

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

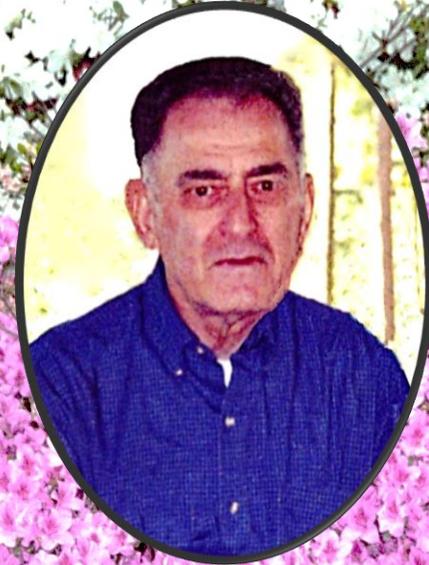
God said, I need somebody willing to get up before
dawn, milk the cows, work all day in the field, milk
the cows again, eat supper then go to town and stay
past midnight at a meeting of the school board.
So God made a Farmer.

God said, I need somebody willing to sit up
all night with a newborn calf and watch it die,
then dry his eyes and say maybe next year.
I need somebody who can shape an axe handle
from a persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a
hunk of car tire, who can make a harness out of
hay wire, feed sacks and shoe scraps, who at
planting time and harvest season, will finish his
40-hour week by Tuesday noon and then paining
from tractor back, put in another 72 hours.
So God made a Farmer.

God said, I need somebody strong enough to
clear trees and heave bales, yet gentle enough to
wean lambs and pigs and tend to pink-combed
pullets; who will stop his mower for an hour to
splint the broken leg of a meadowlark.
So God made a Farmer.

It had to be somebody who'd plow deep and straight
and not cut corners; somebody to seed and weed,
feed and breed, rake and disk, plow and plant,
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 would
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.

In Loving Memory



Elmer Keller
July 31, 1927 ~ April 12, 2025

IN LOVING MEMORY

Elmer Keller

1927 ~ 2025

FUNERAL SERVICE

11:00 a.m.

Saturday, April 19, 2025

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Scotland, South Dakota

CLERGY

Rev. Brian Mosemann

MUSIC

Delilah Hahn ~ pianist

Congregational Hymns

Amazing Grace

Lord Take My Hand

I'm But a Stranger Here

CASKETBEARERS

Justin Dewald, Derek Hahn, Kalen Maruska,

Damien Hahn, Rob Cannon & Matthew Friederich

INTERMENT

Friedens Reformed Church Cemetery

Tripp, South Dakota

MILITARY RITES

Army Honor Guard &

Scotland VFW Post 2966

Elmer was born on Sunday, July 31, 1927 on a farm in Hutchinson County to Carl and Albina (Stoebner) Keller. He joined his sister Lenora. Later Bertha, Ruben and Melvin joined the family. His parents primarily spoke German. Elmer attended a one room country school. The year he was expected to start school, he came down with pneumonia and had to wait a year, so he and Bertha were classmates. While he was sick, he stayed with his aunt and uncle in town so the doctor could check on him and perform treatments including draining fluid from Elmer's lungs by sticking a needle through his back. Each time the doctor did this, he would get a quarter. Elmer continued to miss a lot of school helping his Dad on the farm. In 1942, Carl's leg was severely broken and recovery required spending seven months in a Minneapolis hospital. During this time, along with the guidance of a couple of his uncles, Elmer managed the farm.

Elmer was drafted during World War II and completed his basic training. As he was being shipped out, the war ended and he returned home. When the Korean war began, he was called to duty and was stationed in Germany. He served there from 1951 to 1953. While in Germany, his superiors found out that he knew German, so he became an interpreter and driver for an officer who surveyed the damage done by the Americans during World War II. After his honorable discharge, he returned to South Dakota and helped his father farm.

Elmer was married to Carol Jeanette Hahn on September 27, 1953. To this union 5 daughters were born, Pamela, Mona, Teresa, Susan and Renee. Elmer raised cattle, pigs and farmed. He was a hard, honest worker whose main priority was to provide for his family. Carol passed away on July 31, 1987. Elmer continued to farm until the late 80s. He then worked for Myron and Pat Stoebner and drove school bus for a number of years. In 1993 he moved to Georgia to be close to his daughter, Pam.

On January 20, 1994, Elmer married Geraldine Thornhill. Geraldine passed away December 20, 2020. Elmer then returned to South Dakota.

Elmer passed away Saturday April 12, 2025, at the Good Samaritan Center in Scotland, SD at the age of 97.

Elmer is survived by 5 daughters, 12 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren: Pamela Rhodes and her children – Tim and Christina (Lily Beth, Eva Cate, and Jake), Matthew and Grace (Charlotte), and Bethany; Mona (Dave) Nelles and her children – Stephanie and Jarod Guthmiller (Paige, Mya and Jase), and Justin Dewald and Chanda Bierema; Teresa Vlasman and her daughter – Jessica and Rob Cannon (Landon); Susan Punt and her children – Collette and Bret Krutsch (Kadyn and Karsyn), Damon, and Nathan and Carrie (Eva and Grayson); Renee (Steve) Maruska and her children – Kalley Hodgins (Ethan, Kami and Addy), Derek and Danielle Hahn (Jase, Mariah, Quinten and Damien) and Kalen Maruska. He is also survived by his sister, Bertha (Victor, deceased) Friederich, many nieces and nephews.

Others dear to his heart include his friend, LaVerne Goeken and his Georgia family, Rick and Urooj Ali (Ayaan and Raiyaan).

He was preceded in death by his wives, Carol and Geraldine; his parents; sister, Lenora (Julius) Dewald; brothers, Ruben and Melvin, and many brothers and sisters-in-law.