

The Life of Willis A. "Bill" Kruse

Funeral services for Willis A. "Bill" Kruse, age 80, of Columbia, SD, will be 2 p.m., Wednesday, April 5, 2016 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Columbia, SD, with Pastor Thomas Brown and Pastor Tyler Poppen officiating. Burial at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery in rural Columbia, SD. Willis fell asleep Sunday, April 3, 2016 at Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls, SD.

Visitation will be 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at the Fellowship Hall at Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home, 1111 South Main Street, Aberdeen, SD.

Willis Arlen Kruse was born on a farm near Columbia, SD, on April 10, 1935 to John and Lillian (Bretch) Kruse. He grew up and attended School in Columbia. He was baptized and confirmed at St John's Lutheran Church. On September 2, 1956 he married Darlys Wenck at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Aberdeen, SD. Willis farmed and worked for Groton School District in Columbia.

Dad shared his love of basketball with many school aged kids by coaching and taking them to YMCA tournaments. He also loved farming and working with his cattle. He loved spending time with family and friends, especially playing cards. He was always quick with a smile or a joke.

Willis is survived by his wife, Darlys of 59 years; two daughters: Beth (Loren) Wegehaupt of Mt. Vernon, SD, and Nancy (Mitchell) Johnson of Sioux Falls, SD; two sons: Terry (Donna) Kruse of McCory, AR, and Tim (September) Kruse of Lakeville, MN; 10 grandchildren; and two brothers: Ernie Kruse of Columbia, and Robert Kruse of Ft Collins, CO.

Willis is preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Harley Kruse; and two sisters: Doris Smith and Arlene Weismantel.

In lieu of flowers you can send donations to Main Street Living Ministry or Dougherty Hospice house, both in Sioux Falls.

