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ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
710 East Broadway St., Osseo, Minnesota  
A Celebration Honoring the Life of Earl William Hoppenrath  
Friday, April 21, 2017 11:00 AM

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**THE ORDER OF SERVICE .....LSB 278**

**Please note the responses of the congregation during the Service.  
These responses are marked with a red box with a white "C."  
You may remain seated throughout the Service**

**Processional Hymn:** "Lift High the Cross" **LSB 837**

**Welcome**

**Brief Message from Family**

**Invocation**

**Remembrance of Baptism**

**Psalm:** Psalm 23 'The Lord is my Shepherd'

**Kyrie**

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**First Reading** – Psalm 91:1-2

**Solo:** "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

**Second Reading** – 2 Timothy 4:7-8

**Alleluia Verse**

**Gospel Reading** – John 10:27-29; 11:25-26

**Apostles Creed**

**Sermon Hymn:** "In the Garden" **Insert**

**Sermon** – "Earl has Received the Crown of Life" **James 1:12**

**Hymn:** "Abide with Me" **LSB 878**

**Prayer of the Church**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Nunc Dimittis**

**Concluding Collect**

**Benedicamus and Benediction**

**Closing Hymn:** "God Be with You 'Til We Meet Again" **Insert**

**Officiant**—Reverend Daniel R. Burns

**Organist**—Thomas Hanna

**Biographer / Soloist**—Carol Emmans

**Crucifer**—Shanley Wheeler

On behalf of the family, you are cordially invited to join us for lunch following the service. Interment will take place at the Rush Creek Cemetery following the lunch.

## **EARL HOPPENRATH**

Earl William Hoppenrath was born to Henry and Mary (Treptau) Hoppenrath in Robbinsdale MN on November 23, 1922. He was the middle child in a family of five—Evelyn, Lorraine, Earl, Glenn and Audrey—and was baptized at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Robbinsdale.

The Hoppenrath family moved many times in Earl's early years—Maple Grove, Corcoran, and Hassan. Farming was not a profitable business in those Depression years. Earl attended one-room rural schools in Hassan and Burshville. Formal education ended after 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Earl learned to work hard, helping his parents on the farm and also working with his Uncle Bill at Treptau Implements.

Earl thrived on hard work and became adept at fixing anything or creating anything anyone needed. God gave him those tinkering skills and he never lost them—a special gift indeed.

Earl answered his country's call in 1944 when the U.S. was at war with Germany. He served in the U.S. Army in the 7<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, following General George Patton's 3<sup>rd</sup> division. He saw action in Germany, France, Belgium and the African Theater. He was wounded in Germany on March 29, 1945 but refused to seek medical attention for 3 days. By the time he arrived at a French tent hospital, the shrapnel had so swollen his ankle that his boot needed to be cut off his foot. This bravery earned Earl a Purple Heart.

After his discharge, he went to Agriculture School. But the best was yet to come! When brother Glenn and his wife invited Earl to accompany them on a hospital visit, he went along—not a very exciting activity for a young bachelor. Arriving at the hospital he saw Virginia Glauvitz, resplendent in her hospital gown, recovering from an appendectomy. "That's the girl I am going to marry!" he declared. And so he did.

Earl and Virginia were married on October 4, 1947 at St. Paul's Lutheran in NE Minneapolis. Earl would tell you that he hit the "wife jackpot" when he won Virginia's heart. Their union lasted for more than 69 years. They lived on the family farm in Maple Grove in a small house that Earl built. They welcomed daughter Jean in 1949 and son Steven in 1951. Eventually they moved up the road to their present site. When a 1966 tornado took that house, a new home was built on the same foundation.

Continuing his work ethic, Earl had many jobs, sometimes three at a time. One of his favorites was at Ghostley Poultry Farm in Maple Grove. Sheet metal work was his occupation for 30 years at Carter Day Company. He became an expert, learning every aspect of the trade. It was not uncommon to drive through small towns in southern MN and have Earl point out a tank that he made.

Earl was confirmed as an adult by Pastor Arnold Schultz here at St. Paul's. He served God in many ways—18 years as an elder, always helping with projects; many remember Earl and Russ Krause on the church roof, attempting to fix the eternal leaks and out at the cemetery, repairing the fence.

Earl loved playing softball, beekeeping, woodworking, skiing, skating, gardening. He was a lover of nature, and single-handedly tried to restore monarch butterflies with milkweed seeds. He loved deer hunting; his last foray was at age 92 with friend Russ Krause.

His pride and joy was his family—especially the grandchildren and great grandchildren. If anyone would doubt how much Earl Hoppenrath was loved, you need only to note the nephews, grandsons, great grandsons who carry *Earl* as their middle name!

Hale and hearty at 90, dancing at their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we almost thought Earl would live forever. But not so—after a long good-bye, Earl, a proud member of the Greatest Generation, a servant of God, cherished by his family, passed peacefully into the arms of His Savior. Praise God!

*"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?  
But thanks be to God! He gives us victory through our Lord Jesus  
Christ." 1 Cor. 15:57*

Earl is survived by his wife Virginia, children Jean and Tim Jones, Steve and LaVonne Hoppenrath; grandchildren Lindy (Sean) Wheeler, Sarah (Tom) Olson, Justen (Mindy) Jones, Bryan (Rachel) Hoppenrath and Chris Hoppenrath. Great-grandchildren Landon and Shanley Wheeler, Dylan and Riley Olson, MacKenzie, Logan, and Brenna Jones, William Hoppenrath, and sister Audrey Chergosky, many, many loving nieces and nephews, and his brothers and sisters in Christ here at St. Paul's.