

a TRUE FISHERMAN  
knows when and where  
the fish are biting.  
He rises up early in the morning,  
plying the water for that  
*elusive catch,*  
waiting in the stillness for a nibble  
A slight twitch in the line,  
expertly he reels it in –  
A good fisherman  
knows a keeper when he sees one,  
he knows when to toss one back,  
and when to **head for home.**

*Celebrating* THE *Life* OF

*James Lee Gillespie*

NOVEMBER 1, 1933 – SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

**Services At:**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church - Chokio, Minnesota  
Monday, September 22, 2025 - 10:30 a.m.

**Officiating Clergy:**

Reverend David Tonn

**Musicians:**

Kristie Olson  
Kimberly Holt

**Soloist:**

Abby Weick - On Eagles Wings  
Carrie Vander Bussche - Deer Pants

**Pallbearers:**

Kimberly Gillespie-Holt  
Wayne Gillespie

**Interment:**

Chokio Lutheran Cemetery  
Chokio, Minnesota

**James L. Gillespie** born November 1, 1933 to Donald O. Gillespie and Mabel A. (Spittle) Gillespie on the farm site south of Chokio. He grew up in the Chokio area. He was baptized July 7, 1940 at Zion Lutheran in Chokio. Was confirmed June 19, 1949. He attended grade school District 52 through the 8th grade and graduated from Chokio High School on May 28, 1952. Jim farmed with his dad and brother, Coke. After his dad's death he continued to farm with his brother. They did custom corn shelling, baling, and raised several cattle and hogs. Jim was a self-taught machanic. He worked for Jo-Ko Manufacturing for several years. Jim was a Jack of all trades, he could fix just about anything

Jim was very active in the Chokio Sportsman Club, Pheasant Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Save a Lake, Graceville Gun Club, NRA Life member, and was a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Jim went into the Grace Home in Graceville, Minnesota in August of 2023. He enjoyed living there, living with all his new friends. He loved playing bingo and cards, made cookies and pies, going on their little trips in the bus and on the golf cart, and planting his tomato's and his flower garden with Darcy at the home.

Jim enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing cards, going to auction sales, trapping, and having morning coffee at Ordell's with the boys, and enjoyed visiting with family and friends.

Jim died on Monday, September 15, 2025 at the Grace Home in Graceville, Minnesota. He was 91 years old.

He is survived by his brothers and sisters: Harvey (Nancy) Gillespie, Glen (Kahla) Gillespie, Donna Eystad, and Lois (Bernie) Van Eps; his sister-in-law's: Doris Gillespie, Marilyn Gillespie, and Lynn Gillespie; and his God children: Kimberly (Gillespie) Holt, Wayne Gillespie, and Stacey (Gillespie) Spraque; and his many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents Donald and Mabel Gillespie; his brothers: Allen Gillespie, Paul Gillespie, Keith Gillespie, and Gary Gillespie; his brother-in-law: Duke Eystad; and his grandparents, uncles, and aunts.



Please use this QR Code to access  
Jim's online guestbook and tribute video.

**Pedersen**  
Funeral & Cremation Service

I N L O V I N G  
*Memory*

