

**In Loving Memory Of**  
**Vernon Duane Smith**

January 24, 1963  
Hendricks, MN

February 12, 2024  
Gettysburg, SD

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE:**  
10:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 20, 2024  
United Methodist Church  
Brookings, South Dakota

**OFFICIATING:**  
Pastor Pete Grassow

**CASKET BEARERS:**  
Darrick Robbins, Chad Smith,  
Jesse Patrick, Tony Beste,  
Cory Smith, and Chris Smith

**HONORARY CASKET BEARERS:**  
All of Vern's Nieces and Nephews

**USHERS:**  
Curt Krogman, Ryan Zink, and Chuck Smith

**PIANIST:** Joan Riessen

**VOCALIST:** Jessica Roskamp  
"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

**MUSIC:**  
"Great is Thy Faithfulness"  
"Boys of Fall" "Victory in Jesus"

**INTERMENT:**  
Fairview Cemetery  
White, South Dakota

**In Loving Memory Of**  
**Vernon Duane Smith**

January 24, 1963  
Hendricks, MN

February 12, 2024  
Gettysburg, SD

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE:**  
2:00 p.m., Sunday, February 18, 2024  
Gettysburg School Gym  
Gettysburg, South Dakota

**OFFICIATING:**  
Pastor Jeff Adel

**CASKET BEARERS:**  
Mike Ring, Shayne Geditz,  
Kerwin Hoellein, Jeff Kusters,  
Jeremy Chicoine, and Tom McGough

**HONORARY CASKET BEARERS:**  
Gettysburg School Staff  
Potter County Coaching Staff

**USHERS:**  
Michael Fisher, Keith Scott, Tyler Fischer,  
Michael Schlachter, and Doug Beste

**PIANIST:** Barb Hamburger

**VOCALIST:** Sarah Sue Tanner  
"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

**MUSIC:**  
"Great is Thy Faithfulness"  
"Boys of Fall" "Victory in Jesus"

**INTERMENT:**  
Fairview Cemetery  
White, South Dakota

IN  
Loving  
MEMORY



*Vern Smith*  
*1963 - 2024*



## Vernon Duane Smith

Vern Smith, 61, of Gettysburg, passed away Monday, February 12, 2024, at his home surrounded by family.

Vernon Duane Smith was born January 24, 1963, in Hendricks, Minnesota, the youngest of nine children born to Norman and Katie (Bruns) Smith. Vernon grew up on a farm near White, SD, and he received his primary education in Deubrook, graduating with the class of 1981. Vern went on to attend Dakota State College in Madison, SD, graduating in 1986 with degrees in accounting and business education.

In 1987, Vernon moved to Gettysburg, SD where he started his career as a teacher for the Gettysburg School System. He served many years as an assistant football coach, junior high boys basketball coach, and assistant track coach. He later became the athletic director, and head coach for both football and track. Vern was in his 37th year of teaching and coaching when he was diagnosed with cancer which led to his retirement in September of 2023.

In July of 1990, Vernon was united in marriage to Nancy Simmons.

Vernon has dedicated his life to his family and his school and students. Any way he was able to help them whether in a classroom, on a basketball court, track, or football field, you could always count on Vern. He also was an exceptional community member. He volunteered where he was needed. Vern loved to give of his time and keep himself busy. He was an active member of the SDHSCA, SDFBCA, SDCCTFCA, GTA, and SDIAAA.

Faith was an important part of Vern's life as well. He was a member of the United Methodist Church where he gave of his time and many talents.

Being outdoors was a love of Vern's. He enjoyed countless hours driving the countryside scouting for deer and hunting, watching sports - especially watching his children participate, and socializing. No matter where he went, there was someone he knew. He even learned how to use a sewing machine, learning to mend football uniforms just because it interested him.

Vern's life will forever be cherished by his wife, Nancy; children: Katrina of Gettysburg, Lucas of White, and Aaron of Gettysburg; brother, Steven (Judy) Smith, White; sisters: Norma Krogman, Elkton, SD, Shirley Leisinger, Lebanon, OR, Arlene (Rick) Robbins, Wheatland, WY, and Nancy Johnson, Abilene, TX; sisters-in-law: Carol Smith, Elkton, SD, Rose Simmons, Sandy, UT, Cheryl (Doug) Beste, Brookings, SD, Linda Simmons Patrick, Aurora, SD, and Jan Simmons, Wayne, NE; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Norman and Katie Smith; brothers: Virgil, Calvin, and Arven Smith; brothers-in-law: Don Krogman, Alvin Leisinger, Kermith Johnson, and Neil Simmons; sister-in-law, Betty Smith; nephew, Brad Smith, and mother and father-in-law: Loren and Lois (Aaberg) Simmons.

Memorials in honor of Vern may be directed to Keep Hope Local, 127 Hilltop Dr, Gettysburg, SD 57442 or to the Vern Smith Memorial Fund, which will be established at First Interstate Bank, 111 N. East St, Gettysburg, SD 57442.

### The Best

God saw you getting tired  
And a cure was not to be.  
So He put His arms around you  
And whispered "Come to Me."  
With tearful eyes we watched you,  
And saw you pass away.  
Although we loved you dearly,  
We could not make you stay.  
A golden heart stopped beating,  
Hard working hands at rest.  
God broke our hearts to prove to us,  
He only takes the best.