



Lowell Leon Roth

March 26, 1944 – September 14, 2025

Memorial Service
in Celebration of the Life of
Lowell L. Roth
Saturday, October 11, 2025 - 5:00 p.m.
Hesston Mennonite Church

Prelude Ken Rodgers, pianist

Words of Greeting and Prayer Pastor Jess Engle

Congregational Hymn
My Hope is Built on Nothing Less (VT 621)*

Reflections Pastor Ron Moyo

Picture Memories Video Tribute

Reading of Life Story Dale Brubacher

Congregational Hymn
Great is Thy Faithfulness (VT #419)

Reading Abe Pankratz

Reflections of Grandpa Don Brubacher

Scripture Reading Exodus 33:14, John 14:1-3

Meditation Pastor Jess Engle

Closing Prayer

Postlude

**Voices Together hymnal*

*Technical support: Video; Aaron Miller, Audio; Phil Hoffman,
Power Point; Sue Stucky*

Life Story

Lowell Leon Roth, 81, passed away on September 14, 2025 at his home in Hesston, KS. He was born on March 26, 1944 in Iowa City, Iowa. He was the fourth of eight children born to Vernon E. Roth and Lois Kaufman Roth. The family lived in Parnell, IA until they moved to Washington, IA where Vernon started a dairy operation.

Life on the farm was busy for Lowell. He spent many hours milking cows, driving the tractor, and pulling weeds and thistles. It was tallied that in one year in elementary school, Lowell missed 28 school days so he could help on the farm. The family moved to Hesston, KS when Lowell was in the third grade for Vernon to take Bible classes at Hesston College. Vernon had been selected by “lot” to be the pastor of their local church, and the family spent one year in Kansas before returning to Iowa.

Lowell was baptized at the age of 12 at Bethel Mennonite Church near Wayland, IA where his father was the pastor. Eventually Vernon planted a church, the Eureka Mennonite Church, Washington, IA, near their family farm where Lowell attended for much of his teenage life.

Lowell often struggled to talk about his faith. The expectation of being in the front pew of the church for so many Sundays when his father was pastoring seemed to discourage him from having serious discussions about spiritual matters.

In his teenage years Lowell began to struggle with anxiety, especially after the experience of sitting on the back steps of his family home listening to the doctor and his parents attempt to save his dying 3-year-old sister, Brenda. This was in 1960 when Lowell was 15 years old. The Roth family suffered many other challenges including the death of his younger brother Phil in 1971 in an automobile accident and the death of brothers Jim and Stan in 1998 in an airplane accident.

Apart from the one year in Hesston, Lowell attended elementary school in a one room schoolhouse near their home and junior high school in the Washington, Iowa system. He went to Iowa Mennonite School for his freshman and sophomore high school years. He then came to Hesston Academy, as was the tradition for members of his mother’s family, for his junior and senior years, graduating in 1962.

Lowell attended and graduated from Hesston College where he excelled at basketball. He then walked on and made the team at the University of Iowa his junior year but missed the entire season due to an ankle injury. He then returned to Kansas to work for King Construction to provide support for himself and pay for the remainder of his college. While in Kansas, he made friends with a number of people who played basketball at Bethel College where he eventually enrolled, graduating with a degree in physical education in 1969.

Lowell met Cindi Brubacher, then of Hesston, Kansas, in the summer of 1968. They were married on March 2, 1969. In the early years of their marriage, Lowell taught and coached at East High and Wilbur Junior High in Wichita. At East High, in addition to his duties teaching physical education, Lowell was also the swimming coach. This was ironic because Lowell had never coached swimming and, in fact, he didn’t really like the water.

During his work for King Construction, Lowell learned that he had a knack for the details of construction. Eventually this led to him establishing his own business, Hesston Excavating in 1974. This was his life’s work until he retired in 2015.

Lowell had a unique ability to visualize the topography of the land and he was known to be able to dig a basement within inches to grade without using a transit. Lowell was a hard worker and the excavation business provided well for the Roth family. Lowell was also very generous with his time and was happy to use his machines to help anyone with their needs. After the tornado hit Hesston, Lowell spent many hours working at no charge in clearing damage for those in town, particularly people without insurance.

Lowell was a regular at the morning coffee get togethers in Hesston beginning when he was 21 years of age. He rarely missed these coffee times even as it moved from the Colonial House, the donut shop, the senior center, the General Store and the golf course. He could be a bit of a jokester, poking fun at people, and was known to often be the one to “stir the pot” during these discussions. In fact, there was a paddle hanging on the wall at the General Store with Lowell’s signature on it, signifying his tendency to stir things up there.

Lowell also spent a lot of time on the golf course, not just in Hesston, but in many other locations as he occasionally traveled with his friends, Rex Esau, Larry Fuqua, and Mark Hall, to golf in other states.

Son Jeff was born into the family in 1971, and daughter Michelle was born in 1973. Lowell was preceded in death by his parents Vernon and Lois Roth, three brothers, Jim, Stan, and Phil, two sisters, Brenda and Joanne, and grandson Joshua. Survivors include his sisters Becky Roth and husband Stanley Wiens of Hesston and Marcia Huxman and husband Gary of Moundridge, son Jeff and wife Gwen (Boll) of Hesston, daughter Michelle Roth of Wichita, and grandchildren Jordan of Kechi, Katie Raleigh and husband Grant of Hesston, Abraham Pankratz of Minneapolis, MN, and Leo, Hugh, and Otto Pankratz of Wichita.

~ Honorary Casket Bearers ~

Grandsons: Jordan Roth, Abraham Pankratz, Leo Pankratz, Hugh Pankratz, Otto Pankratz; Granddaughter: Katie Raleigh

~ Internment ~

Held earlier today at Eastlawn Cemetery

~ Memorial ~

New Hope Shelter

c/o Miller-Ott Funeral Home

PO Box 32

Hesston, KS 67062

Thank you to everyone who celebrated Lowell’s life today as well as for all the thoughts and prayers in the past weeks. The family appreciates it and invites you to attend a light meal and period of visitation after the service in the Community Center.