

In Loving Memory
Duane C. Spooner

In Loving Memory of
Duane C. Spooner

Entered Life: April 19, 1952

Crosby, North Dakota

Entered Eternal Life: October 19, 2020

Fargo, North Dakota

Memorial Service

2:00 P.M. Saturday, October 24, 2020

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Tappen, North Dakota

Pastor Gerhardt Juergens, ***Officiating***

Beth Leier, ***Accompanist***

Honorary Pallbearers

Jackson Sinclair ~ Brielle Sinclair

Thornton Sinclair ~ Everett Sinclair



I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me.

I took his hand when I heard him call

I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day

To laugh, to love, to work or play.

Tasks undone must stay that way.

I found that peace at close of day.

If my parting has left a void

Then fill it with remembered joy.

A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,

Ah, yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow

I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.

My life's been full, I've savored much,

Good friends, good times,

A loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,

Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.

Lift up your hearts and share with me

God wanted me now:

He set me free.

April 19, 1952 ~ October 19, 2020

On October 19, 2020, Duane Curtis Spooner left his terrestrial binds for the great ethereal hunting plains.

Duane was born April, 19, 1952 in Crosby, ND as the third of six children. His parents Alan and Ethel (Nygaard) Spooner were farmers in Noonan, ND and worked hard to provide for and instill the hard work ethic, integrities, and values that Duane used to carry himself through life. As an adolescent, Duane hunted, played football, and began his love of fast cars, spending hours with his brothers and friends fixing his 56 Chevy only so that he could break it again.

After high school, Duane attended NDSU for a spell before returning home to work on the farm and the body shop, until he became the manager of the elevator in Northgate, ND. While there, he met and fell for the love of his life and wife of 41 years, Kristie Ganskop. In the middle of an April blizzard in 1979, the two wed, which was a fitting start to the whirlwind of their life together. They soon set out to establish roots of their own by moving and renting farmland in McKenzie, ND. While there, in 1980, Duane's first child Josh was born in October, right in the middle of a harvest and opening pheasant weekend. In August 1982, their small family grew with the birth of Duane's daughter, Andrea and they purchased a farm in Tappen, ND. In 1984, they welcomed their 2nd son, Eric but by 1986, they could not escape the farm crisis and sold the farm.

Duane entered a new chapter of his life by enrolling in the Colorado School of Trades and began his path as a master gunsmith and custom rifle builder. The family moved to Lakewood, CO while Duane completed his studies. In 1987, the family returned to Tappen, ND and he founded Duane's Gun Repair. Over the next several years, Duane did double duty as gunsmith and Mr. Mom while Kristie went back to school to earn her degree in Addiction Counseling and Social Work. Duane was very active in his children's lives, hosting epic NES Tecmo Superbowl football tournaments, coaching their baseball teams, teaching them to shoot and hunt, and always finding time to attend their activities and sporting events no matter the distance or inconvenience.

Being an avid hunter and fisherman, he enjoyed many adventurous family vacations, and traded several custom rifles for once-in-a-lifetime hunting and fishing trips for his family.

In 2003, he began a part time role as the business manager of Tappen Public Schools and shortly after became the full-time business manager. With the consolidation of the county schools, he moved into a new role as Business Manager for the South Central Regional Council.

With joy, he witnessed the marriage of his daughter Andrea in 2007 to Tjaden Sinclair and the marriage of his son Eric in 2016 to Maria Krogen. He welcomed his first grandchild, Jackson in 2009, followed by Brielle (2011), Thornton (2013), Lola (2015) and Everett (2017). His grandchildren were truly the love of his life and he loved nothing better than to spend time with them.

In 2016, at the bequest of his son Joshua, Duane partnered with Josh to move Duane's Gun Repair to Fargo, ND where he worked until his sudden passing.

