

Norman Birkeland, age 91, of Sheyenne, ND, died Wednesday, November 2, 2016, at Lutheran Home of the Good Shepherd, New Rockford, ND.

Norman Birkeland was born April 10, 1925, in Hillsdale Township, rural Sheyenne, the son of Olaf and Mary Elizabeth (Dailey) Birkeland. He grew up on the family farm and attended school at Benson County Agricultural School, Maddock, ND, graduating in 1943. After high school, Norman began farming on the family farm.

Norman married Marlys Pauline Ploium on January 18, 1947, at Sheyenne Lutheran Parsonage. Pastor G.W. Mathre officiated at the ceremony. Norman and Marlys moved to the Birkeland family farm east of Sheyenne to begin their life together. They lived in the “bunkhouse” for a short period of time until a new home was built on the farmstead. As their family grew, they moved into the family farmhouse and remained living there until moving to the Lake County Manor in Devils Lake in the fall of 2014. Marlys died February 16, 2016.



Norman served on the Equity Elevator Board, Community Credit Union Board and Township Board, was selected as an Agriculturist of the Year for Eddy County, had served as a 4-H Leader, and was a member of Grace Lutheran Church and had served on the Church Council. He was also very involved in the Sheyenne community.

In his early years, Norman enjoyed bowling, fishing, and hunting, but always 2<sup>nd</sup> to farming! His family remembers him as a hard-working, humble man. He loved spending time with his family, and especially enjoyed watching his grandchildren in their sporting events.

Norman is survived by his daughters, Carol (Joe) Teel, Sheyenne, Mary (Glenn) Walz, New Rockford, and Barbara (Steve) Messner, Sheyenne; his sons Allen (Janice), Warwick, Dan (Karen), Sheyenne, and Bruce (Kim), Baldwin, ND; his 15 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren, and 2 step-great-grandchildren; 3 great-great-grandchildren. Also his 2 brothers, Duane Birkeland, Sherwood, OR, Myron Birkeland, Pelican Rapids, MN; 2 sisters, Beverly Soderholm, Sheyenne, Mary Ellen Rue, New Rockford; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Marlys; parents; sister, Shirley Nelson, and several brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law.

## *In Loving Memory Of*

(printed on custom Wheat folder)

*Norman Birkeland*

*April 10, 1925 – November 2, 2016*



## *Final Harvest*

He was bound to the land from the day of his birth  
His roots anchored deep in the fertile earth  
Nurtured, sustained, by the soil he grew  
And his life, like his furrows, ran straight and true.

In faith, each spring, he planted the seeds  
In hope, to reap his family's needs  
With patience, he waited for the harvest to come  
To gather the fruits of his labor home.

Ever turning seasons, the years sped past  
Till the final harvest came at last  
Then claimed anew by beloved sod  
He was gathered home to be with God.

- Barbara W. Weber



In Loving Memory Of

## *Norman Birkeland*

April 10, 1925 – rural Sheyenne, ND  
November 2, 2016 – New Rockford, ND

### PRAYER SERVICE

Sunday, November 6, 2016 – 7:00PM  
Grace Lutheran Church – Sheyenne, ND

### FUNERAL SERVICE

Monday, November 7, 2016 – 2:00PM  
Grace Lutheran Church – Sheyenne, ND

### OFFICIATING

Rev. Natasha Woitzel-Kolles

### READERS

Andrea Hennen  
Ellen Heinrich

### EULOGY

Matthew Birkeland

### SPECIAL MUSIC

Doreen Taylor, organist  
Jeff Labrensz & Rachel Markestad, soloists

### CASKET BEARERS

#### *His Grandsons*

Sam Birkeland, James Allmaras,  
Brent Walz, Matthew Birkeland, Robert Walz,  
Colin Birkeland, Mark Birkeland, Tyler Messner,  
Jacob Messner, Nathan Messner

### HONORARY BEARERS

#### *His Granddaughters*

Laurie Allmaras, Dianna Allmaras, Andrea Hennen,  
Lindsey Pfeiffer, Ellen Heinrich

### BURIAL

Riverside Cemetery – Sheyenne, ND

Arrangements By

Evans Funeral Home – New Rockford & Carrington, ND

[www.EvansFuneralHomeND.com](http://www.EvansFuneralHomeND.com)