

The Story of Russ

Russell (Russ) Dean Mull was born on Sep. 26, 1950 to George Russell Mull and Hilda R. Welker in Elkhart, Indiana. Russ grew up in Elkhart as the youngest of Hilda's four other children from a previous marriage. Russ graduated from Elkhart High School in 1969 and served in the US Air Force from 1970 to 1974 as an enlisted Staff Sergeant.

Following his enlistment and service overseas in the US Air Force, Russ would be known by many job titles Professional Race Car Driver, Small Town Sheriff, Airforce Reservist, Chef, Master Carpenter, Database Administrator, Software Developer, and Building Contractor. According to Russ, the titles that meant the most to him were husband (hubby), father (dad), and grandfather (papa).

Known for his playful personality, witty sense of humor, and insatiable curiosity, Russ was a light unto others. His deep Christian faith and a life of selfless service touched the lives of friends, family members, strangers, church communities, and the countless people that knew him across his many careers.

Russ died on Dec. 31, 2021 at the age of 71 in Tucson, Arizona with loved ones at his side. He will be buried at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis, MN on Jan. 13, 2022.

Russ was preceded by his parents, George and Hilda Mull, sisters, Virginia and Janet Barrett, and brothers Larry and Richard Barrett. Russ is survived by his wife Deb Mull of 31 years and his big Brady Bunch style blended family of children, their spouses, and grandkids: Stacey (Daniel) Balogh (children Nathan, Jared, and Steven), Kelly Mull (child Kerry), Adam (Melissa) Mull (children Kjersti and Axl), Aubrey Mull (children Shane and Lucas), Ryan (Danielle) Carlson (children Cam, Mia, and Freya), and Trisha (Nick) Iverson.

Gifts given in honor of Russ's legacy will be used to purchase new tools and provide scholarships for

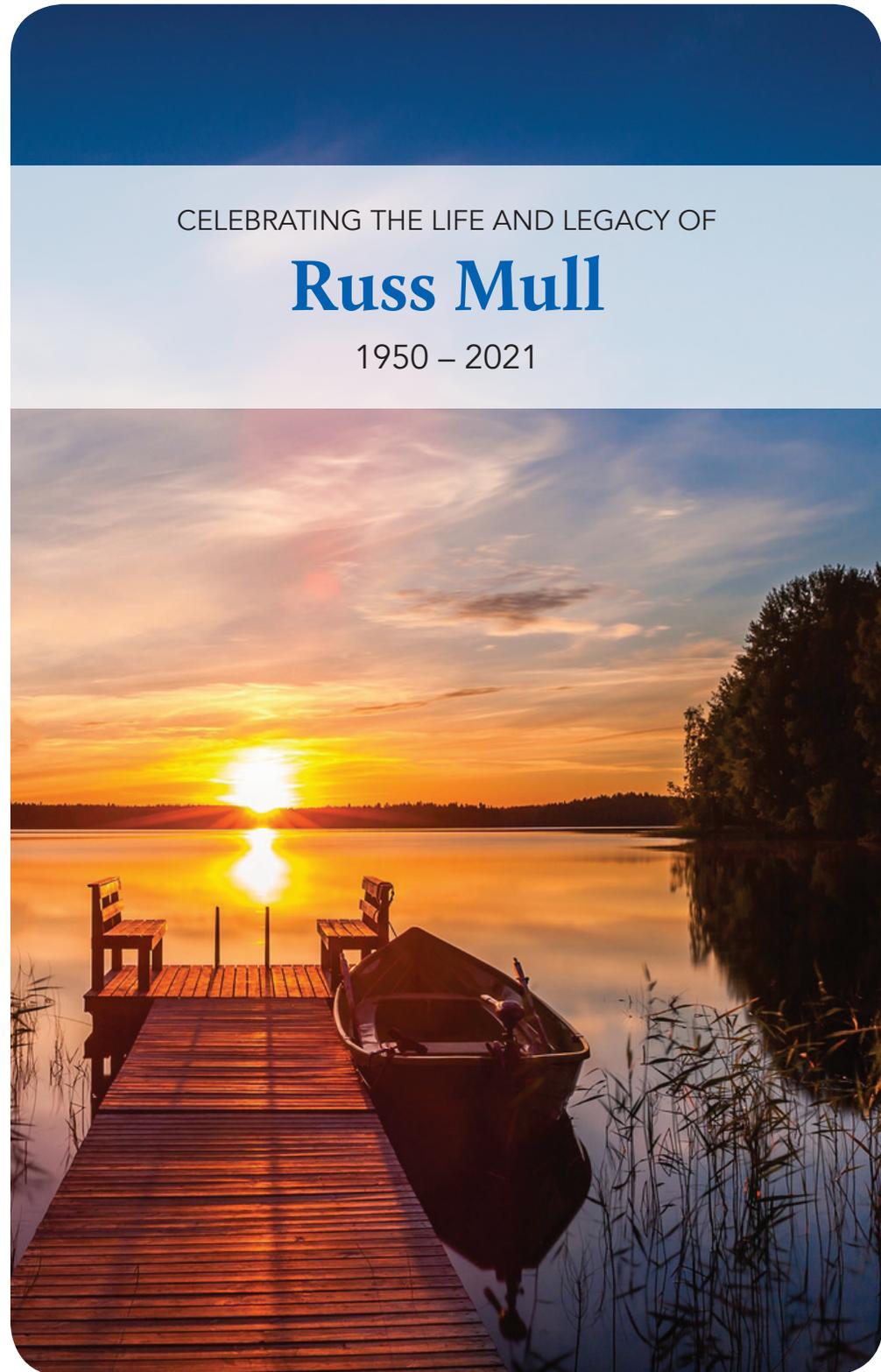
**First Evangelical Free Church of Maplewood's
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CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF

Russ Mull

1950 – 2021





Russell Dean Mull

SEP. 26, 1950 – DEC. 31, 2021

How to Be Fruitful

You must cultivate deep spiritual roots. "Blessed are those who trust in the Lord... They are like trees planted along a river bank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by... heat or worried by ... months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit" (Jer. 17:7-8 NLT). This Scripture gives you one reason why you need deep spiritual roots: to make it through the rough times – times of heat and drought. Solomon said, "No one can be established through wickedness, but the righteous cannot be uprooted" (Pr. 12:3 NIV). It's when seasons of adversity hit your life that you discover what you're "rooted" to: God's strength or merely your own. When the Bible speaks of "heat", it's speaking about the pressures of life. When it speaks about "drought", it's speaking about seasons of crisis and lack. What's the answer? "Roots that reach deep into the water." What's the result? "They never stop producing fruit." Because of the roots, the giant redwoods of Northern California withstand major forest fires. If you were to measure the roots of a large oak tree, they would stretch out for several hundred miles. That's why they're stable in the storms of life. Paul writes this: "I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong... you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God" (Eph. 3:16-17, 19 NLT).

Memorial Service

Jan. 13, 2022 | First Evangelical Free Church | Maplewood, MN

Prelude

Welcome & Prayer

Worship

"What A Friend We Have In Jesus"
"How Great Thou Art"

Family Tributes

Worship – "Victory in Jesus"

Scripture Readings

John 14:1-3
I Thessalonians 4:14-17

Message

Worship – "Amazing Grace"

Prayer & Benediction

Family Departs to Bagpipes

Postlude

Burial – Fort Snelling National Cemetery (Minneapolis, MN)
All are invited to attend this ceremony directly after the service.

Fellowship – Rascal's Bar & Grill (Apple Valley, MN)
Join us at 2 p.m. for appetizers, storytelling, and laughter.

Todd Olson – Senior Pastor
Sharon Olson – Worship Leader
Lynn Watts – Pianist