



Vernon Nelson

December 10, 1923 - November 9, 2008

Vernon was born December 10, 1923 to N.S. (Selmer) and Lily (Rue) Nelson in Nome, North Dakota. He was baptized and confirmed at Nordheim Lutheran Church at rural Kathryn, and attended Sand Prairie School.

He married Shirley Knutson on June 23, 1949 in Fort Ransom, North Dakota. They farmed and raised their family on the Sand Prairie near Kathryn, then moved to Litchville in 1994.

Vernon was a member of Nordheim Lutheran Church, then First Lutheran Church of Litchville after moving there. He served on the Litchville Township Board, The Litchville Park Board and the Nordheim Cemetery Board for many years.

He took great pride in mowing and caring for the Nordheim Cemetery and the Litchville Park in his retirement years. He enjoyed playing his accordion at area nursing homes, and was always ready for a game of pinochle with family or friends.

Vernon is survived by his wife, Shirley; two sons, Danny (Sandy), Kathryn; Dennis (Shelly), Litchville; one daughter, Janice (Don) Olafson, Valley City; one brother, Howard (Ruth) Nelson, Des Moines, Washington; eight grandchildren, Darren, Danelle, Dani Marie, Becky, Mark, Kristen, Holly, and Tracy; nine great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Stella Mennis.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **12.** 2:30 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel
251 Central Ave. S.
Valley City, ND

Service

NOV **13.** 11:00 AM (CT)

First Lutheran Church
506 5th St.
Litchville, ND

Tribute Wall



“ Grandpa Vernon,

My very first memory of you is coming out to the farm to stay with you and grandma. We would go out to the barn to do your chorsing. I can still remember feeding the calves with the coffee can full of pellets. You always were willing to take a little extra time to let me help. Then we would pump water for them and go up to the house for some lunch. I think of that every time I see your farm. At the farm, and in town, you always kept yourself busy painting, mowing, and fixing things up. If you weren't busy with that, you would be out polishing the Jeep or your pickup. And even though it's been a few years since I heard you, I always enjoyed listening to you play the accordion. I still don't know how you did that – do you know what a disaster it is when I sit down at the piano without a sheet of music in front of me? But not for you, you knew all the right notes to play. You always had a story or joke to lighten up our day. I will never forget the times I spent with you.

Mark, Kristen, Tracy and I have many great stories to pass on to our kids about you. We will never forget the holidays we spent together with you, but I think we all remember the Easter egg hunts the best. Remember the fun we had playing marbles or a game of rummy. In later years, we all enjoyed playing pinochle with you, and someone will always have “the hammer” when we are playing together and we will undoubtedly think of you, and know that you are watching down on us – and you'll probably still be telling us that we either bid too high or we didn't bid high enough! We have lots of good memories of you, and they all make us smile, you will live on in our hearts forever.

Grandpa, this last week has been one of the hardest I've faced in my life. But I believe that remembering how great of a man you truly were does not come from us telling how great you thought we were, but instead it comes from us remembering the Wonderful Grandpa that you always were to us. Although your last days here were difficult, we cherish the moments we were able to spend with you at the hospital, because you knew we were there with you; and even though we spoke few words it was a comfort for me to be with you. I know that you are in a better place now, may you forever rest in peace.

Love,

Holly###imported-begin###Holly###imported-end###

November 16, 2008 at 01:12 AM



“ *Our Love and Prayers to your family.*

Jeff & Kris Piehl

Devin, Tasha & Landon##imported-begin##Jeff & Kris Piehl##imported-end##

November 14, 2008 at 03:42 AM



“ *The Nelson Family,*

I am so very sorry for your loss and pray that you will all be comforted by the love and joy that Vernon has brought into your lives.

May He Rest in Peace, Neil Nelson##imported-begin##Neil Nelson##imported-end##

November 12, 2008 at 04:26 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with your family during this trying time.##imported-begin##Karen Olstad##imported-end##*

November 12, 2008 at 10:18 AM



“ *Grandpa,*

You were a very special part of my childhood - I have so many HAPPY memories with you and Grandma. I can still hear your laugh - it makes me smile. I remember riding little Sugar over to your house for an afternoon snack and a can of pop - you would stop everything to come over and see Sugar and I and were so proud to show us off to your neighbors (the Smiths) - always wanting Sugar and I to show them our latest tricks (like mounting her from the back and don't forget the back flips :-)

My husband and children did not get to spend much time with you as the distance between ND and Nebraska kept us apart. I know you were very fond of my husband Colby - you always made it a point to ask about him and tell me how much you liked him - that was very important to me. I am glad you had the chance to meet our daughter Callie and son Tyler - they are very special little people.

You will always have a special place in my heart Grandpa. Thank you for loving me and being in my life. I will miss you.

Danelle - "Nelly"##imported-begin##Danelle Collins##imported-end##

November 10, 2008 at 02:53 PM