



Harvesting Faith: Harlan Young's Story of Stewardship

By: Janis Heier

For Harlan Young, the scent of fresh-cut hay and the rhythm of rural life have always been part of the story. Raised just south of Aberdeen, near Hub City Livestock - locally known as the South Sale Barn - Harlan grew up steeped in agriculture. His parents, Eugene and Alice Young, operated the sales barn until 1990. Working at the sales barn and farming has instilled a deep respect for the land and those who make a living working the land. Today, Harlan continues that legacy, farming alongside his brother, Donald.



Just as farming shaped his identity, so did faith. Harlan was raised attending Our Savior's Lutheran Church and was introduced to Bethlehem Lutheran during his high school years. One formative memory is his time in the Sound of Celebration, a multi-denominational youth choir sponsored by Bethlehem. He also remembers the warmth and fellowship of old Bethlehem's Fireside Room, where young people gathered to share laughs, play pool, and build friendships.

On June 1, 1985, Harlan married the love of his life, Lori Allbee, at Bethlehem. Together, they raised two sons, Eric and Lucas, and found strength and a sense of community within the church. One special memory for Harlan was serving communion with Lori.

When Lori was diagnosed with cancer, their faith community became a pillar of strength. "Having a strong faith life helped me get through Lori's illness and death," Harlan shares. "Pastor Jeff helped me through many tough times." Lori passed away on March 8, 2012, but the support of the church continued to carry Harlan forward. Today, Harlan remains deeply involved in his faith family. He served on the Call Committee that brought Pastor Jeff to Bethlehem and currently serves as a member of the Financial Resource Team. In that role, **Harlan has a passion to help fellow agricultural producers understand the value of direct commodity giving.**

"Selling grain or livestock in the church's name allows you to give more while saving on taxes," Harlan explains. "It's simple - I tell the elevator how many bushels to give to Bethlehem, and then I notify the church." This method not only supports the church's mission but also helps farmers practice faithful stewardship with the resources God has entrusted to them.

When he's not working the land, Harlan enjoys hunting, fishing, trap shooting, and spending time with his sons and their families - Eric and Kelly in Kansas City with their two children, and Lucas and Shelby in Aberdeen.

In every season of life - from growing crops to growing faith - Harlan's story is one of quiet dedication. It's a reminder of how deeply faith and farming can be intertwined, blessing the church, the land, and future generations.

A word from David Frank, a tax professional and member of the Financial Resource Team: *In the right circumstances, a charitable contribution of commodities can be a win-win for the donor and the recipient of the gift. The structure of such gifts is important, so each donor should consult their tax advisor.*

Thank you for being a vital part of Bethlehem and for your support. With your partnership and the power of the Holy Spirit, Bethlehem is touching lives each and every day – connecting us with God, one another, and our mission in the world.



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