Duane loved to engage in conversation about all topics of life, and could strike up a conversation with anyone. Family was always first for him and he always said his best accomplishment in life was his children and how involved he was in their childhood. His kind, generous nature touched many lives and his passing has left a void that cannot be filled.

He is survived by his wife, Kristie; children, Joshua (special friend Ayanna), Moorhead, MN, Andrea (Tjaden) Sinclair with children Jackson, Brielle, Thornton, and Everett, Fargo, ND, Eric (Maria), West Fargo, ND; mother, Ethel, Crosby, ND; sister, Donna Hegle, Bismarck, ND; brothers, Mark (Lori) Spooner, Noonan, ND, Albert (Mae) Spooner, Minneapolis, MN, Todd Spooner, Crosby, ND and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his dad, Alan, grandchild, Lola, brother, Keith, brother-in-law, Ken and father-in-law, Art.

Arrangements entrusted to the care of



P: *We pray.* Almighty LORD, everlasting God, gracious Father, you comfort us with your gracious promises of eternal life and salvation, earned for us by our Savior Jesus. We thank you for every gracious blessing you gave *Duane*. He has now finished his race. He now rests with you from his struggles and labors. Help us all to treasure the gospel of our living Lord Jesus so that we die in peace, trusting our Savior, receiving the gift of eternal life. We pray in Jesus' holy name.

All: Amen.

We pray as our Savior taught us: *The Lord's Prayer*. **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

A Blessing:

P: May our heavenly Father who created us, protect and preserve us.
May our Lord Jesus who redeemed us by his death and resurrection comfort us with his gracious gift of eternal life.
And may the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us through God's Word of truth, keep us in the true faith in Jesus Christ unto life everlasting.

All: Amen.

Closing Hymn 379:3-4, "Amazing Grace"

- 2. The Lord has prom-ised good to me, His Word my hope se-cures. He will my shield and por-tion be, as long as life en-dures.**
- 3. Through man-y dan-gers, toils, and snares, I have al-read-y come, 'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.**
- 4. When we've been there ten thou-sand years, Bright shin-ing as the sun, We've no less days to sing God's praise, Than when we'd first be-gun.**

Organist: Mrs. Sarah Juergens,
Officiant: Rev. Gerhardt Juergens

The Christian Victory Funeral Service for Duane is
Saturday, Oct 24, 2pm
at *St. John's Lutheran Church*, Tappen, ND.



Family Memorial Service for Duane Spooner

(April 19, 1952 - October 19, 2020)

St John's Lutheran, Tappen, ND

6pm, Oct 23, 2020

P: We begin in the name of the LORD, our almighty God: the Father, the Son (†), and God the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

Hymn 379:1, "Amazing Grace"

- 1. A-maz-ing grace- how sweet the sound- that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.**

P: Dear Friends, God did not create Adam and Eve to die. But after Satan deceived them, they disobeyed God. They sinned. As we see today, the wages of sin is death. We are reminded of God's Word to fallen Adam, "*By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.*" (Gen 3:19)

But God in his grace sent his Son, the God who became a man. Jesus was sacrificed once for all. Jesus died to pay the price of all our sins. Then on Easter, Christ rose from the dead. Now whoever looks to Jesus in faith has eternal life. Paul reminds us. "*For since death came through a man, [Adam] the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. [Christ] For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.*" (1 Cor 15:21-23) Therefore the death for a Christian is not the end of life, but just the beginning of eternal life in the glorious paradise of heaven. Jesus gives us the victory over death.

