

Bruce Swenson, beloved father, grandfather, and cherished community member, passed away peacefully on Friday, November 15, 2024, at the family home in Scandia, the place where he was raised and spent his life surrounded by his devoted family. Bruce was born on March 21, 1939, in Saint Paul, Minnesota, the son of Herbert and Adele (Olgilvie) Swenson. He grew up on a dairy farm in Scandia, where he learned the values of hard work, dedication, and the importance of family and community. He graduated from Forest Lake High School in the Class of 1957. On June 18, 1960, Bruce married his childhood sweetheart, Janet. Their love story, which began in their youth, blossomed into a partnership that spanned over six decades. Together, they built a life filled with love, laughter, and hard work. They created a home in Scandia, nestled by the peaceful shores of Goose Lake, where they shared countless memories. Their shared adventures took them across all 50 states, including Alaska and Hawaii, to all Canadian provinces except the Yukon, and to New Zealand, Australia, Japan, and most of Europe. No matter where they went, they always returned to Scandia, where their roots ran deep. Bruce and Janet were inseparable, not just as partners in life but in business. Over the years, they ran numerous ventures together, including a hardware store, dairy farming, trucking, recycling, paper delivery routes, and the well-known Swenson Superette and catering business. Through these endeavors, Bruce earned a reputation as a hard-working, innovative, and community-driven man. He was deeply involved in everything he did, always with the goal of building a better future for those around him. A true pillar of the Scandia community, Bruce was affectionately known as the “unofficial Mayor” of the town. His love for Scandia was evident in his tireless efforts to support local initiatives and organizations. He was a dedicated member of the Scandia Marine Lions Club, a longstanding member of Elim Lutheran Church, and a familiar face at many of the local coffee clubs. Bruce also proudly participated in the ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) Club, where his witty humor and storytelling were always welcome. For over 20 years, Bruce served as a volunteer firefighter, and his commitment to his community knew no bounds. Whether through business, community service, or simply sharing a cup of coffee, Bruce was a constant presence in the lives of those who knew him. Bruce had a rare gift: the ability to make anyone he met feel important. Whether it was a lifelong friend or a complete stranger, Bruce would engage in conversation, often starting with his signature question, “Who are you, where are you from, and who are your parents?” It wasn’t just curiosity; it was Bruce’s way of connecting with people and making them feel like they belonged. These conversations often ended with Bruce gifting a “famous Swenson pen,” a gesture that would make people smile and keep his memory alive long after. In January 2024, after the passing of his beloved Janet, Bruce faced a world without his true love. Though he faced difficult days, Bruce carried on with the same resilience and determination that defined him. He began planning new adventures, eager to explore the world again—but in the summer, he was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia. Bruce fought valiantly, refusing to give up, but ultimately, he was ready to go home. He is now reunited with Janet, where he has been greeted with open arms and a love that never ended. Bruce is survived by his children, Kent (Jeannine) Swenson, Neil (Diana) Swenson, Scott (Michelle Filkins) Swenson, and Julie (Matthew) Geiger. He also leaves behind eleven adored grandchildren, Holly (Alfred) Nkemla Lienou, Michael (Kierstin) Swenson, Tanae (Justin) Christophersen, Tal (Hailey) Swenson, Cole Peterson, BaiLeigh Swenson, Hannah Swenson, Cindy Swenson, Jade (Cameron Anderson) Geiger, Mya Geiger, Grant Geiger and eight great-grandchildren, Freya and Odin Nkemla Lienou, Elliott and Caden Swenson, Ollie Christophersen, Juno Janet Swenson, Raelyn and Kaedence Peterson and one on the way; brother, Clyde Swenson; many other family and lifelong friends. Bruce is preceded in death by his parents, Herbert and Adele; wife, Janet; and sister, Roberta Jean Orley. He leaves behind a legacy of kindness, generosity, and love for his community. He will be dearly missed but never forgotten.

REMEMBERING
WITH
LOVE



BRUCE M. SWENSON

MARCH 21, 1939 ~ NOVEMBER 15, 2024

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

*-- so **G**od made a **F**armer.*

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

*-- so **G**od made a **F**armer.*

*"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, then tell the ladies to be sure
and come back real soon -- and mean it"*

*-- so **G**od made a **F**armer.*

*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; who, planting time and harvest
season, will finish his forty-hour week by Tuesday noon, and then pain'n
from tractor back, put in another seventy-two hours"*

*-- so **G**od made a **F**armer.*

*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 **G**od made a **F**armer.*

*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 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 that he wants to spend his life "doing
what dad does"*

*-- so **G**od made a **F**armer.*

In Loving Memory of
Bruce M. Swenson

Born

March 21, 1939

Saint Paul, Minnesota

Died

November 15, 2024

Scandia, Minnesota

Memorial Service

11:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 26, 2024

Elim Lutheran Church

Scandia, Minnesota

Officiating

Rev. Seth Perry

Musicians

Dennis Alfveby - Accompanist

Sylvia Mills - Soloist

Music Solo

"How Great Thou Art"

Congregational Songs

"Amazing Grace"

"In the Garden"

"On Eagle's Wings"

Urn Bearers

Kent Swenson Neil Swenson

Scott Swenson Julie Geiger

Private Interment

Elim Lutheran Cemetery

Scandia, Minnesota

Bruce's family is grateful for your attendance today.

Your many expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated.

Please join them for a luncheon and time of sharing immediately following the service at the
Scandia Community Center, 14727 209th St. N, Scandia, MN.