

Raymond (Ray) Emil Guggisberg, 95, died Monday, November 18, 2024, at his home in Perham, Minnesota with family at his side.

Ray was born at home on May 19, 1929 in Willow Lake Township, Redwood County, Minnesota, to Henry and Fredericka (Kruse) Guggisberg. He was baptized into the Lutheran faith on May 30, 1929, and confirmed on June 27, 1943, at Trinity Lutheran, Willow Lake Township. Growing up on the family farm in Willow Lake Township, he completed 8th grade at Wanda Public School before attending Lamberton High School.

Ray and Darlene Fixsen were married on September 12, 1950; they were blessed to have four children together. They began their married life on Ray's parents' family farm. In 1956 they moved to Amor Township in Otter Tail County. Four years later, they moved to Evergreen Township, Becker County. Leaving dairy farming in 1961, they started a career in the real estate business in Fergus Falls, MN before moving to Battle Lake, MN in 1962. Ray returned to his farming roots when he took a job as a supervisor for Dairy Herd Improvement Association. He tested milk for farmers all across Minnesota and made many friends. For several years after retirement, Ray worked for Battle Lake Public School, driving the van for special-needs children.

In 2019, Ray's beloved wife of 69 years, Darlene, passed away. Two years later, after 59 years in the big red house overlooking West Battle Lake, he sold the family home and moved to a townhome in Perham, MN, where he lived independently until his death.

Nourishing his faith with church attendance was a priority for Ray. He was a long-time member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Henning, where he served as Sunday school superintendent and teacher. He and Darlene were instrumental in starting Life in Christ, a LCMS mission church in Battle Lake. After moving to Perham, he became a member of St. Paul's Lutheran there.

Ray enjoyed many years with his bowling team. He took Darlene fishing in a boat, but he really preferred ice fishing. He spent many hours in his "other red house" on the lake. He was also a passionate vegetable gardener. He and Darlene preserved what they couldn't eat and shared the rest. (He continued to grow tomatoes on his patio in Perham.) Ray also loved playing cards and board games with his family. Yahtzee was his favorite, and he often scored two Yahtzees in a single game. And he could be found, even into his 90s, happily tossing bean bags.

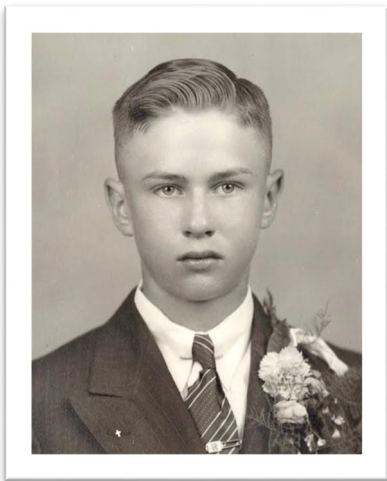
Ray is survived by his four children: Chad Guggisberg, Buhl, MN; Connie Johnson, Forest Lake, MN; Marcia (Peter) Eggen, Battle Lake, MN; and Delia (Doug) Whitcomb, Hugo, MN. He leaves eleven grandchildren and nineteen great grandchildren: Jennifer (Rich) Samec (Maja and Chloe); Emily (Clayton) Zeidler (Jillian, Vienna, and Genevieve); Louisa (Jason) Scorich (Zelda); Lara (Pat) Kempen; Mairin (Adam) Heath (Lawson and Myles); Jesse (Shauna) Johnson (Conner, Isabelle, and Lenora); Jake (Lindsey) Johnson (Colton and Tate); Thor (Vanessa) Eggen (Hayden and Silas); Eli Eggen (fiancée Pam Khang); Darcy (Ted) Frederickson (Jack and Grace); Brady (Andrea) Whitcomb (Sebastian and Lachlan); and his brother Vernon Guggisberg.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Darlene, his parents, son-in-law Bruce Johnson, daughter-in-law Joyce Guggisberg, brothers Harold, Roy, Louis, Herbert, sisters Hertha Zimmerman, Lorna Moore, and Alice Krizan.

Memorials preferred to St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Perham, MN, St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Henning, MN, or Main Street Living - Fargo, online or 821 5th Ave S., Fargo, ND 58103.

Blessed Be The Memory of Raymond Guggisberg





**But seek first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness, and all
these things will be added to you.**

Matthew 6:33 ESV
(Ray's Confirmation Verse)

My Father's Hands

His hands were large for a little girl
Around a solitary finger my hand could curl
When they lifted me, I felt secure
Sheltered in his arms; I had nothing to fear.
These hands were not afraid to toil.
They milked the cows,
They worked the soil.
Yet, they could plant a tiny seed
or tie my dress sash when in need.
Watching his hands I learned some feats
How to draw a rabbit and color neat
How to bait a worm on a hook
How to jiggle my line so the fish would look.
Deft hands that cleaned my fish,
as easily as they washed a dish.
Pious hands that often folded in prayer
and prayed for me when he couldn't be there.
In my teenage years those hands were wrung,
As my father tried to impart wisdom on the young.
Yet, those hands never turned me away
Even when I'd tend to stray.
Hands that knew when to let go
and not to say, "I told you so".
Hands that walked me down the aisle
Some of us twice and still with a smile.
These hands that I grew up with rate
with all the grandchildren and now the great.
They've played games, held many a book
and once again taken fish off the hook.
Hands that roll a bowling ball
would help a friend who's had a fall.
Caring hands give from the heart
Another lesson they impart.
These hands are memories I will hold
when they grow feeble as he grows old.
I know that they will easily tire,
But my father's hands I'll still admire.

75th Birthday
Written by Delia

In Loving Memory Of

Raymond Emil Guggisberg

May 19, 1929 ~ November 18, 2024

Visitation

Sunday, November 24, 2024
4-7 p.m.

Glende-Nilson Funeral Home, Battle Lake, Minnesota

Funeral Service

Monday, November 25, 2024 at 11 a.m.
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Perham, Minnesota

Officiating

Reverend Andrew Ratcliffe

Readings/Music

Granddaughters

Darcy Frederickson-Rev 21:1-4 & Romans 8:35-39
Jennifer Samec, organist/accompanist
Louisa Scorich, soloist
"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" "The Lord's Prayer"

Congregational Hymns

"Praise to the Lord" "To God Be the Glory"
"Abide With Me"

Pallbearers

Grandsons and Great Grandsons
Eli Eggen ~ Thor Eggen ~ Braden Whitcomb
Jack Frederickson ~ Sebastian Whitcomb ~ Lawson Heath

Interment

Lakewood Cemetery, Battle Lake, Minnesota

Appreciation

Raymond's family is grateful for your attendance at this service.
Your many expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated.
Please join family and friends for lunch and fellowship following the service.

Arrangements by

Glende-Nilson Funeral Home ~ Battle Lake ~ www.GlendeNilson.com