



## Christopher N. Grossnickle

January 31, 1968 - July 27, 2024

Christopher Neil Grossnickle, age 56 of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, was released into the loving arms of Jesus, his Savior, after a short and courageous fight against a rare infection on July 27, 2024, at Henry Ford Hospital surrounded by his loving and devoted family. Chris was born the son of Randolph N. Grossnickle and Anne Marie Kaskinen Chapman on January 31, 1968, in Onkama, MI. He was united in marriage to the love of his life, Karen E. Horwood, on September 28, 1996, at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. Chris was a 1986 graduate of Clare High School and attended Central Michigan University. He worked in the hospitality industry for 38 years with most of his time as a Catering Manager and later as a Retail Manager. He was a key member of the Embers Restaurant and Aramark (Central Michigan University) Catering teams. He was working as a Retail Supervisor for Chartwells at CMU at the time of his death. Chris loved his wife and children infinitely and was exceptionally proud of them in all ways possible. He was always looking for a new family adventure. His presence and interest in his children's lives and activities were important to him. He loved having his family together around a good fire or a bountiful table. Chris was a good man who valued hard work, loved organization, and a good schedule. Chris had grown in his faith and was motivated by his love of the Lord. He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. Chris had a great love of all things outdoors – including hunting, fishing, hiking, watching birds and butterflies, a good thunderstorm, and sitting around

a beautiful fire watching the night sky with all of its wonder. Chris was an avid sports and music fan – Michigan Wolverines and the Detroit Tigers were among his favorite sports teams. He was named an All-State Class C Football Player and is a member of the Clare High School Hall of Fame for his football and baseball careers. Chris loved to cook and loved serving others by filling them with his wonderful dishes. Chris had an infectious smile, a unique sense of humor, and loved to tell stories. Chris' siblings have fond memories of him enjoying being close to the earth as he was ultra passionate about planning and participating in anything hunting or fishing related. He cherished the bonding love and camaraderie created from those special family adventures. Chris is survived by his wife of 28 years, Karen; four children, Sophia, Evan, Lydia, and Emma Grossnickle; his mother and step-father, Anne Marie and Bert Chapman (Edisto Beach, South Carolina) and father, Randolph Grossnickle (Kaleva, Michigan); his sister, Nadine (Jackie Butts) Grossnickle (Florence, Kentucky); brother, Marc (Bridget) Grossnickle (Thompsonville, Michigan); half-sister, Amanda Cecilio (Traverse City, Michigan); sister-in-law, Kimberly (Gary) Bussell; nieces, Hannah (Paul) Kurtzman and Nora Grossnickle and nephew, Max Hofweber. He is survived by many aunts, uncles, great aunts, great uncle, and cousins. Chris was preceded in death by his in-laws, R. William and Janice Horwood and grandparents, Norm and Martha Kaskinen and Levon and Mary Alice Grossnickle.

A Celebration of Chris' life will be held at Zion Lutheran Church, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan on Saturday, August 10, 2024, with a memorial service officiated by Reverend Larry Wright at 11:00 am and luncheon/visitation from 12:30 pm to 4:00 p.m. We ask that those attending bring loving and happy stories of time spent with Chris to share and celebrate his life. In true fashion for Chris' love of the Michigan Wolverines and his time spent in the Central Michigan University Community, the family asks that you wear maize, blue, maroon and/or gold in his honor to the celebration.

In lieu of flowers, the family is establishing a scholarship fund to be held at Edward Jones (100 W. Main Street, Gaylord, MI, 49735, Christopher

Grossnickle Memorial) in Chris' name to go to a student/athlete from a local high school.

Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home of Clare is caringly assisting with arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Service

AUG 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

Zion Lutheran Church  
3401 East River Road  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

## Celebration of Life

AUG 10. 12:30 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Zion Lutheran Church  
3401 East River Road  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

# Tribute Wall

AM

“ APTA Michigan purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Christopher N. Grossnickle.



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APTA Michigan - August 07, 2024 at 08:55 AM

AM

“ APTA Michigan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher N. Grossnickle.

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APTA Michigan - August 07, 2024 at 08:55 AM

BR

“ I grew up with Chris and much of our time spent together revolved around sports. We played a lot of baseball and football, and Chris was very good at both. He was a great athlete and very smart. After high school we were not as close, but we always had a special bond from sports, particularly football. We were lucky enough to be on a great team together full of talented, motivated and unselfish players that wanted nothing more than to see us succeed as a team.

Chris was good to me and he was a great teammate just like I'm quite sure he was a great husband and father.

I love you man and I am proud of you. Rest in peace.

Rip

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Ben Ripley - August 05, 2024 at 09:15 PM

AH

“ Aramark Collegiate Hospitalty purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Christopher N. Grossnickle.



