



LeRoy Walter Schierkolk

August 12, 1938 - December 1, 2020

LeRoy Walter Schierkolk, of Valley City, ND, passed into the arms of his Savior Jesus Christ on December 1, 2020 at the age of 82.

He was born in Steele City, NE on August 12, 1938 to Walter and Dorothy Schierkolk, the second of five children. He graduated from Powell High School in Powell, WY in 1956 and then attended Northwest Community College in Powell where he received his Associate Degree before joining the United States Army in January of 1959. After training stints in Texas and California, he was stationed in Korea until he was honorably discharged in December 1960 with the rank of Sergeant E-5. Right after his discharge he returned home, attended the Christmas Eve service at church, and spotted Kathleen Brodle, the Sunday school teacher that one day would become his wife. It still took his brother's encouragement and Kathleen's sister shoving her into his arms at the ice skating rink before he worked up the courage to ask her out on a date, but she had seen him in his Army dress uniform at the Christmas Eve service and was very interested in going on that first date. A year and a half later on August 24, 1962 they were married in Riverton, WY and celebrated their 58th anniversary this year. Lee continued his education at Emporia State College in Emporia, KS graduating with his Bachelor of Science in Education degree in 1964. He started his teaching career at Washington High School in Washington, KS then moved to Hillcrest High School in Cuba, KS before he decided to get his Master of Science in Education degree at Chadron State

College in Chadron, NE where he graduated in 1970. That year he moved his wife and three boys to Boise, ID where he started working at South Jr. High School as a Physical Education and Mathematics instructor and filled the role of Athletic Director for the school. While in Boise, they added twin daughters to the family. After ten years in Boise, Lee and Kathleen made the decision to move to Prairie Farm, WI. Lee accepted a teaching position at Prairie Farm High School in 1980 and remained there until he retired from teaching in 2001.

Lee enjoyed hunting and reading, but his passion was coaching. He loved the kids he worked with and cherished the relationships that were built through the years. He started his coaching career with Jr. Legion baseball in Riverton, WY leading his teams to three District Championships and three State Tournament appearances. He coached volleyball, track, football and wrestling, but his greatest joy was coaching baseball. Even after retiring from teaching at Prairie Farm High School, Lee continued to coach the baseball team for another seven years. In his 27 - year tenure at Prairie Farm he led his teams to 11 conference titles, 6 regional titles and the sectional title and state tournament in 2001. He led the effort to build a new baseball diamond at the high school and was honored by having the field named after him.

In 2008, Lee and Kathleen moved to Valley City, ND to be with his daughters and their families. He filled his retirement with substitute teaching, refereeing games, and watching his grandchildren in all their events until he was physically unable to continue.

Throughout his life, it was Lee's faith that motivated what he did and how he went about doing it. He was very active in the various churches that he attended, a prolific supporter of various ministries and he was an example to his family and many others. He wanted his life to point to Jesus so that others might know of Jesus' love for them.

Lee is survived by his wife Kathleen, his brother Delbert Schierkolk of Torrington, WY, his sister Barbara (Ron) Pederson of Vernal, UT sister-in-law Linda Schierkolk of Highlands Ranch, CO; his sons Todd (Barb) Schierkolk of Jerez, Mexico, Tom (Linda) Schierkolk of Eben Junction, MI, Scott (Tamara) Schierkolk of Minneapolis, MN; his daughters Katrina (Jeremy) Zeltinger and Kristin (Brent) Peterson of Valley City; grandchildren Rachel (Ben) Davis, Megan (Josh) Hedstrom, Kirstie (Seth) Skogerboe, Lydia (Ekagra) Agarwal, Sam (Sarah) Schierkolk, Logan (Amanda) Schierkolk, Silas Schierkolk, Inga Schierkolk, Thora Schierkolk, Olga Schierkolk, Ethan (Grace) Zeltinger, Luther (Bobbi Jo) Zeltinger, Rose Zeltinger, Seth Zeltinger, Caleb Peterson, Rebekah Peterson, Hannah Peterson, David Peterson, Abigail Peterson, Faith Peterson, great-grandchildren Mairead and Shepherd Hedstrom.

He was preceded in death by his parents Walter and Dorothy Schierkolk, sister Martha Urbanski, brother Richard Schierkolk, sister-in-law Mary Schierkolk, and nephews Tim Schierkolk and Kenneth Schierkolk.

Visitation will be noon to 2 pm Tuesday, December 8 at Grace Free Lutheran Church, Valley City followed by the funeral service at 2 pm at the church. Burial will be at Hillside Cemetery, rural Valley City. We will livestream the service from is <https://www.gracefree.com/watch-online>

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel, Valley City. An online guestbook is available at www.oliver-nathanchapel.com

Cemetery Details

Hillside Cemetery

Valley City, ND

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 8. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Grace Free Lutheran Church
2351 W. Main St.
Valley City, ND

Funeral Service

DEC 8. 2:00 PM (CT)

Grace Free Lutheran Church
2351 W. Main St.
Valley City, ND

Tribute Wall

DC

“ My sincere sympathies to Kathleen and family, and to the Brodles whom I knew well growing up in Riverton, Wyoming. LeRoy was my Legion baseball coach in the late sixties and will remember him as fair, concerned, fun, and a very capable baseball coach who was very well liked and respected. Real good memories of those days and of Coach S.

Don Larson, Evanston, Wy.

Donald C.Larson - January 12, 2021 at 03:09 PM

RG

“ Our deepest sympathy to you all on the passing of Lee...always enjoyed visiting with him. His love of Jesus always flowed from him.