When Jesus returns, "*We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-- in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. Then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." [Isaiah 25:8] "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" [Hosea 13:14] But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*" (1 Cor 15:51ff)

Therefore dearly beloved, since we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ on the Last Day. Godly wisdom teaches us to honor every day of grace by trusting Christ as our Savior. "*If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we*

belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he is the Lord of both the dead and the living.” (Rom 14:8ff) Therefore, with Paul we confess, “*For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*” ²² *If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know!* ²³ *I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far.” (Phil 1:21)* Thus we “*press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus.*” ^(Phil 3:14) By God’s grace, by his promise, we, as believers will enjoy eternal life in our heavenly home. **All: Amen.**

We read from Psalm 130:

P: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

C: **O LORD, hear my voice.**

P: Let your ears be attentive

C: **to my cry for mercy.**

P: If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,

C: **O Lord, who could stand?**

P: But with you there is forgiveness;

C: **Therefore you are feared.**

P: *We pray:* O LORD God of mercy and grace, we give you thanks for your loving kindness for everyone with *Duane* who has finished their race in faith. They now rest from their labors with you in glory. Enable us through your gospel of the crucified and risen Jesus Christ to be faithful unto death so that we also receive the crown of eternal life, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our risen and living Lord. **C: Amen**

Time for sharing memories about Duane...

Song: *Even If*, by Mercy Me

P: We read responsively *Psalm 23* about Jesus, our Good Shepherd:

P: The LORD is my Shepherd,

C: **I shall not want.**

P: He makes me lie down in green pastures,

C: **He leads me beside quiet waters.**

P: He restores my soul,

C: **He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name sake.**

P: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, [why?]

C: **For you are with me, your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

P: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

C: **You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.**

(2)

In Revelation 14, the Apostle John is taken up to heaven to receive another of 7 visions to comfort God’s believers. John heard the voice of the exulted Christ. “**And I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”** This is directly from God himself. Not a trick or a lie, but the truth from Christ, “**Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.**” When a Christian believer dies with faith in Jesus as their Savior, they are truly blessed. Jesus says, “**Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.**” ^(Lk 11:28) Spiritual blessings come to us by keeping God’s Word. Yes, we have eternal blessings!

Yes, “**Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.**” On Monday evening, despite Duane fighting to stay alive with his family, his race was over. Jesus said to Duane, “**Today you will be with me in paradise.**” ^(Lk 23:43) Monday, the believing soul of Duane went home to heaven to be with Jesus. Not because Duane earned or deserves heaven. Duane would be the first to tell he doesn’t. Duane is in heaven because he trusted Jesus as his Savior who earned heaven for him. Christ died for Duane and opened heaven by his resurrection. Duane also received the Lord’s Supper the first Sunday this month. He was assured again that his sin was forgiven by Christ. We rejoice, “**And I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”** Duane has faith in our Triune God. Yes, “***Duane Is Truly Blessed!***” Claimed by the Father, covered by the blood of the Son, and sealed by the Holy Spirit. Amen.

P: We now confess our faith in our Triune God with the *Apostles Creed*:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(7)

Duane could say when fell at home, and the ambulance took him to the hospital, *“There was one step between me and eternal life.”*

Why does God allow such tragedy? To punish us? Nope! To warn us! Jesus said, **“Those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them-- do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”** (Lk 13:4-5) We Christians live a life of repentant faith, confessing our sin to God, trusting Jesus has taken away our sin. Every moment of life is a precious gift. Treasure it!

Today we are also sad. Sad, since we are saying so long to Duane. Sad, he won't see his grandchildren grow up. We are sad for Kristie for losing her husband of 41 years. We are sad for Josh, Andrea, and Eric for losing their Dad, and Josh's business partner.

But as Christians, tonight we rejoice! Duane is a baptized child of God, with God's promise of eternal life. When Martha's brother Lazarus died, Jesus said, **“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never perish.”** (Jn 11:25) Then to prove his power over death, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. Jesus defeated death on Easter. Now when a Christian believer dies, we know God takes their soul to heaven. Jesus told the believing criminal on the cross, **“Today you will be with me in paradise.”** (Lk 23:43) Knowing this truth Paul desired, **“to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far.”** (Phil 1:23) So when a believer dies we are happy for them. We rejoice! Our funeral text helps us rejoice. It is from Revelation. Jesus gave the Apostle John a series of visions to reveal to his people the future of the NT age. Because of sin and Satan is constantly attacking us, the church, Revelation is a commentary on some NT verses. Acts 14:22 says, **“We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.”** We all know hardship, especially with Covid and death. Christ also warns us with a promise. **“Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of many will grow cold. But whoever endures to the end will be saved.”** (Mat 24:12) Revelation also echoes Christ's Word, **“I have told you these things, so that in me you have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”** (Jn 16:33) Revelation comforts and strengthens us Christian in our struggles these last days. Now it seems, as evil is winning. But Revelation tells us, **“In the end, Christ wins!”** When Christ wins, we win, and Duane has won

