



## Ward C. Peterson

April 23, 1946 - February 24, 2021

Ward Peterson, 74  
Kearney resident

Ward Peterson, 74 of Kearney passed away February 24, 2021 at The Monarch hospice facility in Lincoln, NE. Funeral services will be 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at First Lutheran Church in Kearney. The Rev. Dr. Michelle Holley Carlson and Rev. Dr. Rick Carlson will officiate. The service will also be live streamed through the church website at <https://firstlutherankearney.org/watch-live/>. Inurnment will be held at Kearney Cemetery at a later date. Visitation will be 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Monday, March 15, 2021 at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney.

Ward Carol Peterson was born on April 23, 1946 in Holdrege, NE to Carol and Leitha (Carlson) Peterson of Bertrand NE. He left us too soon on February 24, 2021 at Monarch Hospice in Lincoln NE.

Ward grew up on a farm north of Bertrand along with his siblings, Ramona, Rebecca, and Timothy. Ward was a lifelong Lutheran and was baptized, confirmed, and married at Immanuel Lutheran in Bertrand. He was proud of his Lutheran and Swedish heritage.

Ward attended school in Bertrand. He started school in country school, pulling a few pranks along the way. At one point, he was the top scholar in his class.

He was also the only student in his class. He graduated from Bertrand High School in 1964 & graduated from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln with a degree in Agronomy.

Ward married Paula Larson on January 13, 1973. They became the parents of two daughters, Brooke and Alison.

In 1976, Ward landed his dream job with Hoegemeyer Hybrids. He so enjoyed the family-owned company and spent 35 years building a loyal customer base from Central Nebraska to eastern Wyoming. His customers became wonderful friends.

Ward was a faithful member of First Lutheran Church in Kearney. Over the years he served on various committees, was a member of the church council, and sang in the chancel choir.

Ward's pride and joy were his family. He was a wonderful husband and adored his daughters, their husbands, and being a grandpa. The feeling back to him was mutual.

Besides traveling and a good estate sale, Ward's biggest hobby was his backyard. He spent hours creating a perfect place to hang out. Countless gatherings, large and small, took place on the deck and in the yard.

He is survived by his wife, Paula of Kearney; daughters, Brooke (Matt) Larson of Lincoln and Ali (Seth) Svoboda of Peoria, AZ; grandchildren, Soren Svoboda, Vic Svoboda, Collins Larson, Rowan Larson, and Bo Svoboda; siblings, Ramona (Wayne) Karschner, Rebecca (Rod) Bredenkamp, Tim (Stacy) Peterson all of Kearney; brothers-in-law, Mark (Lynn) Larson of North Platte and Craig Larson of Scottsbluff. He is also survived by much loved nieces and nephews, cousins, and other family members and many friends. Ward was preceded in death by his parents, Carol and Leitha Peterson; his

sister, Deanna in infancy; and Paula's parents, Elliott and Delores Larson.

Memorials are kindly suggested to Ward's churches, First Lutheran in Kearney or Immanuel Lutheran in Bertrand or to the family to be given to the Nursery Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at St Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona where his beloved grandson Bo spent the first 3 months of his life. Condolences may be shared online at [www.osrfh.com](http://www.osrfh.com). Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR **15**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations  
4115 Ave N  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 234-3500  
info@osrfh.com  
<https://www.osrfh.com>

## Memorial Service

MAR **16**. 1:00 PM (CT)

First Lutheran Church  
3315 Ave G  
Kearney, NE 68847

# Tribute Wall



“ *O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home created a Ward Peterson funeral service in memory of Ward C. Peterson*



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**O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations** - March 03, 2021  
at 03:38 PM



“ *Ward C. Peterson*

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January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM

DP

“ I prayed that Ward would recover and be healed, but this healing was perfect and I rejoice in faith that he waits for us to join him with all the heavenly hosts someday. Ward and I were one year apart so not in the same classes, but we did a lot of things together. We went to church and school activities together. His grandfather Oscar (twin to my grandfather Willie) used to pick me up and take Ward and me to Sunday school, and our folks would come later. One time Ward and I were doing what little kids often do (pushing, shoving, etc. in the car) which distracted Uncle Oscar and while attending to us the car ran into the ditch! We were right by Verlen Nelson's place, and he pulled us out with his tractor. But I do recall some consequences (for me) later when my folks got to church! We were teammates in school, in band, chorus and church choir together. He was my cousin, but also my friend.

My sister Gwen sent the funeral service folder to us in the mail which we received today and we just watched the service on computer. It was the very first time we have ever heard someone sing at his own funeral! My smile was as big as Ward's while listening.

May the Lord give peace and comfort to you, Paula, and your wonderful family. We will all be together forever when Jesus comes again.

David and Karleen Peterson

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David and Karleen Peterson - March 20, 2021 at 03:13 PM

CS

“ So enjoyed watching this service a beautiful tribute God's blessing to you all!

Love Franklin & Carmen Stradal

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Carmen Stradal - March 18, 2021 at 09:02 AM

LM

“Ward was such a kind hearted man! He was a great friend of my families, and I looked forward to talking with him. When I would go home to visit my parents in Kearney, I always expected a visit from Ward and Paula. They are like family. I have two boys who adored Ward. I have pictures of Ward blowing air into Jack’s ear and Jack is smiling ear to ear! I also have some amazing pictures of Jack and Zach at the farm and each boy is wearing the Hoegemeyer hat that Ward sent us! Such Special Memories. Ward had the best smile and a wonderful laugh. I also liked to hear his stories and how he would light up with a big grin when he would talk about Paula, Daughters, and Grandchildren! He will be missed deeply & I will celebrate his life!