Ryan & Lori Graalum - December 09, 2020 at 09:23 PM

PG

“ It was always fun to visit with Lee. I called him coach. God bless his memory.

Pastor Dennis Gray

Pastor Dennis Gray - December 09, 2020 at 10:51 AM

TA

“ I'm honored to have had Coach Schierkolk as my baseball coach. He was a passionate and kind coach. He was gentle and understanding when we needed support, and stern when redirecting was in order. He made baseball enjoyable and memorable for my teammates and I. I will always remember that coach told us, "never throw a strike when the count is 0-2"! Well, I was able to get a good chuckle out of him when I decided to throw a pitch clear over the backstop on an 0-2 count. Also, he had the best baseball signs of any coach. His 'squeeze bunt' signal, in which he grabbed his belt, was the best.

Thanks for the memories, Coach.

With Love,
Thane Antczak

Thane Antczak - December 07, 2020 at 03:09 PM

JW

“ Deepest condolences to Kathleen and family. Great memories of Lee for my family during the school day and of course athletics. His friendship and mentoring was most influential to my family through Amery Free. Thank you Lee for a strong stance for your Lord and Savior. Our lives are like a vapor in the wind, but as overcomers we will meet again in eternity to throw the old ball around. Prayers that many others you touched will join us there.

John Westby - December 07, 2020 at 12:09 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of LeRoy Walter Schierkolk.



December 07, 2020 at 10:14 AM



“ *AFLC World Missions purchased the Country Basket Blooms* for the family of LeRoy Walter Schierkolk.



AFLC World Missions - December 07, 2020 at 10:04 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of LeRoy Walter Schierkolk.



December 06, 2020 at 10:08 PM



“ *Your Calvary Free Lutheran Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue* for the family of LeRoy Walter Schierkolk.



Your Calvary Free Lutheran Family - December 06, 2020 at 05:31 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of LeRoy Walter Schierkolk.*



December 06, 2020 at 11:12 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of LeRoy Walter Schierkolk.*



December 05, 2020 at 10:48 AM



“ *Thank you for the insightful re-telling of Lee's life story. The life he lived by faith, the example that he set, the way he finished well and the legacy that he leaves that will continue to point others to Jesus. Praying that this life well lived will be a comfort to each of you as well as an example to all of us as we look confidently to the day when we will be together again forever with our Savior. Praying as well that His peace and strength will surround and comfort all of you in this time. In His Love, Randy Nelson*

Randy Nelson - December 05, 2020 at 06:43 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of LeRoy Walter Schierkolk.*



December 04, 2020 at 10:50 PM

JA

“ *Lee was a great teacher and coach!
He was my colleague and a trusted mentor, helping guide many new teachers into being successful educators. His coaching career touched many and created wonderful memories and friendships for his acquaintances. Deepest condolences to the family and friends.*

Jeff Allram - December 04, 2020 at 02:18 PM



“ *To Kathleen, Lee’s twin girls, and his boys.
You have my deepest condolences. Lee was such a fixture at PF for do many years and as a fellow staff member for many of them I am deeply saddened to hear of his passing. Lee was a good man, great teacher, and an outstanding coach. He was also a good friend and I appreciated his mentorship though I never told him that. He touched so many lives and will be forever missed.*



Gerald Henthorn - December 04, 2020 at 10:45 AM

PK

“ *What a beautiful obituary pointing people to Jesus. May God's promises uphold you as a family in these days.
Pastor Lyndon Korhonen
AFLC President*

Pastor Lyndon Korhonen - December 04, 2020 at 10:14 AM

PS


“ I was struck that immediately upon hearing of Mr. S's passing, all four of my kids shared with each other their particular memories of him during their school years at PF. He was a protector and a cheerleader to each of them, in very specific and memorable ways. And I was grateful to know there was an adult like Lee to really keep a watch when my kids were at their most vulnerable. He touched so many lives in the path he chose.

Pam Saunders - December 04, 2020 at 09:58 AM

SH

“ Please accept our condolences (from Jane, Bob, Karen and Steven Handorf). I am so sorry to hear about your loss, but I also rejoice to know that Leroy is safe at home with our Lord and Savior. All these years later I can still hear Leroy's voice as though I had just heard it yesterday. Now he has the wonderful privilege of hearing the voice of God Himself and seeing Him face-to-face, as the believers of the Bible did centuries ago. There is nothing on this earth that could be more exhilarating.

Steven Handorf - December 04, 2020 at 06:36 AM

 Molly Pederstuen

“ Lee was an amazing and caring colleague. His commitment to building a sense of pride and community at school inspired both students and staff. I am so happy to see this picture in the famous kelly green blazer. He and Kathleen were special people who were caretakers for our Karn as a young toddler. I felt so fortunate to become his friend outside the school day. He was a true gentleman. Thinking of you all. Molly Pederstuen

Molly Pederstuen - December 03, 2020 at 10:24 PM

KA

“ Great teacher, coach and role model. I am glad to have known Him and was influenced by his leadership.

kurt abramson - December 03, 2020 at 10:03 PM



“ Mr. Schierkolk was my Phy Ed teacher throughout high school, as I graduated from Prairie Farm HS in 1999. He loved working with students and encouraging their athletic pursuits. His signature "prize" whenever your team won the round-robin tournament in class was one of those Little Debbie "Nutty Bars." I don't remember winning very many, but they sure made a Pickle-ball victory even sweeter. Not because of the sugar so much, but because they came from a teacher who (despite a sometimes gruff demeanor) really cared about you.

Virginia Welle - December 03, 2020 at 09:23 PM