

Luke was born on February 28th, 2026, in Sioux Falls, SD to Allie (Thiesse) and Nicholas LaFave, joining big sisters Eleanor and Hannah.

Luke was diagnosed with Trisomy 18. Many times his family was told he would not survive in utero or live beyond birth. Yet from the very beginning, Luke David, whose name reflects “a beloved bringer of light”, showed extraordinary strength. He arrived and continued to fight in ways that inspired everyone around him.

In just his short life, Luke underwent multiple surgeries, facing more than most do in a lifetime. Time and time again, he defied expectations, challenging medical professionals to think outside the box and leaving a lasting impression on all who cared for him. In his own way, Luke blessed his family with 56 days of love, resilience, and precious time together.

Though his life was brief, Luke’s impact was immeasurable. He filled his family’s days with hope and a deep love that will never fade. Luke loved his pacifier, being swaddled, and had a way of giving the most unforgettable suspicious side eye. He also had the best smile that seemed to appear at just the moments it was needed most, bringing comfort and light to those who loved him.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Hannah. We take comfort in imagining Luke now held in perfect peace, united with Hannah.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be directed to the Ronald McDonald House of Sioux Falls, South Dakota and to Support Organization For Trisomy (SOFT) in honor of Luke’s life.

In Memory Of Luke David LaFave

February 28, 2026 † April 25, 2026

Celebration of Life

3:00 PM Saturday

May 9, 2026

Lutheran Church of Dell Rapids
Dell Rapids, South Dakota

Officiating

Pastor Willie Rosin
Pastor Jordan Stone

Pianist

Rachel Pierson

Soloist

John Pollman

Special Music

“Child Of The Water”

“I Will Carry You” & “Safe In The Arms of Jesus”

Honorary Pallbearers

NICU Nurse Crissy NICU Nurse Jacey
Dr. Michael McNamara Eleanor LaFave

Luke’s family would like to thank everyone for your love and caring support. They invite you all to join them for snacks in the fellowship hall immediately following the service.

*A Celebration
Of Life*



Luke David LaFave

February 28, 2026 - April 25, 2026