Celebration of the Life
Ken Wergeland



August 4, 1948 - November 7, 2026

Officiated by
Reverend Lauretta Crelly
on November 21, 2026

Prelude

Opening Hymn *Morning Has Broken* #11, *Praise & Worship*

Morning has broken
like the first morning.
Blackbird has spoken,
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing,
praise for the morning!
Praise for them springing
fresh from the word!

Sweet the rain's new fall,
sunlit from heaven.
Like the first dewfall,
on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden!
Sprung in completeness
where his feet pass!

Mine is the sunlight,
mine is the morning.
Born of the one light,
Eden saw play.
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's re-creation
of the new day!

The Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and
the love of God and
the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Opening Prayer

Scripture Reading John 14:1-4 Sam Wergeland
p. 102, New Testament, NRSV
Romans 8:38-39
p. 148, New Testament, NRSV
Joshua 1:9
p. 185, Old Testament, NRSV

Gospel Matthew 5:3-10 Ameia Wergeland
p. 4, New Testament, NRSV

Scripture Psalm 23 Alden Wergeland
p. 474, Old Testament, NRSV

The Eulogy Rev. Lauretta Crelly and Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Words of Remembrance

Sharing Memories of Ken

Congregational Hymn *In All Our Living* #499, *New Century Hymnal*

In all our living, we belong to God;
and in our dying, we are still with God;
So, whether living, or whether dying,
we belong to God; we belong to God.

God sent Christ Jesus to be our shalom.
to show is mercy and healing love;
so in our living, and in our dying,
Christ is our shalom; Christ is our shalom.

Pastoral Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

The Commendation

Closing Hymn *In the Bulb There Is a Flower* #433, *New Century Hymnal*

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Benediction

Postlude *Canon in D*, Johann Pachelbel

Making Worship Possible:

Rev. Laurie Crelly – Pastoral Care Chaplain
Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis – Pastor
Wendy Durrwachter – Pianist
Alex Nelson – Livestream Technician

The family invites you downstairs to the Fellowship Hall for light refreshments.

Kenneth Casper Wergeland
August 4, 1948 - November 7, 2026

Kenneth Casper Wergeland, age 78, died on November 7, 2026. He was born on August 4, 1948 to Casper and Dorothy Wergeland in Superior, WI. Ken graduated from Superior High School in 1966. Ken married the love of his life, Mary Washnesky, on July 11, 1970. In their 56 years together, they welcomed three sons: Jody, Eric, and Kevin. They were later blessed with their three daughters-in-law: Jeni, Annarie, and Sarah. Ken and Mary were delighted to welcome into their family seven grandchildren: Rowan, Samuel, Ameia, William, Alden, Aaron, and Owen, and granddog, Ruby.

During his life Ken spent many years professionally drafting and computing for companies around the Duluth area. He retired from Enbridge Energy in 2004. Ken loved collecting historical artifacts and memorabilia and participated in rendezvous reenactments of the fur-trapping era. He had a lifelong love of motorcycles. He enjoyed many hobbies and was known to family and friends as a "tinkerer" with many projects from working the motorcycle pits at Brainerd International Raceway, building and rebuilding small engines, restoring classic motorcycles, to creating beautiful Indigenous beadwork designs, jewelry, and artifacts. His creativity and artistry were an important part of his life as he was an enrolled member of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

Ken was an avid outdoorsman enjoying many years with dear friends and family camping, target shooting, hunting in the Northwoods, and fishing in the lakes of Minnesota and Wisconsin. He and Mary cherished long summer days at Lake Chippewa Campground in Hayward, WI for over thirty years.

He was a life-long blood donor and served his neighbors through countless hours of snow blowing. In recent years, he brought joy to children and adults by dressing up as Santa as he rang the Salvation Army bell at Mount Royal Market.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Casper and Dorothy (Young) Wergeland, his brother Keith Wergeland, and half-brothers, Roy and Earl Johnson. He is survived by his wife, Mary Wergeland, his sister-in-law, Cindy Wergeland, his sons, grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

The family would like to thank the Essentia Health ICU staff, Cardiology and Oncology departments, and the pastors of Peace UCC for their wonderful care shown to Ken and his family.

Through it all, his greatest joy was his family. He will be tremendously missed by his family and friends.