

CHERISHING THE MEMORIES





HIS JOURNEY'S JUST BEGUN

***DON'T THINK OF HIM AS GONE AWAY—
HIS JOURNEY'S JUST BEGUN,
LIFE HOLDS SO MANY FACETS—
THIS EARTH IS JUST ONE...
JUST THINK OF HIM AS RESTING
FROM THE SORROWS AND THE TEARS
IN A PLACE OF WARMTH AND COMFORT
WHERE THERE ARE NO DAYS AND YEARS.
THINK HOW HE MUST BE WISHING
THAT WE COULD KNOW TODAY
HOW NOTHING BUT OUR SADNESS
CAN REALLY PASS AWAY.
AND THINK OF HIM AS LIVING
IN THE HEARTS OF THOSE HE TOUCHED...
FOR NOTHING LOVED IS LOST—
AND HE WAS LOVED SO MUCH.***

E. BRENNEMAN

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

BENJAMIN A. MERCK



FUNERAL SERVICE

Lutheran Church of the Cross

Wednesday, December 4, 2019 ~ 10 a.m.

West Fargo, North Dakota

OFFICIANTS

Pastor Joel Baranko & Intern Tifani Luschen

MUSIC

Chad Svenby, *guitar & vocals*

Val Ray & Gretchen Byer, *vocals*

Maxine Beseler, *pianist*

"Amazing Grace" "Jesus Loves Me"

Special Music "Borning Cry"

"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

REMEMBERING BEN

Jana Oistad, *Dean of Students*

Shenandoah High School

PALLBEARERS

Uncles

Jeff Merck Todd Olson Kirk Olson

Chet Houmann Ritch Cargo

Cousin

Andrew Cole

INTERMENT

Holy Cross-South

Fargo, North Dakota

*The family wishes to express their appreciation for your kindness and support during this difficult time.
Please join them for fellowship immediately following the service.*

BEN MERCK

Remembering the life of...

Ben Merck, 16, West Fargo, ND, recently diagnosed with ALS, passed away on Tuesday, November 26, 2019, surrounded by his family at Sanford Hospital, Fargo, ND.

Benjamin "Ben" Anthony Merck was born November 21, 2003 in Fargo, ND. On January 2, 2004, he joined the family of Mark and Linda Merck. Ben was raised in West Fargo, baptized at St. John Lutheran Church in Fargo and was confirmed on Sunday, October 27, 2019, at Lutheran Church of the Cross in West Fargo. Ben attended Aurora Elementary, Liberty Middle School and was currently a sophomore at Sheyenne High School in West Fargo.

He enjoyed football, basketball, baseball, soccer, hockey, music and especially hanging with friends. Ben truly enjoyed traveling and as a part of Make-A-Wish, flew to Houston, TX and met his favorite NBA star, James Harden, receiving a signed pair of shoes.

Left to cherish his life and memory are his parents: Mark and Linda Merck of West Fargo; grandparents: Beatrice Merck of Minot, ND; Glenn and Rita Olson of Devils Lake, ND; aunts and uncles: Shirley (Chet) Houmann of Westhope, ND, Sharon (Ritch) Cargo of Towner, ND, Jeff (Cheryl) Merck of Minot, ND, Deb Cole of Devils Lake, ND, Todd (Sheila) Olson of Jamestown, ND, Kirk (Billie) Olson of Mesa, AZ; numerous cousins; godparents: Darrin & Shelly Hawley of Moorhead, MN and birth father: Kenney Robinson of Fargo, ND.

Ben was preceded in death by his grandfather: Frank Merck; uncle: Jerry Cole and cousin: Zachary Cole.

