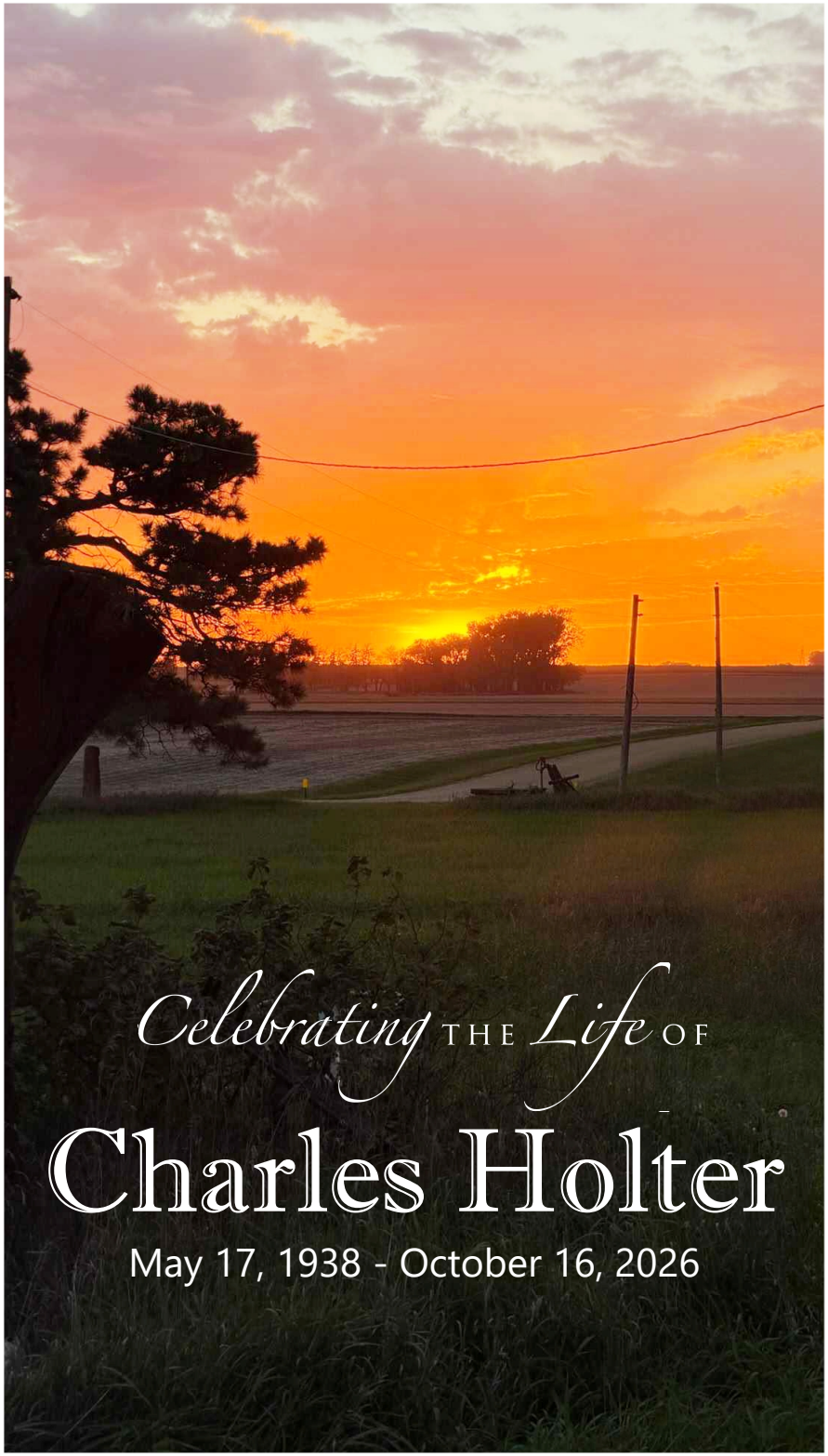


"In him and through faith
in him we may approach God
with freedom and confidence."
Ephesians 3:12

To view Charles' LifeTribute Slideshow please use the camera on your smartphone to scan the QR code.



Charles Eugene "Charlie" Holter was born on May 17, 1938, to Henry and Lily (Fjellanger) Holter at the home farm in Moody County, South Dakota, where he was raised. He attended country school through the eighth grade. At the age of 14 he contracted polio and spent a year in the hospital. From that time forward he wore a brace on his leg. The illness may have affected his body, but it never diminished his spirit or his enjoyment of life's adventures.

On December 29, 1967, he was united in marriage to Madelyn Buysse. They were blessed with five children. After 31 years they parted ways.

Charles resided primarily in Alliance Township, Moody County, on the farm throughout his life. When he was younger, he drove truck for Rupp Construction building roads and hauling gravel. He later farmed, drove school bus, and then drove for Bissen's delivering before retiring.

On Friday, October 16, 2026, Charles passed away peacefully at his home, surrounded by family, at the age of 88 years, four months, and 30 days.

Charles was a member of Messiah Lutheran Church in rural Flandreau, South Dakota. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, trapping, gardening, wood carving, and singing. He especially loved taking his children hunting and fishing, and he cherished hunting trips to the Black Hills with friends. He kept large gardens until the mid-1990s and found great joy in being outdoors. He also loved mowing and would mow the church lawn as well as neighbors' lawns when needed. He relished lefse, ruspekake, blood sausage, and chocolate. He always had a witty comeback and looked for the better side of people. He loved all his family pets, most recently his dog Drayka and his two cats, Rocket and Brat. He enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren–teasing them and teaching them how to fish. He inspired a love of the outdoors in his children and grandchildren. He traveled to many places for many purposes: to Nova Scotia with his brother, to California to visit the same brother, to the Black Hills to hunt and visit family, and to Yellowstone National Park with Mike and Michelle. In his later years, he enjoyed going for rides with family and simply being outside. He was incredibly grateful to be able to stay home and be cared for by family.

He is lovingly remembered by his five children, Diane (Greg) Hoekman of Irene, South Dakota, Amy Holter (Mike) of Florence, Wisconsin, Michael Holter of Jasper, Minnesota, Michelle (Arlan) Johnson of Jasper, Minnesota, and Christene Holter (David Smedsrud) of Custer, South Dakota; nine grandchildren, Elizabeth, Josianne, Channing, Sierra, Kira, Nick, Kate, Megan, and Damian; eight great-grandchildren, Kylee, Sadie, Owen, Willow, Grace, Ava, Aria, and Skylar; and a great-grandson expected.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Hans and Henry Jr.; sister-in-law, Marilyn Holter; one nephew, Steven Holter; one niece, Lianne Buckmiller; and countless cousins.

In Loving Memory of

Charles Holter



Funeral Service
Thursday, October 22, 2026 - 2:00 PM
Messiah Lutheran Church
Flandreau, South Dakota

Officiating - Rev. Alan Blankenfeld

Scripture Readings
Psalm 23 Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
Revelation 7:9-17 Matthew 11:28-30

Organist - Sharon Walberg

Congregational Hymns
"The Old Rugged Cross" - Insert
"Nearer My God To Thee" - Insert
"How Great Thou Art" - Hymn 856

Honorary Casket Bearers
Rick Walberg Scott Walberg Eric Walberg Eric Hansen
Kylee Sadie Owen Willow
Grace Ava Aria Skylar

Casket Bearers
Channing Holter Nick Gorter Damien Smedsrud
Arlan Johnson Greg Hoekman John Buckmiller

Private Family Inurnment
Bethania Cemetery
Alliance Township, Moody County, South Dakota

Arrangements Entrusted To
HARTQUIST FUNERAL HOME