

Remembering...

Ross Edward Rehder was born on March 16, 1943, to Ralph and Lilah (Johnson) Rehder. He was baptized and confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sabin, MN. He attended school in Comstock, MN until 8th grade when the school was consolidated with Barnesville. During his school years he was very active in both 4-H and FFA. He graduated from Barnesville High School in 1961, and in 1963 he earned his American Farmer Degree. Following high school he attended college in Wahpeton, ND at NDSSS, graduating with a Diesel Mechanics Degree. Ross served 6 years in the Minnesota National Guard during which time he held the position of company clerk. He was stationed at Fort Carson, CO and Fort Ord, CA.

On December 14, 1968, he married Cheryl Kay Wolff in Willmar, MN. They made their home on the family farm in Comstock, MN, and together they raised three boys: Jay, Aaron, and Paul. Ross loved farming, especially raising livestock, cattle, pigs, and chickens, and he was a member of the Chester Whites and Berkshire Swine Association. He served on the Clay County Extension Advisory Committee for nine years. Along with farming he worked for the Minnesota Soybean Association where he showed farmers the benefits of bio diesel. Sadly, Cheryl passed away in 1996. In 2001 his son Paul bought the farm where Ross continued to help and live.

Ross served on the Clay County Fair Board for 35 years. The Clay County Fair and the MN State Fair were a huge highlight of every year with his children, grandchildren, and other Clay County families preparing and showing their animals. Ross was also very active with St. John's Lutheran Church, serving on many boards, both the Comstock and Barnesville Lions clubs, and the Comstock Wildlife Club.

Ross moved into Barnesville in 2013. He kept busy with his involvement at church, the Clay County Fair, and the Garden Club. In January of 2026 Ross moved into Valley Care & Rehab in Barnesville, MN.

Ross is survived by his sons: Jay (Jennifer) Rehder, Moorhead, MN, Aaron Rehder, Barnesville, MN, and Paul (Kathy) Rehder, Moorhead, MN; brothers Curtis Rehder, Dilworth, MN, and Douglas (Nina) Rehder, Billings, MT; brother-in-law Craig (Joanne) Wolff, Fort Ripley, MN; grandchildren: Hannah (Rylee) Anderson, Nathan Rehder, and Claire (Travis Affield) Rehder; and great-grandchildren Hayes & Truett Anderson.

Ross was preceded in death by his wife Cheryl Kay; his parents Ralph & Lilah Rehder; mother and father-in-law Luverne & Doris Wolff; and sister-in-law Judy Rehder.

Ross Edward Rehder, 83, Barnesville, MN, went to see his Lord and Savior on March 25, 2026, at Valley Care & Rehab, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease at the age of 83 years and 9 days.

May His Memory Be Blessed.

Funeral Arrangements Entrusted to | Dobmeier Funeral & Cremation Services | Barnesville, Minnesota



In Celebration For The Life Of
Ross E. Rehder
March 16, 1943 ~ March 25, 2026

~So God Made A Farmer~



And on the eighth 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 and 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 on lunch until his wife's done feeding visiting ladies and 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. And who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his forty-hour week by Tuesday noon, 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'd 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 he wants to spend his life 'doing what Dad does.'" So God made a farmer.

*In Loving Memory of
Ross Edward Rehder*

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Tuesday, March 31, 2026, 11:00 AM
St. John's Lutheran Church, Barnesville, Minnesota

OFFICIATING

Reverend Greg DeMuth

MUSIC

Organist ~ Jean Malum
Congregational Hymns

"The Old Rugged Cross" "In The Garden" "Amazing Grace"

INURNMENT

Comstock Cemetery, Comstock, Minnesota

APPRECIATION

On behalf of the Rehder family, thank you for your love and support throughout Ross's life.

We appreciate your prayers and your time as we honor him.

Please join us for a time of fellowship and food following the service.