



## Michael Alan Gardner

December 18, 1975 - September 28, 2021

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Michael A. Gardner, age 45, of Lake Mills, died unexpectedly on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 in Albert Lea, MN.

A memorial service for Mike will be held at 11:00 AM on Thursday, October 7, 2021 at Salem Lutheran Church in Lake Mills, with Pastor Joel Guttormson officiating. Inurnment will be in the Woodbury Cemetery, rural Lyle, Minnesota.

Visitation will be on Wednesday, October 6, at Schott Funeral Homes-Mittelstadt Chapel, 902 E. Main St. in Lake Mills, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM and will continue one hour prior to the service at Salem on Thursday.

The memorial service will be livestreamed. Go to [www.schottfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schottfuneralhomes.com) and click on Michael Gardner. From there, go to "tribute wall" and you will find the link to the livestream. The "tribute wall" is to the left of the "obituary & events" tab.

Michael Alan Gardner was born on December 18, 1975, in Rochester, MN to parents Charles and Dianne (Fahje) Gardner. He was baptized at Trinity Lutheran Church in Rochester, MN. The family moved to Lake Mills in 1978. Michael was confirmed at Salem Lutheran Church in Lake Mills. Mike attended school and graduated from Lake Mills High School in 1994. During school, he was a four-sport athlete participating in football, basketball, track and baseball. He was also very active with both band and chorus. Mike also worked at the Corner Stop and at the Lake Mills pool during high school.

Following graduation, from 1994-1997, Mike attended Waldorf in Forest City where he studied communications, worked at the Waldorf radio station, and was employed by the Forest City YMCA.

After Waldorf, Mike moved around and worked as a bouncer and security guard at many businesses in Minneapolis, Las Vegas, Hawaii, and California, but it didn't take long for Mike to realize he was a very skilled salesperson. He moved back to the Midwest in 2014, and he could sell anything to anybody.

His hobbies included photography, attending concerts, re-purposing or salvaging items to sell, and he was both a Minnesota Vikings fan and a Chicago Bears fan (unless the Bears played the Vikings, then he was all blue and orange).

Through the years, Michael had his issues with mental illness and drug addiction, attending rehabilitation facilities more than once, but he could not break free from his struggles.

He will be greatly missed by his family, parents Charles and Dianne Gardner of Lake Mills; sister Laura Gardner of Lake Mills; brother Brett (Rachel) Gardner of Andover, MN; and a niece Phynley and nephew Edison Gardner. He is also survived by aunts and uncles, Marjorie Nelson, Carol

(William) Hanson, Sandra Anderson and Cindy (Frank) Postic, as well as numerous cousins and friends.

Mike was preceded in death by his grandparents, Bernhard & Irene Fahje and Otho & Bernelda Gardner; two uncles, Roger Nelson and Dennis Fahje; and a cousin Brandon Elias.

## Cemetery

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### WOODBURY CEMETERY

State Highway 105,  
Lyle, MN 55953

## Events

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### VISITATION

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Mittelstadt Funeral  
Home 902 East Main  
Street, Lake Mills, IA  
50450



### VISITATION

10:00 AM

Salem Lutheran Church  
401 South Lake Street,  
Lake Mills, IA 50450



### MEMORIAL SERVICE

11:00 AM

Salem Lutheran Church  
401 South Lake Street,  
Lake Mills, IA 50450

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# Tribute Wall

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S

## Schott Funeral Homes



"Schott Funeral Homes posted a video"

Watch now

M

## Michelle Rasmussen

Thinking of you during this difficult time Dianne!

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G

## Gail Porter

"The special people in our lives are never really gone...they have a cherished place in our hearts where they will always be remembered."  
So sorry for your loss. Gail Porter

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## Roger M Gardner

Your in our thoughts and prayers. Roger and Judy Gardner & family



"Peace Lily"

was purchased for the family of Michael Alan Gardner

Tribute Store

Show your support with flowers

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## Thom Jones, friend of Melanie, Doug, and your family

My sympathy and love to your family.



"Ray of Sunshine"

was purchased for the family of Michael Alan Gardner

Tribute Store

Show your support with flowers

A tree was also planted in memory of Michael Alan Gardner.

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## Cheri Nesje

I will miss your booming laugh, your bad jokes, and most of all your big beautiful heart. I'll think of you every time I look at the many beautiful items you made me, and every time I hear a dad joke. Love, Mama C

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## Tribute Store

Please accept our most heartfelt sympathies for your loss... Our thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time.



### "Fond Memories"

was purchased for the family of Michael Alan Gardner

[Tribute Store](#)

*Show your support with flowers*

A tree was also planted in memory of Michael Alan Gardner.

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H

## Heidi Nielsen

I will cherish our memories and all those beautiful Prince pieces you made for me. May you now be at peace. You will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.



## Tribute Store

During this difficult time, our hearts go out to everyone who shared in Michael's life. May he be at peace.



### "Peace Lily"

was purchased for the family of Michael Alan Gardner

[Tribute Store](#)

*Show your support with flowers*

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D

## Dianne Isaacson

You are loved. We are sending our sympathies, thoughts, and prayers. But remember, you are loved. IKE and Dianne

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A

## A Memorial Tree was planted for Michael Alan Gardner

We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Mittelstadt Funeral Home

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