

VERSE OF THE WEEK

**“Give all your worries to Him,
because he cares about you.”**

1 Peter 5:7

Many people have resigned themselves to live a life of depression and hopelessness. We have a choice to make of whether to believe these words in this verse or to hang onto ideas and issues that trouble us. Faith is the answer in letting go of worries. Believe that Jesus walks with you so you can live in confidence that all will be well in his time and way.

This faithful, joyful servant of God has such a blessed and interesting life, I don't know where to begin sharing---so, let's start with his childhood years in rural Wisconsin.....

Harold grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin with four brothers and one sister in a large five-bedroom farmhouse. His family originated from Norway. His mother was trained as a nurse but during Harold's childhood, she worked at home with the family and helped with the farm. One of Harold's favorite memories growing up in the country was riding his horse, Prince to and from school almost a mile away in Portland, WI. After school, Harold loved to ride on trails with Prince and kept his rifle attached to the saddle ready for possible hunting adventures with his friends and their horses.

Harold lived on the family farm until college. During High School he worked two summers in Rock Falls, IL at a Root Beer Stand owned by an uncle and aunt who paid him with room and board only – no money! His Senior year, he worked at another uncle and aunt's farm for actual pay. Harold said that one of his best high school memories (which helped develop his love for music) was playing in the band as first chair trombonist and going to Madison for the Wisconsin Centennial.

After High School graduation, Harold went to Luther College in Decorah, IA majoring in Music, focusing on Vocal Music. He graduated in 1952 and stayed with yet another uncle and aunt that summer while working at Evenrude Motors. Harold then went on to Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN for four years (graduated in 1956) where he met his beautiful Margene who was a student at the

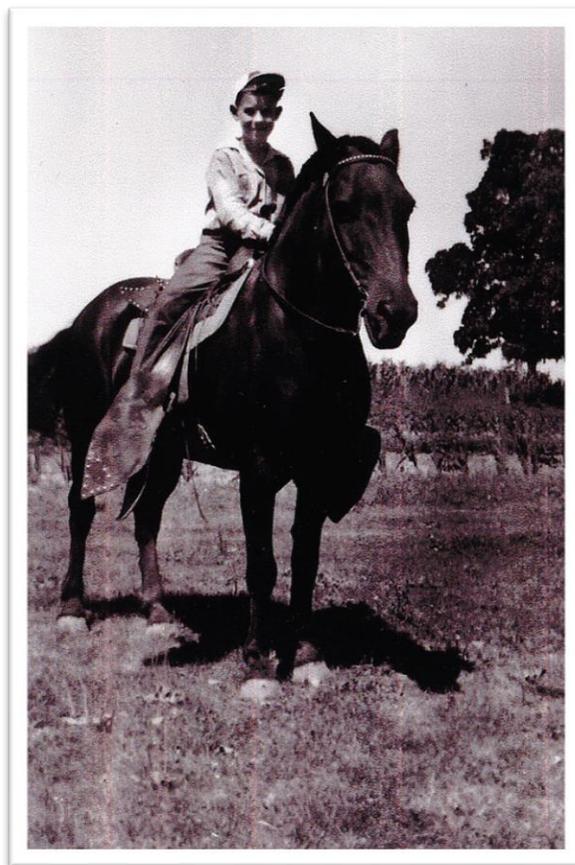
MIDWEEK MESSAGES

July 21, 2021

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT ON PASTOR HAROLD PETERSEN: PART I

By Toni Molck

Pastor Harold Petersen currently volunteers with ALC at the Front Desk, is in the Christo Hand Bell Choir, the ALC Choir and sings with the Ah-Men singers. He serves on the Sun City Ministerial Alliance (since being President in 1991), helps at the Olive Branch Senior Center (since 1989), assists at the Lutheran Thrift Store. In recent years, he has also done announcing/ narrating for the Sun Bowl Amphitheater events and Sun City Concert/Pop Bands.



University of Minnesota. They met on a blind date, dated for one year and were married for almost 63 years when she passed away in August 2017. Together they were blessed with five children -- Mark, Karen, Bruce, Bryan and Kristen: eight grandkids and five great grandkids.

Harold spoke of his gratitude for an educator, Ollie Swanson who frequently came to visit his one-room School (1st – 8th grade). Ollie encouraged him to pursue the ministry and later, during his college years, even sent money to pay for his books each year. She was single her whole life and did not have much money, so the gift was priceless to him. Miraculously, in the early 1970's, Harold was called to be the Pastor of the church Miss Ollie attended -- Trinity Lutheran in Sparta, WI. which brought both Ollie and Harold great joy.

In the next Midweek Message, we will continue Harold's story sharing more of his career and life that brought him to ALC.

GRIEF JOURNEY

A new support group "Grief Journey" will begin on Tuesday, August 11th, 1:30-3:00, facilitated by Linda Shirck. More details will follow in the August Outreach Newsletter. Please contact Linda at 623-308-4032 or lshirck70@gmail.com

SCRIPTURE FOR SERVICE: JULY 25TH

Lesson: Ephesians 3:14-21

Psalm 145:10-18

Gospel: John 6:1-21

A LITTLE ENCOURAGEMENT

By Terri Polk

You know, when I was young, I would often walk around, looking at the ground, trying to see if I could spot any money. Do you remember doing that? Now when I walk around, I often see people looking down at the phones. Have you seen that too? What is going on? I decided that I did not want that for myself.

SO---

Come on---let's look up—let's see what we are missing. Enjoy the moment. See the sky, the birds, the clouds, peoples' smiles or frowns, children playing, rain falling, perhaps even a rainbow!

See—listen—smell—breathe—touch. Pay attention to God's gifts and remember that God is good all the time; all the time God is good! Smile---be at peace—God is there for you, always.

