

**Rev. Duane Peterson** (former minister at St John's) was born September 6, 1930, in New Richland, MN. He passed away on July 31, 2025, in Peoria, AZ, at the age of 94.

After graduating from Gustavus Adolphus and Wartburg Seminary, Duane married Ilene Lueder. He interned in Seattle, WA. They then moved to Tracy, MN, where their sons Alan and David were born. They moved to Gaylord to Trinity Lutheran Church where Paul and Helen were born. After five years they moved to Gilman, IL. Ilene Petersen taught third grade while Duane worked with the youth and planning of a new church. After five years they moved back to Minnesota to St. John's Bismarck, north of Winthrop. He really enjoyed the members, and they stayed for nine years. In 1983, he started preaching and helping coaching in Jackson, MN, where he met wife number two Bertha (Birdie). Thirty-two years ago they moved to Arizona as Duane needed the heat, he sure did get it, to help his body. Birdie succumbed to cancer a year later. He met wife number three Betty and had 28 years of traveling and visiting both families. Betty passed away three years ago. That was hard on Duane and his health deteriorated slowly after that.

Duane enjoyed the outdoors, running marathons and short races, and coaching the youth. He was great with landscaping and was an all-around jack of all trades. He is missed by many friends and family.

Duane is survived by his sister, June; and his four children, 11 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren and one great, great granddaughter.

A short memorial was held in his memory on September 14 during the regular church service at St. John's-Bismarck, at 9:30 a.m.