



## Luther Allen Berntson

November 24, 1931 - March 2, 2023

Luther Berntson from Wayzata, MN, formerly from Steamboat Springs, CO and Adams, ND passed away on March 2, 2023, at the age of 91. Luther was born, November 24, 1931, at home in Silvesta Township near Adams, ND. He was the son of Bertha (Aune) and George Berntson. Luther received his elementary schooling in a one-room schoolhouse. His secondary education was two years at the Walsh County Agricultural School in Park River, N.D. He graduated from Oak Grove Lutheran school in Fargo, N.D. in 1949. He also attended two winter short courses at North Dakota State University in Fargo, N.D. On January 29, 1960 he married Helen Gryth from Pembina, North Dakota.

After his graduation from high school, he returned home to help his father with the farm operation, which included the original homestead. In 1960, Luther became the sole proprietor of the farm operation. Luther was an out-of-the-box type of thinker, being an early adapter of new equipment, farming practices, and new crops. Perhaps his greatest contribution to farming and his legacy will be his early adaption of no-till farming practices and sustainable agriculture. He was an active member of the Manitoba/North Dakota No-Till Association. The Fargo Forum referred to him as an evangelist of no-till farming. He was awarded the Outstanding Young Farmer of North Dakota 1963. In 1997 he was awarded the prestigious award as Pioneer of the Year for making a significant contribution to agriculture. In the mid-90s he made four trips to eastern Europe to help farmers with entering the market economy,

no-till farming techniques and growing canola.

Luther volunteered for the Army in 1956 and served his tour of duty in Alaska. While there he took up downhill skiing which became a passion for life. He introduced and instructed many of the nephews and nieces to skiing. When he retired from farming in the mid 1990's, he and Helen moved to Steamboat Springs where they enjoyed skiing for many years in their retirement. He made his last downhill ski run at 85 years young.

It was important to Luther to live his faith, help others, and serve the community. He was active in many church and civic organizations. Whether it be making lefse for the church bazaar, teaching confirmation students, or organizing the Relay for Life, actions like these demonstrated Luther's kind and caring heart. He had an ability to make connections with people of all ages and backgrounds and was a mentor to many. Luther had a joy in living and will be remembered by many for his sense of humor.

Luther is survived by his wife of 63 years, Helen, daughters Margo (Bruce) and Kristin (Rolfe), grandchildren Rachel and Matthew, sister Carol Haugen, and brother Bernard Berntson. Luther was preceded in death by his parents George and Bertha, sisters Bergine, Lillian, and Malvina, and brothers Gordon and Rudy.

Funeral services will be held at Gethsemane Lutheran church, in Hopkins, Minnesota on March 25, 2023 at 11:00 am. Inurnment will take place at Hitterdal Cemetery in rural Adams, ND this summer.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Luther's memory are suggested for Lutheran World Relief, Bread For The World or a charity of your choice.

# Previous Events

## Church Service

MAR **25**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Gethsemane Lutheran Church (Hopkins)  
715 Minnetonka Mills Road  
Hopkins, MN 55343

# Tribute Wall



“ So sorry to hear about Luther passing. Was a great neighbor to our family in North Dakota. We shared a lot of farm land property borders. Always had a smile on his face. Our family's helped each other out alot. He shared many a story with me about the old days and how our farms and neighboring areas were settled and working with/next to my dad. I'll certainly miss that smile.

*Hans (Michael) Haslekaas*

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**Hans Haslekaas** - March 25, 2023 at 02:44 PM



“ Luther was a huge part of our lives when I was young. My dad and Luther were great friends and he was my godfather. We spent many happy times with the Berntsons.

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**Cathy Axvig Gee** - March 23, 2023 at 11:26 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Luther Allen Berntson.



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March 23, 2023 at 11:23 AM



“ Luther was an inspiring individual with his wonderful smile and energy that amazed many of us Steamboat friends! He will not be forgotten!

