

---

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
710 East Broadway St., Osseo, Minnesota  
A Celebration Honoring the Life of Wilbur Fred Boettcher  
Friday, August 23, 2019 10:30 AM

---

**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: "Amazing Grace"..... LSB 744**

**Invocation & Remembrance of Baptism\***

**Psalm: Psalm 23 'The Lord Is My Shepherd'**

**Kyrie**

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**1<sup>st</sup> Old Testament Reading – Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 46:3-4**

**Gospel Reading – Matthew 8:5-13**

**Apostles Creed**

**Sermon Hymn: "Onward, Christian Soldiers"..... LSB 662**

**Sermon – "A Soldier's Faith"      Text – Matthew 8:5-13**

**Prayer of the Church & Lord's Prayer**

**Nunc Dimittis & Concluding Collect**

**Benedicamus and Benediction**

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

**Officiant** — Reverend Daniel R. Burns

**Organist** — Thomas Hanna

**Biographer** — Jenny Hines

*On behalf of the family, you are cordially invited to join us for lunch following the burial. Interment will take place at St. Paul's Lutheran Church Cemetery of Osseo, MN.*

\*The Funeral Pall is a symbol in the Church that shows that we have been covered and clothed with the righteousness of Christ in our Baptism.



**Wilbur Fred Boettcher**  
**June 26, 1922 – August 9, 2019**

## WILBUR BOETTCHER

Wilbur Fred Boettcher was born on June 26, 1922 to Fred and Lena Boettcher in Osseo, MN. He was one of eight children.

Wilbur didn't attend formal education as a kid but learned all he needed to know while working on the family farm. After returning home from the war, Wilbur attended Dunwoody School of Technology where he studied to become a machinist. Shortly after graduating from Dunwoody he started working as a machinist at FMC where he would work for 30 years.

Wilbur met the love of his life, Ellen Schake at a roller-skating rink in Anoka in the early 1940s. Wilbur and Ellen kept company until Wilbur joined the U.S. army and was sent to Europe where he served in the Tank Division under General Patton. While he was away, they kept in touch by writing countless letters, a very different form of communication then we use today. After the war Wilbur returned to his beloved Ellen and they were married on June 26, 1946. Soon after they were married, they settled into their house on Madison St. in Anoka where they would live for 70 years. In 1948 their little family would become complete when they welcomed their son, Jerry.

Wilbur loved spending time with his son, Jerry. He was able to spend treasured time with his him when he became a vital part of the Anoka Boy Scout Troop. One evening his son, Jerry returned from a troop meeting saying the troop was going to fold due to lack of volunteers. This didn't sit well with Wilbur, so he rounded up the troop leaders to figure out what they needed to do to keep the troop together. They needed someone to take the boys on campouts and outdoor adventures. Wilbur was the man for the job, so he became the Assistant Troop Leader. Under Wilbur's leadership the Anoka Boys Scouts Troop went from almost folding to winning the National Advancement Award.

Wilbur was always quite the outdoorsman. He loved to hunt from a very young age. He went game hunting all over the world with his wife, Ellen. They hunted whitetail, mule deer, elk, antelope, and bear just to name a few. They hunted all over the United States and even continued their adventure in places all around the world. On every hunting trip he could he would take his trusty pickup truck, which has accumulated 485,000 miles and has been passed down to his son, Jerry. What a treasured heirloom!

On one special hunting trip Wilbur and Jerry went elk hunting with Ellen's cousins and their sons in Washington during their hunting trip to Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Oregon. While they were hunting one of their fellow hunters shot an elk in Grubbed Canyon (a canyon they didn't like to enter). They entered anyway to retrieve the elk about 3:00 or 4:00 in the afternoon and climbed out at about 5 or 6 in the morning with the elk's 4 hind quarters

in tow. Talk about dedication! Another special hunting experience was when Wilbur and his son Jerry were given the opportunity to hunt on the same ranch Wilbur and Ellen had hunted on 50 years earlier. How amazing to hunt in the same place 50 years apart! How many people can say that?!

In addition to hunting Wilbur enjoyed fishing with his family. His favorite thing to do while fishing was to hook a fish on the line and have Ellen reel the big catch in. She would reel it in screaming and hollering the entire time. What a fun time with family!

Wilbur also loved to participate in Truck Pulling Competitions with his wife. He loved the thrill and tenacity that came with every truck pull. Wilbur bought his truck pulling machine for \$6500 and never made an adjustment even though many of his competitors would customize their engines by making adjustments that cost between \$15,000 to \$1,000,000. Wilbur knew that God was always on his side and that his little truck would stand the test of time. His love for truck pulling and his beloved truck helped him cinch the 5-state area 8,000-pound Truck Pull Champion Title from 1976-1981 in addition to over 200 other trophies throughout the year.

During the last few years Wilbur has enjoyed playing and helping with bingo at Two Rivers or The Estates. Many times, he would brag to his son, Jerry about how many quarters he had won. Jerry would always joke with him by responding, "Dad, I wouldn't give up your pension" to which Wilbur would just laugh.

Wilbur was called home to his heavenly father on August 9, 2019. Wilbur was a man among men who will be greatly missed but will live forever in our hearts.

*“Where, O death, is your victory?*

*Where, O death, is your sting?*

*He gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

*1 Cor. 15:57*

Wilbur is survived by son, Jerry (Dianna); grandchildren Bonnie (Mike) Mahar and Deanna (Todd) Quarry; 4 great-grandchildren and 3 great great-grandchildren; sister, Betty Kilvan and brother Art Boettcher; many nieces and nephews.

Wilbur was preceded in death by his wife, Ellen and his parents, Fred and Lena Boettcher.