P: Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,

C: **And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

A Lesson from God's Word:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you do not grieve in the same way as the others, who have no hope. ¹⁴ Indeed, if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, then in the same way we also believe that God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus. ¹⁵ In fact, we tell you this by the word of the Lord: We who are alive and left until the coming of the Lord will certainly not go on ahead of those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore, encourage one another with these words.

Hymn 451, “Precious Lord Take My Hand”

- 1. Precious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn. Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the Light. Take my hand, precious Lord, Lead me home.**
- 2. When my ways grows drear, Precious Lord, linger near, When my life is almost gone, Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand lest I fall. Take my hand, precious Lord, Lead me home.**
- 3. When the darkness appears, And the night draws near, And the day is almost gone, At the river I stand, Guide me feet, hold my hand, Take my hand, precious Lord, Lead me home.**

(3)

Duane C. Spooner, 68, Tappen, ND passed away Monday, October 19, 2020 at Essentia Health, Fargo. Memorial Service: 2:00 P.M. Saturday, October 24, 2020 at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tappen, ND with visitation starting at 1:00 P.M. On October 19, 2020, Duane Curtis Spooner left his terrestrial binds for the great ethereal hunting plains.

Duane was born April, 19, 1952 in Crosby, ND as the third of six children. His parents Alan and Ethel (Nygaard) Spooner were farmers in Noonan, ND and worked hard to provide for and instill the hard work

ethic, integrities, and values that Duane used to carry himself through life. As an adolescent, Duane hunted, played football, and began his love of fast cars, spending hours with his brothers and friends fixing his 56 Chevy only so that he could break it again.

After high school, Duane attended NDSU for a spell before returning home to work on the farm and the body shop, until he became the manager of the elevator in Northgate, ND. While there, he met and fell for the love of his life and wife of 41 years, Kristie Ganskop. In the middle of an April blizzard in 1979, the two wed, which was a fitting start to the whirlwind of their life together. They soon set out to establish roots of their own by moving and renting farmland in McKenzie, ND. While there, in 1980, Duane's first child Josh was born in October, right in the middle of a harvest and opening pheasant weekend. In August 1982, their small family grew with the birth of Duane's daughter, Andrea and they purchased a farm in Tappen, ND. In 1984, they welcomed their 2nd son, Eric but by 1986, they could not escape the farm crisis and sold the farm.

Duane entered a new chapter of his life by enrolling in the Colorado School of Trades and began his path as a master gunsmith and custom rifle builder. The family moved to Lakewood, CO while Duane completed his studies. In 1987, the family returned to Tappen, ND and he founded Duane's Gun Repair. Over the next several years, Duane did double duty as gunsmith and Mr. Mom while Kristie went back to school to earn her degree in Addiction Counseling and Social Work. Duane was very active in his children's lives, hosting epic NES Tecmo Superbowl football tournaments, coaching their baseball teams, teaching them to shoot and hunt, and always finding time to attend their activities and sporting events no matter the distance or inconvenience.