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**KATHY KORTAS** - March 21, 2023 at 07:35 PM

KB

“ *Luther and Helen are very special friends. Lute was the king of no-til and always there to help and support his fellow farmers. He lead a good life and leaves a lasting legacy. Rest in peace.* ”

Keith Bjerke - March 20, 2023 at 12:09 PM

RC

“ *We lived just a few miles from Luther,share alot of birthdays, Christmas,combining,haying and working for Luther.Also riding in his 57 Ford,and 64 Ford .Luther was our 4-H leader .He sure was a hard working man as and a great Uncle. Roger Clemens* ”

Roger Clemens - March 17, 2023 at 09:48 AM

HF

“ *Luther and I were very good friends I as was his dads hired hand for 4 years. We did a lot of work together and had a lot of fun together. Luther was pretty much the reason Alida and I got together. After we both came back from our time in the Army, we lost track of each other. Alida and I were able to touch base again with Luther and Helen in Wayzata.* ”

Harold J. Flom - March 14, 2023 at 09:33 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Luther Allen Berntson.* ”



March 10, 2023 at 12:34 PM



“ *I met Luther and Helen many years ago at the Lutheran Church in Steamboat.  
He was one of the kindest men I have ever met. Was always there for people. I so miss seeing he and Helen around Steamboat. Love to you all, Loretta Hammerslag*

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**Loretta Hammerslag** - March 09, 2023 at 02:19 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Luther Allen Berntson.*



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March 07, 2023 at 09:52 PM



“ We first met Luther & Helen, when Kristin and I were roommates up in Estes Park. They were just finishing their dream home in Steamboat Springs. Thru out the next 28 years, they became family, our 2 kids grew up going to Steamboat to see Lute and Helen! They always insisted we stayed with them, even when the kids were little. They treated them like their own grandkids, Rachel & Matthew. Lute was one of the kindest, most generous man I have ever met. Since we were both from the Midwest, we would always laugh that people from the Midwest are the best people in the world! Lute, thanks for being an incredible role model for our 2 kids, teaching them what integrity, humility, and what being a loving, decent human being is! Love Ethan, Suzie, Bailey, Max Gannett



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Sue Gannett - March 07, 2023 at 06:23 PM



“ 4 files added to the album *The Berntson Clan!*



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Sue Gannett - March 07, 2023 at 06:07 PM

DD

“ One of the early memories I have of meeting Luther, Helen, Margo, and Kris is of Helen telling the us that she had always said she would never marry a farmer nor a preacher. She probably knew he was a farmer from the beginning. Though not formally trained nor ordained, Luther was often asked to preach in churches; and his life was one of the most powerful Christian sermons of anyone I have known, He was humble, intelligent, loving, hard working, creative, giving, honest, and adventurous. If you looked closely, there was always the hint of liveliness and good humor in his eyes. I never thought of him as aging. He will live long in the hearts and memories of those who had the privilege of knowing him.



*Diane Duty*

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**Diane Duty** - March 06, 2023 at 10:52 PM

LB

“ I have known Luther as long as I can remember, as his family was a next door neighbor of ours on the farm near Adams. My memories of Luther are mostly through church and Farmers Union activities. We attended the classes and he and I shared leadership at the summer youth camps near Park River. Peace and comfort to the Berntson family.

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**lucy Lykken Bleakley** - March 06, 2023 at 08:56 PM

JE

“ How very sad to hear of Luther's passing. Kris, Margo, Helen, and family I add a prayer today for each of you for your loss. May you all find peace in the days and weeks ahead!! 🙏🙏

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**John Erickson** - March 06, 2023 at 07:25 PM

TH

“ *Luther and Helen will always be in our Hearts and Souls. Luther helped me get started in Elk hunting in Colorado , inviting my brother and I to have a hit home cooked meal and bed when arriving for our hunts. Luther and Helen always looked forward to our visits , of course we brought a bag or 2 of red river valley potatoes along for there kindness and hospitality . “ R.I.P. my Friend”* ❤️🙏

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**todd heffta** - March 06, 2023 at 01:46 PM