury, Leah Nelson of Colorado; great-grandchildren: Declan, Claire and Braeden Butler, Walter Alsleben and Lillian Palmer, Noelle, Bennett and Nora Gunvalson and Reece, Lincoln and Emery Nelson; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Genevieve; brothers: Joe, Ernie, Vic, Harris, Vernon ‘Toby’, Ervin (during WWII); and his sister, Doris Burns.

