

Gary Duane Cunningham, age 66, of Grace City, ND, died Sunday, October 15, 2023, at his home of natural causes.

Gary was born on September 16, 1957, in Kensal, ND. He was the first child, born to Mabel Christine and Duane Alfred Cunningham. At the young age of five, Gary talked with his mother about the gift of salvation paid for by Jesus on the cross. Gary prayed to accept forgiveness for his sins.

Gary started life with imagination and energy. His motto seemed to be “Why walk when you can run?” He convinced his sister to jump off buildings with him so they could fly like Superman and women. When Gary began going to FaHoCha Bible Camp, which he loved, he earned the nickname of “Rabbit” for his quick ways. He had to be fast to get away from all the girls who chased him!

In high school, Gary decided to learn to play trombone in the Grace City School band. Until he received his trombone, he practiced by blowing into the garden hose. Gary made some interesting sounds out of that hose! Music continued to bring joy to Gary throughout his life. He played guitar, bass guitar, and sang. Gary played bass guitar for the worship team at Faith Evangelical Free Church in Grace City. He dreamed of being a recording engineer someday. Gary studied recording techniques and how to use a mic to capture performances experimenting with recording local groups.

Gary was deeply interested in mechanics, and engines, learning how to increase their performance. He poured over manuals, and it paid off in the skills he learned. Gary’s first job was as a mechanic at Scanson Repair. This passion for all things mechanical grew and expanded into a hobby with cars; specifically drag racing. In 1986, Gary attended a semester at Winnipeg Bible College. He then transitioned to other jobs, including grinding feed for farmers in the area, and farm work for Leo Gauderman, Jr.

Being fascinated with how things work led Gary to become skilled in carpentry and construction. He started his own business, G. C. Remodeling. Gary worked with many in the area including Dick Messerly, Gleason Construction, Pine Ridge Builders, Messner Construction, and others.

Often a man of few words, Gary could turn on the charm when the mood was right. He was generous, and always ready to lend a helping hand. Gary was a good listener and friend to all. Many homes and buildings in the community will continue to be a tribute to Gary’s workmanship.

Gary is survived by his father, Duane Cunningham; sister, Bonnie (Mark) Ekeland; brothers, John (Rachel) Cunningham; David (Becky) Cunningham; and many nieces and nephews.

Gary is preceded in death by mother, Mabel Cunningham; Grandparents, Margaret and Paul Johnston; cousin, David Manz, Jr.; and uncle, Glenn Bjornson.

In Loving Memory Of



Gary Cunningham

SEPTEMBER 16, 1957 – OCTOBER 15, 2023

Psalm 90:1–17 (ESV)

1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

3 You return man to dust
and say, “Return, O children of man!”

4 For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.

5 You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning:

6 in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.

7 For we are brought to an end by your anger;
by your wrath we are dismayed.

8 You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

9 For all our days pass away under your wrath;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

10 The years of our life are seventy,
or even by reason of strength eighty;
yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.

11 Who considers the power of your anger,
and your wrath according to the fear of you?

12 So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.

13 Return, O LORD! How long?
Have pity on your servants!

14 Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

15 Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.

16 Let your work be shown to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.

17 Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!

Celebrating The Life Of

Gary Duane Cunningham

September 16, 1957 – Kensal, ND

October 15, 2023 – Grace City, ND

VISITATION

Thursday, October 19, 2023

1:00PM - 2:00PM

Faith E Free Church, Grace City, ND

FUNERAL SERVICE

Thursday, October 19, 2023

2:00PM

Faith E Free Church, Grace City, ND

OFFICIATING

Rev. Dave Fix

SPECIAL MUSIC

Karol Kapelle ~ Pianist

Congregational Hymns

How Great Thou Art

In the Sweet By and By

Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

PALLBEARERS

Brad Barker ~ Mark Ekeland ~ Ian Cunningham ~ Mike Leichtman
Trent Messner ~ John Cunningham ~ David Cunningham ~ Jeff Kapelle

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Jason Ekeland ~ Justin Ekeland ~ Jeremy Ekeland
Sabrina Cunningham ~ Holly Cunningham

BURIAL

Grace City Cemetery

Grace City, ND

Arrangements by
Evans Funeral Home – Carrington & New Rockford, ND
www.EvansFuneralHomeND.com