

Russell L. Christensen was born on May 29, 1938, in Breckenridge, MN, to Almer and Martha (Ness) Christensen. He was baptized and confirmed at Faith Lutheran Church in Dwight, N.D. He attended Ibsen #5 grade school for eight years and graduated from Wahpeton High School in 1956.

Russell passed away at home on August 5, 2026, with his loving wife holding his hand and his family by his side, under the care of CHI Hospice.

After high school he and his friends traveled the US working various jobs. Russell served in the U.S. Air Force from 1960–1964, being stationed in Greenland and Michigan. After serving his country he returned home to work alongside his future father-in-law, Paul, on the farm.

He married Shirley Syverson at Galchutt Lutheran Church on June 25, 1966, and together they lived in Ibsen Township, Richland County. Russell raised cattle and pigs, and farmed row crops and small grains. Russell and Shirley enjoyed traveling and visited many places throughout the United States and Canada, creating memories that enriched their 60 years together.

In his spare time, Russell was a skilled woodworker and enjoyed reading and watching both western books and movies. He was one of the first shareholders in Minn-Dak Farmers' Cooperative. He served in various capacities: director of the Richland County Farm Bureau, advisory council for the W.H.S. Vo-Ag department, honorary member of the Wahpeton High School F.F.A., an Ibsen Township supervisor, and an active member of Faith Lutheran Church in Dwight.

He is survived by his loving wife, Shirley; daughter Wendy (Hamid) Erfanian and their children, Alexander and Elizabeth, of Hopatcong, NJ; son Kyle (Tertia) Christensen and their daughter, Addie, of Wahpeton, N.D.; and sister-in-law Patty Christensen.

He was preceded in death by his parents Almer and Martha; brothers Arlen and Dale (Diane); sister Lorraine; sister-in-law Phyllis (Duane) Engbard; father-in-law Paul Syverson; and mother-in-law Adeline Syverson.

Treasured Seasons

*To everything there is
a season, and a time
for every purpose
under heaven:*

*A time to be born and
a time to die; a time to
plant, and a time to
pluck up that which is
planted;*

*A time to kill and a
time to heal; a time to
break down and a
time to build up;*

*A time to weep, and a
time to laugh; a time to
mourn and a time to
dance;*

*A time to cast away
stones, and a time to
gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and
a time to refrain from
embracing.*

*A time to get, and a
time to lose; a time to
keep, and a time to
cast away;*

*A time to rend, and a
time to sew; a time to
keep silence and a
time to speak;*

*A time to love, and a
time to hate; a time of
war and
a time of peace.*

Russell L. Christensen
1938 - 2026





FINAL HARVEST

He was bound to the land from the day of his birth
His roots anchored deep in the fertile earth
Nurtured, sustained, by the soil he grew
And his life, like his furrows, ran straight and true.
In faith, each spring, he planted the seeds
In hope, to reap his family's needs
With patience, he waited for the harvest to come
To gather the fruits of his labor home.
Ever turning seasons, the years sped past
Til the final harvest came at last
Then claimed anew by beloved sod
He was gathered home to be with God.

Vertin-Munson Funeral Home | www.vertinmunson.com

Russell L. Christensen

Born

May 29, 1938 | Breckenridge, Minnesota

Passed Away

August 5, 2026 | Wahpeton, North Dakota

Age

88 Years | 2 Months | 7 Days

Memorial Service

11:00 AM | Saturday, August 15, 2026
Faith Lutheran Church | Dwight, North Dakota

Officiant

Toviao Hopkins

Scripture Readings

John 3:1-17 | Psalm 23 | John 14:1-7

Music

Evonne Viland, Organist | Addie Christensen, Pianist

Congregational Hymns

Hymn #836 | "How Great Thou Art"

Hymn #779 | "Amazing Grace"

Hymn #439 | "Soon and Very Soon"

Honorary Pallbearers

Alexander Erfanian | Elizabeth Erfanian | Addie Christensen

Military Honors

North Dakota Funeral Honor Team | Galchutt American Legion Post 282

Interment

Faith Lutheran Cemetery | Dwight, North Dakota