Being an avid hunter and fisherman, he enjoyed many adventurous family vacations, and traded several custom rifles for once-in-a-lifetime hunting and fishing trips for his family. In 2003, he began a part time role as the business manager of Tappen Public Schools and shortly after became the full-time business manager. With the consolidation of the county schools, he moved into a new role as Business Manager for the South Central Regional Council. With joy, he witnessed the marriage of his daughter Andrea in 2007 to Tjaden Sinclair and the marriage of his son Eric in 2016 to Maria Krogen. He welcomed his first grandchild, Jackson in 2009, followed by Brielle (2011), Thornton (2013), Lola (2015) and Everett (2017). His

grandchildren were truly the love of his life and he loved nothing better than to spend time with them.

In 2016, at the bequest of his son Joshua, Duane partnered with Josh to move Duane's Gun Repair to Fargo, ND where he worked until his sudden passing.

Duane loved to engage in conversation about all topics of life, and could strike up a conversation with anyone. Family was always first for him and he always said his best accomplishment in life was his children and how involved he was in their childhood. His kind, generous nature touched many lives and his passing has left a void that cannot be filled.

He is survived by his wife, Kristie; children, Joshua (special friend Ayanna), Moorhead, MN, Andrea (Tjaden) Sinclair with children Jackson, Brielle, Thornton, and Everett, Fargo, ND, Eric (Maria), West Fargo, ND; mother, Ethel, Crosby, ND; sister, Donna Hegle, Bismarck, ND; brothers, Mark (Lori) Spooner, Noonan, ND, Albert (Mae) Spooner, Minneapolis, MN, Todd Spooner, Crosby, ND and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his dad, Alan, grandchild, Lola, brother, Keith, brother-in-law, Ken and father-in-law, Art.

Memorial Service: 2:00 P.M. Saturday, October 24, 2020 at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tappen, ND with visitation starting at 1:00 P.M.

(5)

A Devotion: Revelation 14:13, ***"Duane Is Truly Blessed!"***

"And I heard a voice from heaven say, 'Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'because they will rest from their labor.'" (The Word of the LORD) In the name of Jesus Christ, who was crucified, died, and rose on Easter to give Duane and you victory over sin and death.

We see clearly tonight the wages of sin is death. Our LORD took Duane suddenly. One night Duane is in his home, the next night he is taken home to heaven. But don't be mad at God for something Satan and Adam and Eve caused. Tonight, we are also reminded that the cold finger of death can take any of us at any time.

David knew this. He was anointed to be the next king of Israel. But Saul as king still had all power. David told his beloved friend and Saul's son Jonathan, **"Yet as surely as the LORD lives and as you live, there is only a step between me and death."** (1 Sam 20:3)

Go to Church website: stjohntappen.org
Select “**YouTube Channel**” to see service video,
Family Memorial Service for Duane Spooner

Or the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsB8ED1ZzpkCrcFQV-VFL6Q>

Family Memorial Service for Duane Spooner

(April 19, 1952 - October 19, 2020)

St John's Lutheran, Tappen, ND

6pm, Oct 23, 2020

P: We begin in the name of the LORD, our almighty God: the Father,
the Son (†), and God the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

Hymn 379:1, “Amazing Grace”

**1. A-maz-ing grace- how sweet the sound- that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.**

P: Dear Friends, God did not create Adam and Eve to die. But after Satan deceived them, they disobeyed God. They sinned. As we see today, the wages of sin is death. We are reminded of God's Word to fallen Adam, ***“By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”*** (Gen 3:19)

But God in his grace sent his Son, the God who became a man. Jesus was sacrificed once for all. Jesus died to pay the price of all our sins. Then on Easter, Christ rose from the dead. Now whoever looks to Jesus in faith has eternal life. Paul reminds us. ***“For since death came through a man, [Adam] the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. [Christ] For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong***

to him.” (1 Cor 15:21-23) Therefore the death for a Christian is not the end of life, but just the beginning of eternal life in the glorious paradise of heaven. Jesus gives us the victory over death.

