



## Larry Bunjer

April 26, 1956 - May 19, 2023

His boots were lined up neatly next to the old 1917 Moeller Pipe Organ, and he made the chimes ring out and the flues swell for the last time. The pipe organ weeps alongside the church congregation and the community as we mourn the loss of a talented musician and friend.

Larry Ray Bunjer, named after his grandfathers Harry and Louis, was born on April 26, 1956, to Ray and Delores Bunjer. He grew up on the family farm north of Lennox, SD with his younger sisters Sharen, Diane, Carla, Lori, and Lisa. Larry attended country school at Berens #58, and then graduated from Lennox High School in 1974. Larry also received his degree in Auto Mechanics from Southeast Technical Institute.

Larry worked at L&L Motors before beginning a successful and remarkable 40-year career at CCL Label (formerly Modern Press), with perfect attendance and no sick days taken. Larry worked several roles during his tenure at CCL, both unofficially and officially. You could find him fixing telephone and network lines, driving forklifts and skid steers, correcting sprinkler breaks, and even cleaning a restroom if it needed it, and this was all outside of his official job of Inventory Control Manager. Larry gave his all to his job and worked around the clock without a complaint; he was proud of his company and his people.

Aside from his work, Larry was a farmer at heart and in his soul. He was

drawn to the fields, to the crops, and to the outdoors. Larry farmed with his dad since he was young, so young that he ran into a pole with the tractor when he was five years old. Larry's children and grandchildren have fond and not-so-fond memories of working around the farm, including walking beans, riding the bean buggy, chasing cows, and mowing. Even the day before he went into the hospital for the last time, Larry brought his daughter into the tractor to make a round cultivating so planting could start on time.

Larry began playing the organ at Lennox Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in the 7th grade. He studied the piano under Wava Rops, and then the organ under both Wava and Ella Coy. Larry, with his natural-born perfect pitch and ability to play both by sight and by ear, was a dedicated member of the music worship at Ebenezer, and was active with the piano, organ, worship teams, choir, and multiple quartets and small groups. One of Larry's greatest joys was playing and singing for weddings, funerals, community events, and church services with his mom Delores, and with his daughters Elizabeth (Betsy) and Michelle as well as playing duets with his grandchildren, Emersen and Harper, at their recitals.

Larry met his future wife Lori (Kuper) at church in 1974 when her family started attending Lennox Ebenezer. Lori remembers wanting to go to church more and more because she thought the organist was cute. Lori and Larry were married in 1978 and had two daughters, Elizabeth (Betsy) and Michelle. Larry never missed his daughters' sporting, musical, or school events, and treated them as his greatest treasure. Likewise, Larry and Lori were graced with grandchildren, Logan, Emersen, Willow, Isaak, and Harper, whom Larry enjoyed bringing to school and events and was their biggest fan, most fun supporter, and best friend.

Blessed to have enjoyed life with Larry are his wife, Lori, daughters, Elizabeth "Betsy" Bunjer-Thompson (Mike) of Jacksonville, FL and Michelle Strege

(Ryan) of Lennox, grandchildren, Logan Brown-Veen-Strege (Madi) of Lawton, IA, Emersen Lee, Willow Booker, Isaak Booker, and Harper Lee, his sisters Sharen, Diane, Carla, Lori, and Lisa, many nieces and nephews, many cousins, as well as a host of family and friends. Larry was preceded in death by his parents Ray and Delores Bunjer, his parents-in-law, Don and Jeri Kuper, his grandparents Harry and Dena Bunjer and Louis and Helen Siepkes, his two uncles, Harold Bunjer and Alvern Bunjer, and one aunt, Joyce Bunjer.

Services will begin at 1:00 p.m. Friday, May 26, 2023 at Lennox Ebenezer Presbyterian Church, Lennox, SD, with burial in the Lennox Cemetery. Visitation, with the family present, at Lennox Ebenezer Presbyterian Church multipurpose room, will be 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, May 25. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials directed to the Lennox Ebenezer Music Ministry or charity of your choice.

# Tribute Wall

DK

“ My condolences to the Bunjer family. I worked with Larry at CCL/Modern Press for many years (starting in '85), and for a short period he was my boss. As I have also farmed all my life outside of CCL, and with a couple others that also farmed outside of "work", (Brian L. and Orland S.), we would always be joking with each other, "how many break downs does it take to plant 100 acres", or "you should really go Red for your equipment" followed by "Harvest goes faster if you run Green". So sorry for your loss, Larry was a good person.

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**Dan Koopman** - May 25, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ I don't even know where to begin. I send my deepest sympathy in your lose. Lori, Betsy and Michelle may GOD keep you close and I will keep you in my prayers. Loved listening to him playing the organ in church on Sundays. I loved how he played with his shoes off. He was truly a wonderful person. He will be missed.