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**Aramark Collegiate Hospitalty** - August 05, 2024 at 09:08 AM

AH

“ Aramark Collegiate Hospitalty planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher N. Grossnickle.

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**Aramark Collegiate Hospitalty** - August 05, 2024 at 09:08 AM

BD

“ Bill & Dorothy lit a candle in memory of Christopher N. Grossnickle



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**Bill & Dorothy** - August 03, 2024 at 04:21 PM

JM

“ Josie Miller purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Christopher N. Grossnickle.



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**Josie Miller** - August 02, 2024 at 04:57 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Christopher N. Grossnickle.*



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August 01, 2024 at 10:08 PM



“ *Mark and Tracy Gajdosik planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher N. Grossnickle.*

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**Mark and Tracy Gajdosik** - August 01, 2024 at 10:08 PM



“ *I graduated with Nadine and she and her brother were two of the kindest people you'd ever want to meet! I'm so sorry to hear of his passing and pray they find comfort in memories and each other.*

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**Tami Cowles** - August 01, 2024 at 05:23 PM

EH

“Gross was one of a kind. I was lucky enough to grow up with him, be his roommate for four years in our college and young adult life, and share best man roles in our weddings. He truly was the "best man." He was honest and loyal like no other. He earned your respect simply by being himself. He was laid back and a fierce competitor, depending on what the situation required. He was the voice of reason for many of us, except that one time when we went into a new restaurant in Columbus called Buffalo Wild Wings. It was the late 80s and we didn't know anything about Bdubs and Gross asked if the wings were really buffalo meat. I will never forget that one.

I will also remember him chasing Jonesy around the yard because he thought Jonesy dumped cold water on him in the shower. After about a 20 minute chase, I confessed I did it, not Jonesy. I was hoping he was tired enough he wouldn't take it out on me. Luckily, I was right. The truth is we lived together all that time and never once raised our voices or had a disagreement. I respected and loved the guy. He was all class.

I was also fortunate enough to watch Gross and Karen fall in love. He worshiped her, and honestly Karen made him an even better person.

I share these stories now because I will not be able to attend the services on August 10. I am hoping as you read this, I can put a smile on everyone's face as we wipe away the tears and fight through the pain of losing such a great guy.

Rest In Peace Gross. We will never forget you. Until we meet again.  
Ed Hubel

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Ed Hubel - July 31, 2024 at 09:11 PM

CT

*Ed: thank you for sharing. You captured the Grossnickle we all know and love.*

**Chris Tracy** - August 01, 2024 at 06:48 PM

TF

“ *The Kopka Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Christopher N. Grossnickle.*



**The Kopka Family** - July 31, 2024 at 08:25 PM

LS

“ *Lauren S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher N. Grossnickle.*

**Lauren S.** - July 31, 2024 at 07:51 PM

WB

“ *William B. purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Christopher N. Grossnickle.*



**William B.** - July 31, 2024 at 07:45 PM

WB

“ *William B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher N. Grossnickle.*

**William B.** - July 31, 2024 at 07:45 PM

BH

“ Sorry for the loss of this very good man. I will remember the smiles and the hard work Chris brought to everything he was involved in. We lost him far too young.



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**Bruce Hales** - July 31, 2024 at 03:41 PM

GM

“ Karen and family, Chris played football with Coach Luplow and I for three years. He started as a sophomore on the varsity. He and his very extraordinary classmates, teammates brought back to winning tradition to CHS. He was an extremely talented and coachable young man. Mr. Luplow and I loved and continue to love those young men. So very sorry for your, our loss. Coach McMillan

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**greg mcmillan** - July 30, 2024 at 12:38 PM

CT

“ Karen -- I wish I had the right words to share with you and your family. I don't. I am sorry. But I can share this -- I can still see and hear like it was yesterday Chris stopping by the CHS library during yearbook/newspaper class to visit with you. That Grossnickle smile. That Grossnickle presence. Of course, he would share some sage advice with Denny Phillips and me on how to improve our newspaper articles/coverage of all things CHS and in particular our coverage of CHS sporting events. That Grossnickle wit. That Grossnickle way. There are so many treasured memories in my mind that include Chris and Karen. I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to grow up with Chris and others in Clare. I understand and appreciate more and more as the days and years pass how fortunate we were to call each other friends. I will miss my friend.

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**Chris Tracy** - July 30, 2024 at 10:04 AM

JP

“ *Many of my best high school memories were with Chris. Football and basketball games. He was a great athlete, teammate and friend. We worked together after HS for a couple of summers and drove to work together. He is a good friend and I will miss him along with many others.*

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**John PUNCHES** - July 29, 2024 at 09:41 PM