

Dean Elliott Aakre was born on March 11, 1955 to Raymond and Norma (Anderson) Aakre, Hawley, MN. He was baptized by Reverend Maynard Stokka and confirmed by Reverend Milo Gudim at Rollag Lutheran Church.

Dean was the fourth of six children, Nancy, Dwight, Phyllis, Dean, Dale, and Jan. He worked side by side with his Dad helping out with various farming duties, including seeding and harvesting small grains, baling hay, fixing fence, and milking cows.

He attended school in Barnesville, graduating in the class of 1973. He participated in wrestling, track, and football and was a member of FFA and student council. He was active in Luther League and a life-long member of the Parke 4-H Club.

He married Pamela Jean Pollert, of Litchville, ND on April 25, 1981 in Trinity Lutheran Church, Griswold, rural Litchville.

He attended the University of Minnesota – Crookston, and North Dakota State University earning a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture education, and a Masters of Education in adult education. He taught agriculture at Lisbon (ND) and Jamestown (ND) High School. He worked for the Floor to Ceiling Store in Fargo before joining NDSU Extension for a 39-year career, most of which was in the state 4-H office as activity coordinator and an Extension specialist. He was recognized by his peers with numerous awards for his leadership and commitment to the 4-H program. He retired in 2022 as Extension Emeritus.

His faith, education, baseball, and patience are a few characteristics that define Dean. Using every opportunity to impact others, he taught Sunday School for many years, served several terms as Rollag Church council president, GPR council president and Congregational Life coordinator. A disciple himself, he enjoyed learning and teaching others about Christ's 12 disciples.

Dean recalls a favorite memory of playing softball during lunchtime at Bible School and Sunday afternoons behind Rollag Church. It is during this time he began playing third base and this is the approximate location which will be his final resting place. He coached his children's teams when they played in the Town and Country Softball League. Dean was able to live out his own Big League dream participating in the Minnesota Twins Fantasy Camp, led by players from his favorite team.

He savored the taste of each raspberry and bite of lemon meringue pie, tended to his flower gardens, loved to talk baseball, and took pride in his family.

Dean was diagnosed with metastatic esophageal cancer in July 2025 and fought a courageous battle until he was called to his heavenly home on January 26, 2026.

Dean is survived by his wife of 44 years, Pam; children, Nicholas Dean (Abigail), Kelsey Jean (Cory Buchholz), Elizabeth Grace (Jordan Hallman), and Charles Raymond (Jade); grandchildren, Colton, Caylix, Coyer, and Kenley Buchholz, and Ezekiel Aakre; siblings, Dwight (Karen), Phyllis, Dale, and Jan Reiser; and nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Nancy; and brother-in-law, Larry Reiser.



Celebrating the Life of

Dean Aakre

March 11, 1955 ~ January 26, 2026

I Am A Lucky Man

Raised by parents who provided for my every need.
Raised with siblings with whom I respect and love deeply.

I am a lucky man.

Married to an angel, you are my strength, my inspiration.

Blessed with loving children
who value the skills and talents of each other.

I am a lucky man.

Blessed with grandchildren five.

I am a lucky man.

Blessed with an extended family which includes all of you.

I am a lucky man.

Blessed with my Savior Jesus Christ.

I am a lucky man.

D. Elliott



Visitation and Prayer Service

Friday, January 30, 2026 ~ 4-7 pm Prayer Service 7:00 pm
Rollag Lutheran Church, Rollag, Minnesota

Funeral Services

Saturday, January 31, 2026 ~ 11:00 am
Rollag Lutheran Church, Rollag, Minnesota

Officiating ~ Rev. Keith Zeh

Eulogist ~ Nic Aakre

Scripture Readers

Colton, Caylix, and Coyer Buchholz

Special Music

“Why Me Lord”

Rollag Gospel Trio

“What A Wonderful World”

Recorded by Louis Armstrong

Congregational Hymns

“Just As I Am” (Dean’s Confirmation Hymn)

“Amazing Grace”

Rosie Carr, organist

Honorary Pallbearers

Kristen Edeen Stephanie Nelson

Allison Aakre Megan Coffel

Pallbearers

Josh Hagen Zach Hagen Matt Aakre Ben Aakre

Ben Evert Jon Evert (in spirit) Dan Aakre

Final Resting Place

Rollag Lutheran Cemetery

Rollag, Minnesota

