

And on the 8th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, "I need a caretaker." So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in the fields, milk cows again, eat supper and then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board." So God made a farmer.

"I need somebody with arms strong enough to rustle a calf and yet gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild. Somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry, have to wait lunch until his wife's done feeding visiting ladies and tell the ladies to be sure and come back real soon -- and mean it." So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a newborn colt. And watch it die. Then dry his eyes and say, 'Maybe next year!' I need somebody who can shape an ax handle from a persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire, who can make harness out of haywire, feed sacks and shoe scraps. And who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his forty-hour week by Tuesday noon, then, pain'n from 'tractor back,' put in another seventy-two hours." So God made a farmer.

God had to have somebody willing to ride the ruts at double speed to get the hay in ahead of the rain clouds and yet stop in mid-field and race to help when he sees the first smoke from a neighbor's place. So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody strong enough to clear trees and heave bails, yet gentle enough to tame lambs and wean pigs and tend the pink-combed pullets, who will stop his mower for an hour to splint the broken leg of a meadow lark. It had to be somebody who'd plow deep and straight and not cut corners. Somebody to seed, weed, feed, breed and rake and disc and plow and plant and tie the fleece and strain the milk and replenish the self-feeder and finish a hard week's work with a five-mile drive to church.

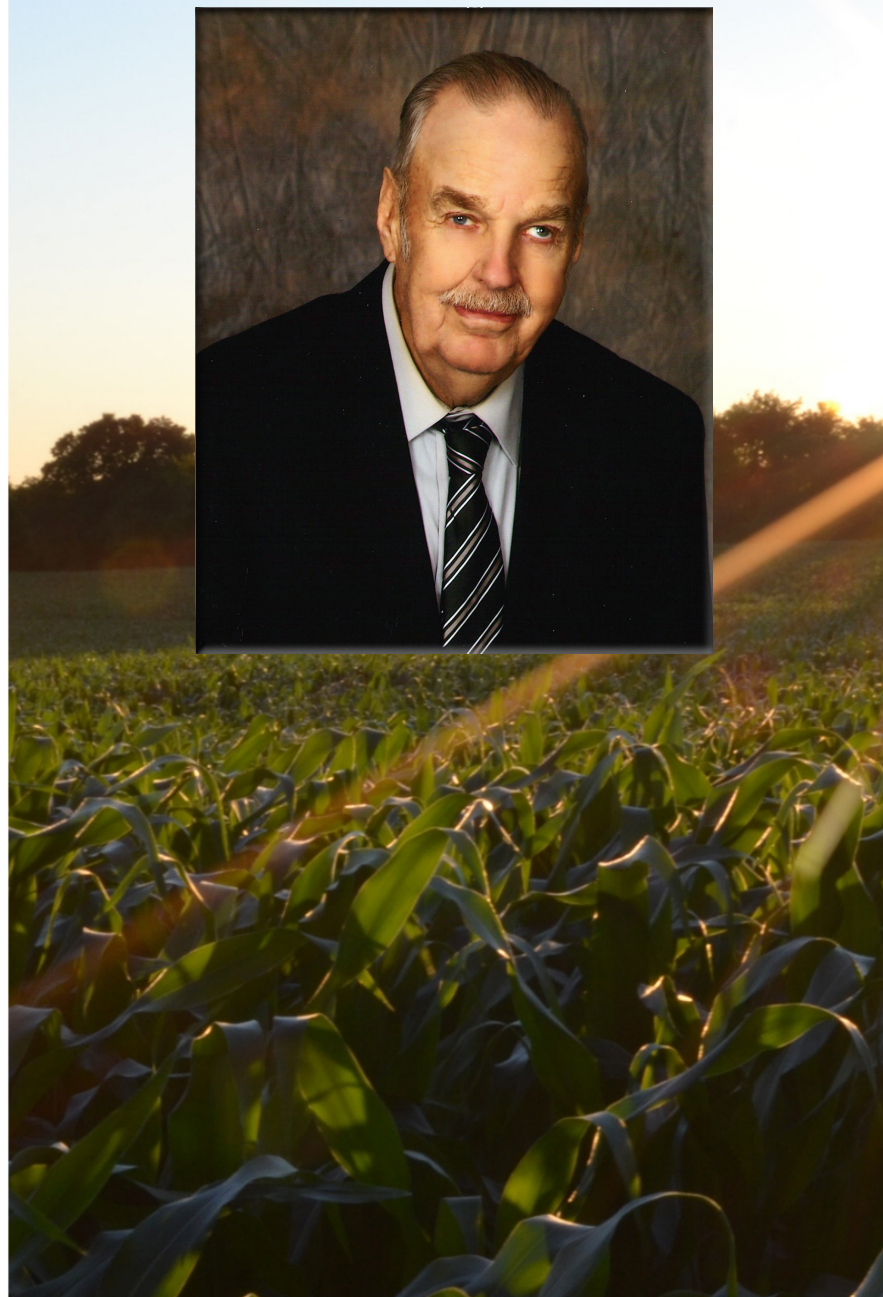
"Somebody who'd bale a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing, who would laugh and then sigh, and then reply, with smiling eyes, when his son says he wants to spend his life 'doing what dad does.'" So God made a farmer.

