



albinchapel.com

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IN LOVING MEMORY OF

## *John W. Gustafson*

PRECEDED IN DEATH BY

Parents, Roy and Hilda Gustafson

SURVIVED BY

Wife, Lily Gustafson

Sons, Robert Gustafson, Daniel Gustafson and wife Catherine

Daughter, Karen Gustafson

Granddaughters, Sonia and Mara Gustafson

Sisters, Linnea Gustafson, Alice Soderberg and Venette Planting

Nieces, nephews and many friends

MEMORIAL SERVICE

11AM, Saturday, Dec. 22, 2007, Visitation 1 hour prior

ROSE HILL ALLIANCE CHURCH

2105 Roselawn Ave. West, Roseville, MN 55113

[www.rosehillcma.org](http://www.rosehillcma.org) (651) 631-0173

PRIVATE INTERMENT: Ft. Snelling National Cemetery

MEMORIALS PREFERRED TO: Rose Hill Alliance Missions Fund

John Widlof Gustafson was born in Pequot, Minnesota July 7, 1923 and went to be with the Lord on December 14, 2007. He is survived by Lily, his wife of 59 years, his children Bob, Dan and his wife Kitty, and Karen, two granddaughters, Sonia and Mara, and his sisters Linnea, Alice and Venette. He grew up in Minneapolis and Mankato and spent summers with his cousins on their farm in Dawson. After graduation from Minnehaha Academy in 1941 he enlisted in the Navy and served during WWII as an Ensign on a minesweeper in the Pacific. After the war, while studying Electrical and Agricultural Engineering at the University of Minnesota he was again active in his lifelong passions of Christian faith and music as a member of First Covenant Church, where he met his future wife Lily Carlson in the choir and the "Go Ye" missions group. They chose the song *Together with Jesus* to be sung at their wedding and as their life's motto. Following their marriage they moved to Braham, Minnesota in 1949 where he began his career in rural electrification and where their two sons Bob and Dan were born. He also started a long association with the Braham Covenant Men's Quartet.

The family moved in 1956 to St. Ansgar and later Osage, Iowa where John worked for the Cedar Valley Electric Cooperative, and was very active in the Osage Christian and Missionary Alliance Church. In addition to the birth of their daughter Karen, the Osage years also marked his first church building experience. He was editor of the monthly Rural Electric Cooperative Bulletin where his interest and talent as a photographer and writer were put to good use. Leaving many dear friends and colleagues, the family moved to Watertown, Wisconsin at the end of 1964, where he joined the Wisconsin Electric Power Company. While there he helped plan and build an Alliance church in Oconomowoc and, as the congregation grew rapidly he and Lily helped plant a daughter church in Watertown for the now thriving offshoot in that community. After retirement in 1988, John and Lily moved back to the Twin Cities in 1994, coming full circle to the place where their lives had begun together, renewing closer geographic ties with many friends and family members. Here they have enjoyed the fellowship at Rose Hill Alliance Church, in particular with the "Forever Young" group.

Giving voice to his lifelong enjoyment of music, especially hymns and classical, he sang with various musical groups and choirs wherever he lived. An engineer and inveterate tinkerer, he was thought to be able to fix anything. He could usually be found working on a new invention or improvement around the house. Throughout the years John was thankful for the Lord's leading and always spoke of it, through good times and the tougher ones, being guided by the Scripture, which he loved. He felt enormously blessed by family that was ever close in spite of the often long distances separating them, and for the many Christian friends found wherever he lived. We have all been blessed by the wondrous opportunities he had been given to touch the lives of so many others along the way.