

## God Made A Farmer

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 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 God made a Farmer.

"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 God made a Farmer.

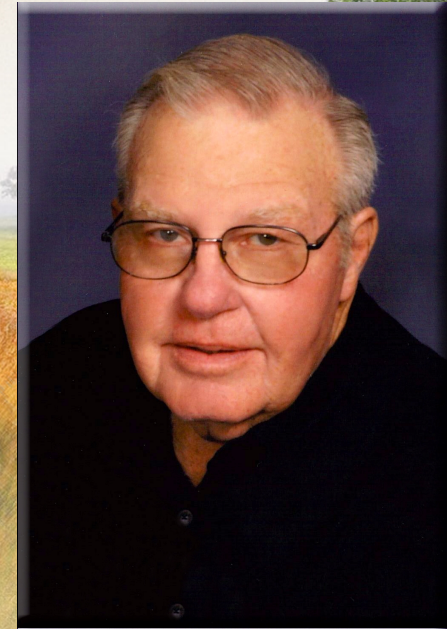
God said, "I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a newborn colt, and watch it die, then dry his eyes and say, 'Maybe next year.' I need somebody who can shape an ax handle from a persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire, who can make harness out of haywire, feed sacks and shoe 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 God made a Farmer.

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 God made a Farmer.

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 God made a Farmer.

--Paul Harvey



In Loving Memory of

# Richard R. Zebe

November 22, 1943 - June 7, 2024



In Loving Memory of  
**Richard R. Zebe**



**Funeral Service**

Tuesday, June 11, 2024 - 10:30 AM  
St. John Lutheran Church  
Luverne, Minnesota

**Officiating**

Rev. Dr. Phil Booe

**Scripture**

Job 19:21-27                      Psalm 23  
Romans 8:31-39                John 12:20-26

**Musician**

Janet Marshall

**Congregational Hymns**

"Lift High The Cross"  
"Just A Closer Walk With Thee"  
"Little Brown Church In The Valley"  
"Amazing Grace"

**Casket Bearers**

Diego Zebe                      Rodney VandenBosch                      Scott Zebe  
Logan Amundson                Noah Beyer                      Charlie Schuknecht  
Austin Henning                      Jacob Henning

**Honorary Casket Bearers**

Gage Zebe                      Jenny Amundson                      Gabi Zebe  
Brisa Zebe                      Jayden Zebe                      Brylee Zebe  
Daphne Zebe                      Whitney Henning                      Tatum Zebe  
Casey VandenBosch                      Rhilynn Zebe

**Interment with Military Honors**

Adrian Cemetery  
Adrian, Minnesota

Arrangements By  
HARTQUIST FUNERAL HOME

**Richard Rudolph Zebe** was born on November 22, 1943 to Rudolph and Marie (Hellwinckel) Zebe at the hospital in Pipestone, Minnesota. He grew up on a farm by Edgerton, Minnesota and was a Boy Scout leader and played basketball in school. After his mother passed away when he was eight years old, Richard and his dad moved into Edgerton. They later moved to Fulda, Minnesota and then Adrian, Minnesota. While living in Adrian, Richard attended school and worked at Armour's in Worthington, Minnesota. On January 16, 1966, he was drafted into the United States Army and served his county during the Vietnam War until his honorable discharge on January 18, 1968. He then returned to Adrian and soon met Mary Kruse in July of that year. On December 20, 1968, the couple was united in marriage at St. John's Lutheran Church in Rushmore, Minnesota. They moved to a farm south of Adrian and began their family. Richard continued to work at Armour's until February 1979, when at that time their last child was born. He told Mary that as he had his boys and girls, that he was only going to be a farmer now. He and Mary continued the farming operation until Friday, June 7, 2024, when Richard passed away at Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, at the age of 80 years, 5 months and 17 days.

Richard was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Luverne. While his children were growing up, he was active with their 4-H club and was involved wherever he could help. He enjoyed camping, fishing, farming, NASCAR, and his family. He was a very kind, gentle, and generous man. He didn't mince words and his children knew if they didn't listen right away, Richard would be ready to ask them if he had to draw them a picture. He held very strong family values and would be willing to help anyone at any time.

Richard is lovingly survived by his wife, Mary; four children, Amy (Terry) VandenBosch of Pipestone, Mark (Ceta) Zebe of Adrian, Sara (Andy) Henning of Adrian, and Paul (Sarah) Zebe of Adrian; 14 grandchildren, Jenny (Logan) Amundson, Rodney (Casey) VandenBosch, Diego (Rhilynn) Zebe, Gabriela (Charlie) Schucknet, Brisa Zebe (Noah Beyer), Jayden Zebe, Scott Zebe, Brylee Zebe, Austin Henning (Mackenzie Jurrens), Jacob Henning (Claire Hoffman), Whitney Henning, Daphne Zebe, Gage Zebe, and Tatum Zebe; four great-grandchildren, Octavia Amundson, Lydia Amundson, Winsley Zebe, and Olivyan Zebe; and family and friends. He was preceded in death by his two stillborn children; a great-granddaughter, Wrenlee Anne VandenBosch; parents, Rudolph and Marie Zebe; and an infant brother, Ricky Zebe.