

Reverend Dale Jerome Pepelnjak, 71, entered Heaven, the place he most often talked about, on March 14, 2024. He often joked his obituary would read, "He was born, he lived, and he died, Thanks be to God!"... well, here it goes...

Pastor Dale was born in Virginia, MN to George "Bebz" and Evelyn Pepelnjak. He was the youngest of the three sons, ten years behind Stephen and five years behind George. In June 1952, he was assured of being a child of God in his baptism. He graduated from Virginia High School in 1970. Dale loved growing up on "the Range" where he learned to hunt, work, and have fun. He had the best group of friends anyone could wish to have.

On June 16, 1979, the best thing to ever happen to Dale was getting married to Susan Ann Lempart in Blackduck, MN. Another "best" thing was the birth of their three children Meagan Sue, Jenna Lynn, and Alissa Ann. Another "best" was having the pure joy of being "Grampy" or "Gramps" to nine grandchildren. His dogs were important to him too, having six during his married life including his present best buddy, Maggie.

After graduating as a Minnesota Gopher in 1974, with a degree in Business, he worked for Inland Steel and owned a small business, Voyageur Sport. In 1990, he attended Luther Theological Seminary and graduated in 1995 as an ordained minister in the ELCA. He served three congregations. His first parish as an Intern Pastor was Big Timber and Melville Lutheran Churches in Montana. Next, he served Peace Lutheran and Saron Lutheran in Burlington and Minot, ND. His last call was at Zion Lutheran on Franklin Lake in rural Pelican Rapids, MN. In retirement he served several churches, including Foxhome and Vukku Lutheran Churches in Foxhome, MN as their interim pastor.

In life he found pure joy in living out Jesus' commandment that we love one another as Jesus has loved us. He also enjoyed watching sunsets on Lake Lizzie, woodworking in his shop, ice-fishing with his family, and watching his Minnesota sports teams.

Dale fought a nearly two year battle with Leukemia (AML), in which he gave his all to defeat. Susan, his steadfast caregiver, was alongside him every step of the way.

Dale is survived by his wife and best friend, Sue; children Meagan (Jeremy) Blake, Jenna (Trent) Anderson, and Alissa (Justin) Partee; nine grandchildren Micah and Ainsley Blake; Brayden, Lauren, Clara, and Harper Anderson; Carter, Reese, and Charlotte Partee. Also, surviving him are his brothers Stephen (Mary) Pepelnjak and George (Patti) Pepelnjak as well as several nieces, nephews, and cousins. Preceding him in death are his parents, in-laws Peter and Arlene Lempart, and two brothers in law, Everett Haiby and Darrel Lempart.



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

*Dale Pepelnjak*

03.29.1952 - 03.14.2024



## YOU ARE FREE

Your heart of gold stopped beating  
Hardworking hands now rest  
This is one of life's challenges  
We know God only takes the best

We sat with you by your bedside  
As your journey reached its final bend  
Our hearts crushed with the weight of goodbye  
Yet filled with love that will never end

A life of kindness and laughter  
Your love for our family so true  
You did your best for all of us  
We will always remember you

You leave behind a legacy  
So great, it's beyond measure  
Our hearts full of beautiful memories  
So precious we will always treasure

You have been life's greatest blessing  
A dear friend to all you knew  
We take great comfort in knowing that  
We are proud to have been part of you

Until the time comes when we meet again  
Who knows how long that will be  
On behalf of your friends and family, we say  
"God bless you, faithful servant – you are free."

*For I am convinced, that neither death, nor life, nor angels,  
nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of  
God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 8: 38 - 39

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Prelude  
Invocation & Prayer  
Hymn - "For All The Saints"  
Prayer  
A Blessing from the Synod  
Psalm 121 & Scripture Readings  
Gospel  
Hymn - "Holy, Holy, Holy"  
Sermon  
Hymn - "Lift High the Cross"  
Prayers for the Family & the Church  
Holy Communion  
The Lord's Prayer  
Commendation  
The Benediction  
Hymn - "Oh When the Saints"

## NOTE OF GRATITUDE

Pastor Anna Monke-Gervais  
Bishop Bill Tesch  
Pianist Nadine Brown & Organist Lori McCauley  
Larson Family Funeral Home  
Dr. Gross and Dale's entire Medical Team

*Our family would like to express our deepest gratitude for the love,  
prayers and support you have offered us throughout this entire journey.*

*We are forever grateful.*