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**Deloris Watts** - May 24, 2023 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ Your family is in my thoughts and prayers. I'm so sorry to hear of Larry's passing. I worked with Larry at CCL/Modern Press all of the same time he did. He was the most patient man and was greatly missed. He had the best work ethic and never refused a challenge to make things better. I'm proud to have had the opportunity to work with him. May he rest in peace.  
Sherrie Linneman

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**Sherrie Linneman** - May 24, 2023 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Lori and family, My sincere sympathy to your family in this great loss. I have such fond memories of Larry's visits to the farm with piano lessons from Mom. I have to say that I could always tell when it was Larry at his lessons. The music just flowed from his fingers and he played so effortlessly. Larry and his music will be sorely missed. Thankful to have enjoyed his organ music at Ebenezer.

Cynthia Rops Sheppard - May 24, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ I worked with Larry at CCL Label starting in 1985 until his retirement from the company. I considered him a good friend and colleague. He always was a hard worker and a great human being. I was saddened to be notified of his passing and my heart goes out to his family. God bless.



Kevin Engelhart - May 24, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MV

“ I want to express my sympathy to Lori and family on the passing of Larry. He was always a kind and friendly person and will be missed.

Marlys Vanderwerf - May 24, 2023 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ Prayers for all the family. 🙏🙏 â ॐ,â ॐ,

Arlo & Vonnie Larson - May 24, 2023 at 12:00 AM

GW

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family as you reflect on a life well lived and the impact your husband/dad/ grandfather had on his family and community. We ask God to give you strength, peace and the knowledge that Larry is with Him.

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**Gary and Margie Williams** - May 23, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ Larry was an excellent person, friend, and farmer neighbor. A man with a kind heart, a soft spoken word, and continuous ability to help anyone, anytime. His musical skills were very unique. I knew Larry more when he was still living on the farm with his Dad (Ray Baby) and his genuine Mother Deloris. Lori may still remember the Ray Baby comment. Dale (my brother) and I milked his cow and did the chores many times and some how the term Ray Baby evolved and lived on (even until the passing of Ray) Larry and his parents were outstanding neighbors and constant friends. Memories that will never be forgotten. Rest in Peace Larry  
Ken and Karen DeVries

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**Ken DeVries** - May 23, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KA

“ Iâ€™m so sorry to hear of Larry passing. My sympathies go out to Lori and Betsy Michelle and families. Was such a wonderful caring man and will be missed dearly.

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**Kristy Albers** - May 23, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ *Deepest sympathies*



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**Michele Theel** - May 23, 2023 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ *May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift His countenance upon you, and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26*



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**Brock Rops** - May 22, 2023 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ *Many fond memories of Larry in my youth. Always a very positive and kind person. He will be missed by all who knew him. Many prayers for Lori, Betsy, and Michelle.*

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**Amber McGregor-Welch** - May 22, 2023 at 12:00 AM

ME

“ *Lori and Family,*

*So sorry to hear of Larry's passing. We really enjoyed getting to know your family when our daughter Veronica played with Betsy on the Lennox Coyote team. Great memories. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.*

*Marlene, Joe and Veronica Elko*

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**Marlene and Joe Elko** - May 22, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ I am saddened to hear about the loss of the famous Grandpa Larry. I am Willow and Isaak's maternal aunt and I have heard so many wonderful stories about Grandpa Larry over the years. I am praying for Michelle, Ryan, Logan, Emersen, Harper, Isaak, Willow, and all of the family and loved ones during this time.

*Dominique Booker*

Dominique Booker - May 22, 2023 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ Our hearts are with you.

Bill and Nancy Thompson - May 22, 2023 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ Our deepest sympathy to all the family

Arlo & Vonnie Larson - May 22, 2023 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ Our deepest sympathy to all the family

Arlo & Vonnie Larson - May 22, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ I have and will always have fond memories of Larry!!!



Donna White - May 22, 2023 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ I will remember his laugh or giggle the most. He enjoyed life. God bless the family, especially you Lori, praying for you. Christie

Christie Sauby - May 22, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ I am so sorry to hear of Larry's passing. I worked with Larry at Modern Press in the 80's. Larry was always so kind and helpful, a true gentleman. My deepest sympathy to his family.

Kim Sommers - May 22, 2023 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ Praying for the family that God's peace and comfort abounds!

Betsy - your Citi family is here for you!



Sativa Leach-Bowen - May 22, 2023 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ Words fail me as to how x press sympathy to all of you, my sincere sympathy to you Lori ,Michelle, Betsy and Larry's siblings. He was an example for many. He so loved music, farming ,his children and grandchildren. God told Moses "I will go with you." He will go with you too. With sympathy in my heart,  
Betty Winesburg.

Betty winesburg - May 21, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this sad time. May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

Maureen Henson - May 21, 2023 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ *Larry Bunjer family. My greatest condolences on the passing of Larry. A true gentlemen. I enjoyed his visits and also was honored to work with him. God Bless to all the family. Will plant a tree in honor of him.*

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**Brian Robert Lind** - May 21, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ *May God wrap his arms around you and give you peace at this time and in the days ahead. I am so sorry for your loss. Love you all.*

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**Kathy Day** - May 21, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ *My deepest sympathies to all of the family during this difficult time. Larry was a genuine good man and I am honored to have known and worked with him.*



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**Michael Peterson** - May 20, 2023 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ *i am so sorry to hear this news💔 and Larry was a wonderful manâ*



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**Sara Somrudee Mayer** - May 20, 2023 at 12:00 AM