When Jesus returns, ***“We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-- in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. Then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”*** [Isaiah 25:8] ***“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”*** [Hosea 13:14] ***But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*** (1 Cor 15:51ff)

Therefore dearly beloved, since we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ on the Last Day. Godly wisdom teaches us to honor every day of grace by trusting Christ as our Savior. ***“If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he is the Lord of both the dead and the living.”*** (Rom 14:8ff) Therefore, with Paul we confess, ***“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far.”*** (Phil 1:21) Thus we ***“press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus.”*** (Phil 3:14) By God’s grace, by his promise, we, as believers will enjoy eternal life in our heavenly home. **All: Amen.**

We read from Psalm 130:

P: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

C: **O LORD, hear my voice.**

P: Let your ears be attentive

C: **to my cry for mercy.**

P: If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,

C: **O Lord, who could stand?**

P: But with you there is forgiveness;

C: **Therefore you are feared.**

P: *We pray:* O LORD God of mercy and grace, we give you thanks for your loving kindness for everyone with *Duane* who has finished their race in faith. They now rest from their labors with you in glory. Enable us through your gospel of the crucified and risen Jesus Christ to be faithful unto death so that we also receive the crown of eternal life, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our risen and living Lord. **C: Amen**

Time for sharing memories about Duane...

Song: *Even If*, by Mercy Me

P: We read responsively *Psalm 23* about Jesus, our Good Shepherd:

P: The LORD is my Shepherd,

C: **I shall not want.**

P: He makes me lie down in green pastures,

C: **He leads me beside quiet waters.**

P: He restores my soul,

C: **He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name sake.**

P: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, [why?]

C: **For you are with me, your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

P: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

C: **You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.** (2)

P: Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,

C: **And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

A Lesson from God’s Word:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you do not grieve in the same way as the others, who have no hope. ¹⁴ Indeed, if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, then in the same way we also believe that God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus. ¹⁵ In fact, we tell you this by the word of the Lord: We who are alive and left until the coming of the Lord will certainly not go on ahead of those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore, encourage one another with these words.

Hymn 451, “Precious Lord Take My Hand”

1. Precious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn. Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the Light. Take my hand, precious Lord, Lead me home.

2. When my ways grows drear, Precious Lord, linger near, When my life is almost gone, Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand lest I fall. Take my hand, precious Lord, Lead me home.

**3. When the darkness appears, And the night draws near, And the day
is almost gone, At the river I stand, Guide me feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand, precious Lord, Lead me home.**

(3)

Duane C. Spooner, 68, Tappen, ND passed away Monday, October 19, 2020 at Essentia Health, Fargo. Memorial Service: 2:00 P.M. Saturday, October 24, 2020 at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tappen, ND with visitation starting at 1:00 P.M. On October 19, 2020, Duane Curtis Spooner left his terrestrial binds for the great ethereal hunting plains.

Duane was born April, 19, 1952 in Crosby, ND as the third of six children. His parents Alan and Ethel (Nygaard) Spooner were farmers in Noonan, ND and worked hard to provide for and instill the hard work ethic, integrities, and values that Duane used to carry himself through life. As an adolescent, Duane hunted, played football, and began his love of fast cars, spending hours with his brothers and friends fixing his 56 Chevy only so that he could break it again.

After high school, Duane attended NDSU for a spell before returning home to work on the farm and the body shop, until he became the manager of the elevator in Northgate, ND. While there, he met and fell for the love of his life and wife of 41 years, Kristie Ganskop. In the middle of an April blizzard in 1979, the two wed, which was a fitting start to the whirlwind of their life together. They soon set out to establish roots of their own by moving and renting farmland in McKenzie, ND. While there, in 1980, Duane's first child Josh was born in October, right in the middle of a harvest and opening pheasant weekend. In August 1982, their small family grew with the birth of Duane's daughter, Andrea and they purchased a farm in Tappen, ND. In 1984, they welcomed their 2nd son, Eric but by 1986, they could not escape the farm crisis and sold the farm.