- Paul Harvey

Arrangements under the care of
HARTQUIST FUNERAL HOME

In Loving Memory of
Teunis "Tony" Van Grootheest

August 5, 1942 - August 13, 2026



Funeral Service
Tuesday, August 18, 2026 - 1:30 PM
American Reformed Church
Luverne, Minnesota

Officiating - Pastor Mike Altena

Scripture
John 3:16

Organist - Glenda Jacobsma

Special Music
"Drive" - As recorded by Alan Jackson

Congregational Hymns
"Love Lifted Me"
"How Great Thou Art"
"When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder"

Casket Bearers
Larry Van Dyke Rex Van Dyke Gene Van Dyke
Gary Van Dyke Roger Carlson
Mike Van Grootheest Matt Van Grootheest

Honorary Casket Bearers
Matthew Van Grootheest Michaela Van Grootheest
McKenzie Van Grootheest Antonio Van Grootheest
Sophia Van Grootheest Peter Van Grootheest
Noah Van Grootheest Elijah Van Grootheest
Gabrielle Van Grootheest Joshua Van Grootheest
Maya Van Grootheest Eden Van Grootheest
Hannah Hoiland Karly Kruse
Leah Kruse Kallista Van Grootheest
Huntley Van Grootheest

Interment
Maplewood Cemetery
Luverne, Minnesota

*Following the committal service, friends are invited
to join the family in the church's fellowship hall.*

Tony was born on August 5, 1942, in Fairview, SD, to John and Elizabeth (Schelling) Van Grootheest. He attended country school and completed his eighth-grade education. At the age of 15, Tony began working as a hired farm hand for area farmers. His strong work ethic and love of farming became an important part of who he was throughout his life.

On January 2, 1963, Tony was united in marriage to Sadie Van De Kieft in Rock Rapids, IA. In 1964, they moved to Steen, Minnesota, where Tony continued working in agriculture. In January 1966, Tony and Sadie moved to Hardwick, MN, where Tony began farming. He farmed for 56 years, building a life and raising his family in the Hardwick community. Farming was more than a job to Tony; it was a way of life that reflected his hard work, determination, and love for the land. Tony and Sadie retired and moved to Luverne, MN on April 16, 2022.

Tony enjoyed the simple pleasures of life and spending time with others. He was a long-time member of the American Reformed Church in Luverne. He enjoyed playing dice, going out for coffee with friends, traveling with family and friends, and trying his luck at the casino. Tony opened the café so local farmers from Hardwick could come in for coffee in the mornings. He looked forward to those mornings and took great joy in catching up with the farmers, hearing what was happening around the area, and visiting with old friends.

Most of all, Tony loved his family. He especially cherished time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, teaching them to drive the truck, four-wheeler, and tractor on the farm. He enjoyed making memories with root beer floats, homemade applesauce, and teaching them card and dice games like 10,000, 6-5-4, and Hi-Low. Above all, Tony loved watching his family spend time together at the farm and treasured those memories dearly.

Tony died peacefully on Thursday, August 13, 2026, at the Good Samaritan Society - Mary Jane Brown Home in Luverne at the age of 84 years and eight days.

Tony is survived by his wife, Sadie, of 63 years; five children, Michael (Maryln) Van Grootheest of Luverne, Larry (Katia) Van Grootheest of Arden Hills, MN, Leroy (Heather) Van Grootheest of Eagan, MN, Loren Van Grootheest of North Mankato, MN, and Michele (Kory) Kruse of Ellsworth, MN; 15 grandchildren; Matthew (Katie), Michaela, McKenzie (fiancé Josh Muth) Van Grootheest, Antonio, Sophia Van Grootheest, Elijah, Gabrielle, Joshua, Maya, Eden Van Grootheest, Peter, Noah Van Grootheest, Hannah (Christian) Hoiland, Karly, Leah (fiancé Jonny Kill) Kruse; great-grandchildren, Kallista, Huntley Van Grootheest and soon to be Baby Hoiland; four brothers, Cornie Van Grootheest, Wilbur (Barb) Van Grootheest, Lawrence (Dee) Van Grootheest all of Rock Valley, Iowa, and John Van Grootheest of Sheboygan, WI; four sisters, Harriet (Marinus) Van De Kieft of Rock Valley, Betty Van Grootheest of Canton, SD, Rivinia Filipek of Sioux Falls, SD, and Joann Shaw of Sioux Falls; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Elizabeth; two brothers, Gerrit and Henry Van Grootheest; and his twin sister, Tracy Van Grootheest.

His greatest legacy is the example he gave his family of working hard, caring for others, staying connected to his community, and making time for the people he loved. Tony's family will forever cherish the memories, stories, laughter, and love he leaves behind.