

WILLIAM V. “BILL” NELSON

01 October 1930 — 10 September 2023



MEMORIAL SERVICE — 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

**MINDEKIRKEN — THE NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN MEMORIAL CHURCH
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA**

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR WILLIAM “BILL” VERLYN NELSON

11 A.M. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

MINDEKIRKEN, THE NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN MEMORIAL CHURCH

Music

Prelude *Selections from Lyric Pieces* by Edvard Grieg

Greeting and Prayer

Hymn *Deg være ære* Norsk Salmebok (red) 197

Greetings and Eulogies

Andrea Nelson

Vibeke Nelson Nierenhausen

Emma Nelson (*Fellowship Hall after service*)

Chuck Norland

Scripture Readings: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

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| 1 For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: | 5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones together; |
| 2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted; | a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, |
| 3 a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to break down and a time to build up; | 6 a time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to throw away; |
| 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, | 7 a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak; |
| | 8 a time to love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace. |

Romans 14,7-9

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| 7 For ingen av oss lever for seg selv, og ingen dør for seg selv. | 7 For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. |
| 8 Om vi lever, så lever vi for Herren, og om vi dør, så dør vi for Herren. Enten vi da lever eller dør, hører vi Herren til. | 8 If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. |
| 9 Det var derfor Kristus døde og ble levende igjen, for at han skulle være Herre over både levende og døde. | 9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. |

Matthew 11:25-30

Read by Jack Nierenhausen

25 At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants;

26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

27 All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Hymn *Abide with Me* Lutheran Book of Worship (green) 272

Sermon

Hymn *I am so Glad Each Christmas* Joe Jensen, guitar
Hymns and Spiritual Songs from The North (brown) 54, vs. 1-4

The Lord's Prayer: (Alle/All: Norwegian or English, *as you please*)

Fader vår, du som er i himmelen.
La ditt navn holdes hellig.
La ditt rike komme.
La din vilje skje på jorden som i himmelen.
Gi oss i dag vårt daglige brød.
Forlat oss vår skyld,
som vi og forlater våre skyldnere.
Led oss ikke inn i fristelse, men frels oss fra det onde.
For riket er ditt, og makten og æren i evighet.
Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.

Hymn *Jeg er i Herrens hender* Norsk Salmebok (red) 494

Blessing

Postlude *Ballade* by Edvard Grieg

Pastor: Gunnar Kristiansen
Organist and Pianist: Jane Bracken

WILLIAM V. NELSON

Bill, age 92, of Bloomington, MN passed away peacefully on Sunday, September 10, 2023. He was preceded in death by his wife, Gerd (Berntsen) Nelson and his parents, William F. Nelson and Myrtle (Olsvig) Nelson. He is survived by his son, Erik (Maggie) Nelson, of Stavanger, Norway; granddaughters Andrea Idso Nelson (Hill Mugisha) of Edina, MN, Vibeke Idso (Nelson) Nierenhausen (Jack) of Bloomington, MN, Emma Nelson of Stavanger, Norway, and great grandson, Magnus F. Nierenhausen of Bloomington, MN. Other survivors include his sisters, Janet A. Field and Cheryl L. Murphy, brother, Fredrick L. Nelson, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.



Bill was born on October 1, 1930, in Rice Lake, WI. Later, his family moved to Eau Claire, WI. He earned a degree in business from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. It was there that he met the love of his life, Gerd Berntsen, while travelling through the revolving doors of the Student Union. They were married in Oslo, Norway in 1960 and made their home in Bloomington, MN. During the Korean War, Bill served in the US Navy from his station in New Port, RI. The majority of his life, he worked as a Realtor.

Bill embodied a strong sense of Norwegian identity – more than many natives of Norway. He championed the Norway of his heritage and its values. Together, with Aage Refffsgaard, he founded Saga Klubben in the early 1970s, a torske luncheon and fellowship club for Scandinavians. He was proud of his heritage and, throughout his life, Bill played significant roles in promoting Norwegian interests and culture in the United States. He traveled to Norway frequently, visiting family and nurturing his love of the country and his heritage.

Bill was a wonderful father, grandfather, great-grandfather, husband, and brother -- a friendly, outgoing, caring, light-hearted, sincere, and enjoyable man. He always had a story to tell for any occasion or to get the party started. His family and friends in the US and in Norway will miss him dearly. Takk for alt, på gjensyn!

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to the exceptional personnel at Aurora on France and Fairview Hospital for their compassionate care, and to Bill's best friend at Aurora, Chuck Norland, MD. All exemplified the spirit and caring of a dedicated Norwegian team!

A Memorial Service and interment will be held in Norway at a later date. Pastor Kristin Sundt, formerly serving Mindekirken, will officiate then at Vestre Gravlund, Sørkedalsveien 66, 0369 Oslo. In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to Mindekirken Church or a memorial of your own choosing.