

Victor H Esch

August 31, 1930 – August 5, 2021



Celebration of Life

*October 2, 2021 ~ 2:00 pm
First Mennonite Church
Denver, Colorado*

Celebration of Life Service for Victor H Esch

Prelude	Leta Bontrager (pre-recorded) <i>Vic's friend, Leta Bontrager, recorded a CD of favorites in 2019 that Vic listened to often. It brought him much joy!</i>
Welcome and Invocation	Glenn Balzer
<i>My Life Flows On</i> (Voices Together 605)	Myrna Schmidt (sister)
Eulogy	Norm Dewhurst (friend)
Psalms 23:1-6	Adam Esch (grandson)
<i>My Shepherd Will Supply My Need</i> (VT 640)	Myrna Schmidt
1 John 4:7-8, 11, 16	Boots Raber (sister)
<i>When Peace Like a River</i> (VT 617)	Myrna Schmidt
Slideshow	
Memories	Rod Esch (son) Linda Bontrager (daughter)
Pastoral Reflection	Glenn Balzer
<i>The Lord Bless You and Keep You</i> (VT 846)	Myrna Schmidt
Transition music	
<i>Sheep May Safely Graze</i> (JS Bach, arr. Dan Coates)	Romaine Anderson
Memorial Garden ritual	Glenn Balzer

Everyone is invited to the Community Center across the foyer for a pie and coffee reception following the service. Please wear a mask while going through the food line. Thank you!

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.

Psalm 23:1-6

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***Thank you to all who participated in the service, including:***

**Pastor:** Glenn Balzer

**Readers:** Norm Dewhurst, Adam Esch, and Boots Raber

**Pianist:** Romaine Anderson

**Song Leader:** Myrna Schmidt

**Slideshow:** Linda Bontrager and Glenn Balzer

**Audiovisual:** Randal Friesen and Nicole and Steve KandeLind

**Usher Coordinator:** Norm Dewhurst

**Reception Coordinators:** Lola Hershberger and Paul Johnson

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Vic's memory can be honored by sending donations to Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) at www.meda.org.

Victor H Esch Life Story

Victor H. Esch was born in Pigeon, Michigan, Aug 31, 1930, to Henry D. and Barbara (Maust) Esch. He was married to Carolyn Weaver in Goshen, Indiana on August 14, 1955. She preceded him in death on October 25, 2001. He is survived by two children, Linda Bontrager and Rodney Esch, married to Cindy (Patzell) Esch. There are five grandchildren- Bryan Bontrager, Eric Bontrager, Adam Esch, Allie (Esch) Vogels, and Amy (Esch) Huston, and four great grandchildren- Emma, Madalyn, Levi and Avery Bontrager.

He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Goshen College and began his career in Hospital Administration at Rocky Ford Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Rocky Ford, Colorado. In 1966, he attended the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, Virginia, receiving his master's degree in Hospital Administration. In 1968, his career path led to Denver, Colorado where he worked for the State of Colorado licensing hospitals and nursing homes. Finally, he held healthcare administration positions within Health and Human Services, retiring in 1994.

A resident of Arvada, Colorado for 46 years, he enjoyed the great outdoors- hiking, biking, adventuring in state parks, and skiing, making it his goal to ski every ski area in Colorado. When he stopped skiing at the age of 83, he was missing only two of them.

Both Vic and Carolyn were very involved in their church and were long-time members at Glennon Heights Mennonite Church, then First Mennonite Church in Denver. He and Carolyn loved music and were avid singers. He was involved in the Mennonite Board of Missions, holding various board positions, including Frontier Boys Village in Colorado Springs. He maintained a deep interest in MEDA (Mennonite Economic Development Associates), and he traveled to South America to see their operations there.

His life was filled with love of the water and boats, spending his retirement years on Lake Powell, Lake Granby and truly any available water source. One of his dreams was to complete the "Great Circle", a continuous journey on the intercoastal waterways, lakes and river systems in the eastern half of the country. Beginning in 2005, he completed the portion near Cape May in New Jersey, to Jacksonville, Florida.

It was a dream of Vic and Carolyn to build a home together in the mountains at Lake Granby where they planned to spend their retirement years. They combined the love he had of the water, and the love she had of the mountains, and they called their home "Timeless". He loved it there.

Our entire family will deeply miss his kind and gentle spirit, and the hint of adventure that twinkled in his eyes, and so much more than we can say.