Duane entered a new chapter of his life by enrolling in the Colorado School of Trades and began his path as a master gunsmith and custom rifle builder. The family moved to Lakewood, CO while Duane completed his studies. In 1987, the family returned to Tappen, ND and he founded Duane's Gun Repair. Over the next several years, Duane did double duty as gunsmith and Mr. Mom while Kristie went back to school to earn her degree in Addiction Counseling and Social Work. Duane was very active in his children's lives, hosting epic NES Tecmo Superbowl football tournaments, coaching their baseball teams, teaching

them to shoot and hunt, and always finding time to attend their activities and sporting events no matter the distance or inconvenience.

Being an avid hunter and fisherman, he enjoyed many adventurous family vacations, and traded several custom rifles for once-in-a-lifetime hunting and fishing trips for his family. In 2003, he began a part time role as the business manager of Tappen Public Schools and shortly after became the full-time business manager. With the consolidation of the county schools, he moved into a new role as Business Manager for the South Central Regional Council. With joy, he witnessed the marriage of his daughter Andrea in 2007 to Tjaden Sinclair and the marriage of his son Eric in 2016 to Maria Krogen. He welcomed his first grandchild, Jackson in 2009, followed by Brielle (2011), Thornton (2013), Lola (2015) and Everett (2017). His grandchildren were truly the love of his life and he loved nothing better than to spend time with them.

In 2016, at the bequest of his son Joshua, Duane partnered with Josh to move Duane's Gun Repair to Fargo, ND where he worked until his sudden passing.

Duane loved to engage in conversation about all topics of life, and could strike up a conversation with anyone. Family was always first for him and he always said his best accomplishment in life was his children and how involved he was in their childhood. His kind, generous nature touched many lives and his passing has left a void that cannot be filled.

He is survived by his wife, Kristie; children, Joshua (special friend Ayanna), Moorhead, MN, Andrea (Tjaden) Sinclair with children Jackson, Brielle, Thornton, and Everett, Fargo, ND, Eric (Maria), West Fargo, ND; mother, Ethel, Crosby, ND; sister, Donna Hegle, Bismarck, ND; brothers, Mark (Lori) Spooner, Noonan, ND, Albert (Mae) Spooner, Minneapolis, MN, Todd Spooner, Crosby, ND and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his dad, Alan, grandchild, Lola, brother, Keith, brother-in-law, Ken and father-in-law, Art.

Memorial Service: 2:00 P.M. Saturday, October 24, 2020 at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tappen, ND with visitation starting at 1:00 P.M.

(5)

A Devotion: Revelation 14:13, *"Duane Is Truly Blessed!"*

"And I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "because

they will rest from their labor.” (The Word of the LORD) In the name of Jesus Christ, who was crucified, died, and rose on Easter to give Duane and you victory over sin and death.

We see clearly tonight the wages of sin is death. Our LORD took Duane suddenly. One night Duane is in his home, the next night he is taken home to heaven. But don't be mad at God for something Satan and Adam and Eve caused. Tonight, we are also reminded that the cold finger of death can take any of us at any time.

David knew this. He was anointed to be the next king of Israel. But Saul as king still had all power. David told his beloved friend and Saul's son Jonathan, **“Yet as surely as the LORD lives and as you live, there is only a step between me and death.”** (1 Sam 20:3)

Duane could say when he fell at home, and the ambulance took him to the hospital, *“There was one step between me and eternal life.”*

Why does God allow such tragedy? To punish us? Nope! To warn us! Jesus said, **“Those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them-- do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”** (Lk 13:4-5) We Christians live a life of repentant faith, confessing our sin to God, trusting Jesus has taken away our sin. Every moment of life is a precious gift. Treasure it!

Today we are also sad. Sad, since we are saying so long to Duane. Sad, he won't see his grandchildren grow up. We are sad for Kristie for losing her husband of 41 years. We are sad for Josh, Andrea, and Eric for losing their Dad, and Josh's business partner.

