PETERSEN, H. Irving

April 17, 1899
Coulter, Iowa
December 4, 1992
Mesa, Arizona

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Former Pastor Dies In Arizona

H. Irving Petersen was born on April 17, 1899, the son of Rasmus and Elizabeth (Christensen) Petersen in Coulter, Iowa. He was baptized at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Coulter. At an early age, his family moved to a fruit ranch in Del Rey, CA. As a young man he started farming with his father, later purchasing his own farm near Del Rey, living in an apartment in the barn. He farmed until he was led to enter the Lutheran ministry. He then attended Dana College and Trinity Seminary in Blair, NE. He was ordained as a pastor of the former United Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1929 at the synodical convention in Elk Horn, Iowa. Later that same month, on June 26, 1929, he married his long-time sweetheart, Margaret L. Hansen, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Easton, CA.

Following their marriage, Irving and Margaret left for Viborg, SD, and their first parish. During this time their first child, Hans Irving, Jr., was born. He died at six months of age and is buried there. From 1933-1939, Irving served the congregations of St. Peter's and Hazelwood Lutheran in Northfield, MN; 1939-1943, Our Savior's Lutheran in Oshkosh, WI; 1943-1949, Calvary and Trinity Lutheran in Denmark, WI; 1949-1956, Bethlehem Lutheran in Jacksonville, IA; 1956-1960, Bethel Lutheran in Greattinger, IA; 1960-1963, St. Luke's Lutheran in Traer, IA; and 1963-1967, Elim Lutheran in Marshalltown, IA. In 1967, the Petersen's moved to Mesa, AZ, where Irving served as visitation pastor at St. Peter's Lutheran until retiring in 1984.

In addition to serving in the parish, Irving served his church and Lord in other capacities. He served as chairman of the Board of Charities of the UELC and served as President of the Iowa District of the UELC during the time when merger with other Lutheran bodies was taking place.

In March, 1983, the Petersen's moved to an apartment at Good Shepherd Villa in Mesa. In the spring of 1990, Irving fell and broke his hip resulting in his entering the Care Center. A few weeks later, Margaret joined him. They have enjoyed being able to live together in their quiet room since that time.

Early Friday morning, December 4, 1992, the Lord came and called him home. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, of Mesa; his five children and their spouses: Stan and Darleen Petersen of Forest City, IA; Rev. Jon and Dorothy Petersen of Puyallup, WA; Carol Petersen of Mesa, AZ; Kaye Petersen of Barrington Hills, IL; Karl Petersen and Joan Pearson of Bainbridge Island, WA; also six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. In addition to his son, he is preceded in death by his parents, three brothers and one sister.

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