

***"His Journey's Just Begun"***

by Ellen Brenneman

Don't think of him as gone away  
his journey's just begun,  
life holds so many facets  
this earth is only one.

Just think of him as resting  
from the sorrows and the tears  
in a place of warmth and comfort  
where there are no days and years.

Think how he must be wishing  
that we could know today  
how nothing but our sadness  
can really pass away.

And think of him as living  
in the hearts of those he touched...  
for nothing loved is ever lost  
and he was loved so much.

*Remembering*  
THE LIFE OF



**Clayton Wilmes**

July 24, 1951 - April 20, 2024

**Clayton Earl Wilmes** was born on July 24, 1951, in Tyler, MN, to Earl and Maxine Wilmes. Clay grew up in Russell, MN, from his childhood through high school. He was baptized on August 19, 1951 and later confirmed on June 6, 1965 at the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Island Lake Township. Upon graduating from Russell High School in 1969, he moved to Minneapolis, MN where he worked for AC Black and Company while attending school at Control Data Institute. Clay graduated in June of 1972 with a Computer Science Degree. On April 11, 1970, Clay was united in marriage to Linda Jean Knudsen, at the First English Lutheran Church in Marshall, MN. In 1972, the couple moved to Houston, TX, where Clay began working at Texas Instruments. In 1975, they welcomed their first and only child, Nicole. During the years in Texas, Clay was involved with men's softball, hunting and was a proud spectator at all of Nikki's school and sporting events. In 1984, the family moved back to Minnesota and resided in New Hope. Clay then started working with the Hewlett-Packard Company. He later retired in 1998. Clay entered the care of the North Memorial Hospital in Robbinsdale, MN on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 where he passed away on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at the age of 72.

Clay was a longtime parishioner at First Lutheran Church of Crystal. Clay loved his sports - he could always be found cheering on his beloved Minnesota teams; the Twins, the Wolves, the Vikings and the Lynx. He liked playing cards and board games at family gatherings. The annual Wilmes Family Board Game Weekend (WFBGW) will never be the same without his standard joke of 'When are you all going home?'. He would love to sit back and take in his surroundings, only occasionally commenting but when he did, it was well-on target or quite the zinger!

Clayton is lovingly remembered by his wife, Linda, of New Hope, MN; daughter, Nicole (Todd) Denney of Forsyth, IL; his mother, Maxine Wilmes of Morningside Heights in Marshall, MN; grandchildren, Brice (Kasey) Denney, Michaela (partner, Julian Moore) Denney, and Larisa Denney; great-grandchildren, Asher and Addy Denney, Ayleah, Lennox, and Cadia Moore; bonus great-grandchildren, Elijah, Lily, Ethan, and Rashad Moore; siblings, Barb (Bill) Driscoll of Russell, MN, Mark (Kathy) Wilmes of Tyler, MN, Darla (partner, Mark Heinis) Anderson of Russell, MN, and Todd (Susan) Wilmes of Springfield, MN; and several nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, and father, Earl Frank Wilmes.

I N L O V I N G  
*Memory*

## Clayton Wilmes



### **Memorial Visitation**

Friday, May 17, 2024

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Danebod Lutheran Church

Tyler, Minnesota

### **Private Family Memorial Service**

Saturday, May 18, 2024 - 11:00 AM

Danebod Lutheran Church

Tyler, Minnesota

**Officiating** - Rev. Megan Eide

### **Scripture Readings**

Psalms 23 Matthew 11:28-30

**Organist** - Marijane Borresen

### **Congregational Hymns**

"Borning Cry" - WOV #770

Soon & Very Soon" - WOV #744

### **Recorded Music**

"Love Remains" as recorded by Collin Raye

### **Inurnment**

Danebod Cemetery

Tyler, Minnesota

Arrangements Entrusted To  
**HARTQUIST FUNERAL HOME**