Afterglow

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles
when life is done.

I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly
down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times
and bright and sunny days.

I'd like the tears of those who grieve,
to dry before the sun;
Of happy memories that I leave
when life is done.



WEIGEL
Buehler-Larson
Funeral and Cremation Service

Scan the QR Code to watch Chris' Celebration of Life Tribute Video

In Loving Memory



Chris Holwagner

March 15, 1938 ~ September 19, 2026



Chris Holwagner, 88, Bismarck, formerly of Center, passed away September 19, 2026 at Sanford Health, Bismarck.

Chris was born in Turtle Lake, ND on March 15, 1938, the son of Christ and Caroline (Broeckel) Holwagner. He grew up on farms near Turtle Lake and Washburn before they moved into Washburn. Chris graduated from Washburn High School in 1956. From an early age, Chris learned to work hard at the various jobs he had. From 1961-1963, Chris proudly served his country in the US Army. While stationed in Berlin, Germany, Chris had the honor of participating in a 21-gun salute for President John F. Kennedy. He was honorably discharged in 1966.

In 1966, he married Charelette Gessele in Iowa. They lived in numerous states while Chris worked as a lineman and was a member of IBEW Local 714 for 50 years. In 1977, they built their home and farm on a piece of land east of Center where they lived for 45 years. He enjoyed raising cattle, spending time outside, and spending time with his family.

Chris leaves his wife of 60 years, Charelette Holwagner of Bismarck; sons, Kelly (Tracy) Holwagner of Fargo and Kyle (Jeannene) Holwagner of Bismarck; four grandchildren, Kelsi Holwagner of Golden, CO, Casey Holwagner of Underwood, MN, Wyatt (Steph) Holwagner of Boulder, CO, and Grace Holwagner of Boise, ID; sister-in-law, Constance Gessele of Bismarck; and many nieces and nephews.

Chris was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers; thirteen sisters; and a brother-in-law, Ron Gessele.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites you to plant a tree in Chris' memory. Plant the tree in your yard or a special piece of land to you as a lasting tribute to a man who found so much joy in the land and the outdoors.

Funeral Service for

Chris Holwagner

Celebration of Life
Friday, October 2, 2026; 10:00 AM
First Lutheran Church, Mandan, ND
Officiant: Pastor Adam Barden

Honorary Urn Bearers
Kelsi Holwagner Wyatt Holwagner
Casey Holwagner Grace Holwagner

Prelude	Lorreta White
Welcome	
Thanksgiving for Baptism	
First Song	"*On the Wings of a Snow-White Dove*" Charlie Pride
Greeting and Opening Prayer	
Reading of the Obituary	
Readings	Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 Psalm 23
Sermon	
Second Song	*"Peace in the Valley"* Johnny Cash
Apostle's Creed	
Prayers of Intercession	L: God of mercy C: Hear our prayer
Lord's Prayer	
Last Song	*"I'll Fly Away"* Jim Reeves
Commendation	
Dismissal	
Postlude	Lorreta White
Burial Service	North Dakota Veteran's Cemetery Mandan, ND

The family invites you for food and fellowship at the Basement of First Lutheran following the funeral .