*The Melton Family: Lisa (Parker), Steve, Jack & Zach*

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**Lisa Parker Melton** - March 16, 2021 at 02:02 PM

GC

“My deepest sympathy to the family for Wards passing. I knew "Ward" well in Lincoln at school and later bought seed from him. I will miss him greatly!

*Gary Craig  
St. Paul NE.*

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**Gerald Craig** - March 15, 2021 at 11:40 PM

KS

“Kent Sandstrom lit a candle in memory of Ward C. Peterson



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**Kent Sandstrom** - March 15, 2021 at 10:16 AM

LH

“Ward was my best friend growing up. He would come to my house to visit and we would tow two rafts with a tractor made by lashing fence posts together to the pond just south of my house. Each one had a mast and a sail and two oars and we would try to ram each other and then board the target and battle with swords made from wooden lathes.

We usually fell into the water and would return quite pleased with ourselves.

In high school we were joined in friendship by Jim Stubbendieck and became an inseparable trio. This continued into college in Lincoln.

After I went into the Air Force one thing I always looked forward to was seeing him during my many visits back "home." The picture on this site is exactly how he was. He had a smile that told you he was happy to see you and I would always feel so great when I heard his voice say, "How's it going Lynn?"

I last saw him in Arizona and was so startled when I learned of his passing. I will miss him to my last day.

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Lynn High - March 14, 2021 at 12:36 PM

DN

“Once again we are reminded that here we have no abiding city.” It was the way my dad, The Rev. Arnold Nelson, began every memorial service that I can remember. He confirmed Ward, Martha Johnson, Sandie Sandstrom and me in the Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bertrand. When we moved there from Iowa in 1956, Ward and I became good friends and even though I was a “townie” and he lived north of town a piece, I was lucky enough to spend a fair amount of time up at the Petersons’ place.

Ward was interested in many of the same things I was. We played around with radios, put together plastic model cars, he played coronet and I trombone, and we both sang in Mixed Chorus. Ward was very quick wit and we were always making jokes - funny to us, anyway. Later, we shared a love for skiing, although we never did a ski trip together.

I am so sorry I lost touch with him over the years, and send my deepest condolences to Paula, Brook and Ali, and to Monie, Beckie and Tim. Rest in Peace, Ward, and say “Hi” to my late brother, Brian - he’d be proud to sing a duet with you.

David Nelson

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David Nelson - March 13, 2021 at 01:36 PM

CS

“Paula & Family. I’m so sorry to hear of Ward passing. Andrea told me she got to see you both in Lincoln a couple times. My thoughts & prayers be with you all. Lovingly Franklin & Carmen Stradal

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Carmen Stradal - March 11, 2021 at 10:47 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ward C. Peterson.*



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March 06, 2021 at 12:29 PM



“ *Except for Paula, Ward was the best boss a college girl could have! I loved working at the Kearney Pizza Hut!! I have many wonderful memories of that job and the people I had the privilege to work with! Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Please know how much we care about you* ❤️

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**Judy Stukenholtz** - March 04, 2021 at 10:28 PM



“ *Ward was one of the 35 sixth graders I taught in Bertrand. There were more than one prankster in that class. Dave and I have always enjoyed visiting with Ward. One year when we were in AZ he called and wanted to meet us for lunch before he went to his daughter. He will be missed by many and please know our sympathies are with you, Paula and the rest of the family. Our love Dave and Margaret*

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**Margaret High** - March 04, 2021 at 07:53 PM

JS

“ *Paula and family: I have known Ward since our days in Bertrand High School as a friend and team member in many sporting and social events. Those days will never be forgotten as memories can never be taken away but remembered forever. My prayers, thoughts and condolences are with you and may Ward RIP with the Good Lord.*

*Jim Schaefer  
Surprise, AZ*

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**Jim Schaefer** - March 03, 2021 at 12:58 PM

MH

“ *My heart is saddened to hear of Ward's death. What a great guy! I remember him as school mate, football star at BHS, riding the school bus together and as close neighbor of the family in rural Bertrand. I pray that God's comfort and your joy-filled memories of life with Ward will bring you comfort and ease the pain of your loss.  
Mary (Holen) Hamilton, Lincoln, NE*

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**Mary Hamilton** - March 03, 2021 at 09:59 AM

TP

*Thanks for your kind words, Mary! All Holen's were special to Ward, as they are to us. Our Dad's were best buds!  
Tim*

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**tim peterson** - March 04, 2021 at 10:34 PM

RT

*I am heartbroken to hear of Ward's death. We were next door neighbors. One day Ward came over and wanted to race our bikes down the hill. We got up some pretty good speed when almost simultaneously the front wheels got caught in the gravel. He went one way & I went the other. We picked gravel out of our knees & hands for weeks. Good times were had & the memories are many. Rest in Peace Ward. To the family may God comfort you in the days ahead. Rojean Taylor Palmdale, Ca*

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**Rojean Taylor** - March 05, 2021 at 09:16 PM

MK

*I came to know Ward through my work as a crop consultant and also as a fellow member of First Lutheran Church. I will always cherish the conversations I had with Ward - always fun, informative and helpful. He always had a smile on his face and made you feel important. He was dedicated to the people he served in his work with Hoegemeyer hybrids. He and Tom Hoegemeyer were two of the people I respected the most in the seed industry. Well done good and faithful servant!*

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**Mark A Kottmeyer** - March 16, 2021 at 04:55 PM

SS

*Ward, or as we called him, "Grandpa Ward", was a loving person. He cared so much for all of us, and I feel very lucky to have been able to spend 10 years of my life with him. I'm 12 now, and not a day has gone by without me missing him. I know that he is in a better place now.*

*- Soren Svoboda, oldest grandson*

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**Soren Svoboda** - March 08, 2023 at 09:52 PM