But as Christians, tonight we rejoice! Duane is a baptized child of God, with God's promise of eternal life. When Martha's brother Lazarus died, Jesus said, **“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never perish.”** (Jn 11:25) Then to prove his power over death, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. Jesus defeated death on Easter. Now when a Christian believer dies, we know God takes their soul to heaven. Jesus told the believing criminal on the cross, **“Today you will be with me in paradise.”** (Lk 23:43) Knowing this truth Paul desired, **“to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far.”** (Phil 1:23) So when a believer dies we are happy for them. We rejoice! Our funeral text helps us rejoice. It is from Revelation. Jesus gave the Apostle John a series of visions to reveal to his people the future of the NT age. Because of sin and Satan is constantly attacking us, the church, Revelation is a commentary on some NT verses. Acts 14:22 says, **“We**

must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.” We all know hardship, especially with Covid and death. Christ also warns us with a promise. **“Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of many will grow cold. But whoever endures to the end will be saved.”**

(Mat 24:12) Revelation also echoes Christ's Word, **“I have told you these things, so that in me you have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”** (Jn 16:33)

Revelation comforts and strengthens us Christian in our struggles these last days. Now it seems, as evil is winning. But Revelation tells us, **“In the end, Christ wins!”** When Christ wins, we win, and Duane has won

In Revelation 14, the Apostle John is taken up to heaven to receive another of 7 visions to comfort God's believers. John heard the voice of the exulted Christ. **“And I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”** This is directly from God himself. Not a trick or a lie, but the truth from Christ, **“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”** When a Christian believer dies with faith in Jesus as their Savior, they are truly blessed. Jesus says, **“Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.”** (Lk 11:28) Spiritual blessings come to us by keeping God's Word. Yes, we have eternal blessings!

Yes, **“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”** On Monday evening, despite Duane fighting to stay alive with his family, his race was over. Jesus said to Duane, **“Today you will be with me in paradise.”** (Lk 23:43) Monday, the believing soul of Duane went home to heaven to be with Jesus. Not because Duane earned or deserves heaven. Duane would be the first to tell he doesn't. Duane is in heaven because he trusted Jesus as his Savior who earned heaven for him. Christ died for Duane and opened heaven by his resurrection. Duane also received the Lord's Supper the first Sunday this month. He was assured again that his sin was forgiven by Christ. We rejoice, **“And I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”** Duane has faith in our Triune God. Yes, **“Duane Is Truly Blessed!”** Claimed by the Father, covered by the blood of the Son, and sealed by the Holy Spirit. Amen.

P: We now confess our faith in our Triune God with the *Apostles Creed*:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Than when we'd first be-gun.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

P: *We pray.* Almighty LORD, everlasting God, gracious Father, you comfort us with your gracious promises of eternal life and salvation, earned for us by our Savior Jesus. We thank you for every gracious blessing you gave *Duane*. He has now finished his race. He now rests with you from his struggles and labors. Help us all to treasure the gospel of our living Lord Jesus so that we die in peace, trusting our Savior, receiving the gift of eternal life. We pray in Jesus' holy name.

All: Amen.

We pray as our Savior taught us: *The Lord's Prayer*. **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

A Blessing:

P: May our heavenly Father who created us, protect and preserve us.
May our Lord Jesus who redeemed us by his death and resurrection
comfort us with his gracious gift of eternal life.
And may the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us through God's Word of
truth, keep us in the true faith in Jesus Christ unto life everlasting.

All: Amen.

Closing Hymn 379:3-4, "Amazing Grace"

2. The Lord has prom-ised good to me, His Word my hope se-cures. He will my shield and por-tion be, as long as life en-dures.

**3. Through man-y dan-gers, toils, and snares, I have al-read-y come,
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.**

**4. When we've been there ten thou-sand years, Bright shin-ing as
the sun, We've no less days to sing God's praise,**