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TOP STORY

Highland Lutheran Church organist Lilleberg marks 65 years

By CORY ERICKSON

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Darrell Lilleberg will be recognized for 65 years as organist for Highland Lutheran Church in rural Cummings. Lilleberg became the church's head organist at age 11.

Cory Erickson

After 65 years as Highland Lutheran Church's organist, Darrell Lilleberg is nearing his swan song.

The 75-year-old rural Cummings farmer says stiff joints are starting to affect his playing.

But he maintains he's still a better organist than he was when he made his church debut on Easter Sunday at age 9.

"I was the only one in the church who could do it," Lilleberg says with a chuckle. "They didn't want to hire an outside person to do it, so they figured I could."

After more than six decades as the musician for the rural Cummings church, located about 3 miles northeast of town, Lilleberg will be honored with cake and coffee after Sunday's 8:30 a.m. service.

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