



*I am weak but Thou art strong;  
Jesus, keep me from all wrong  
I'll be satisfied as long  
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.*

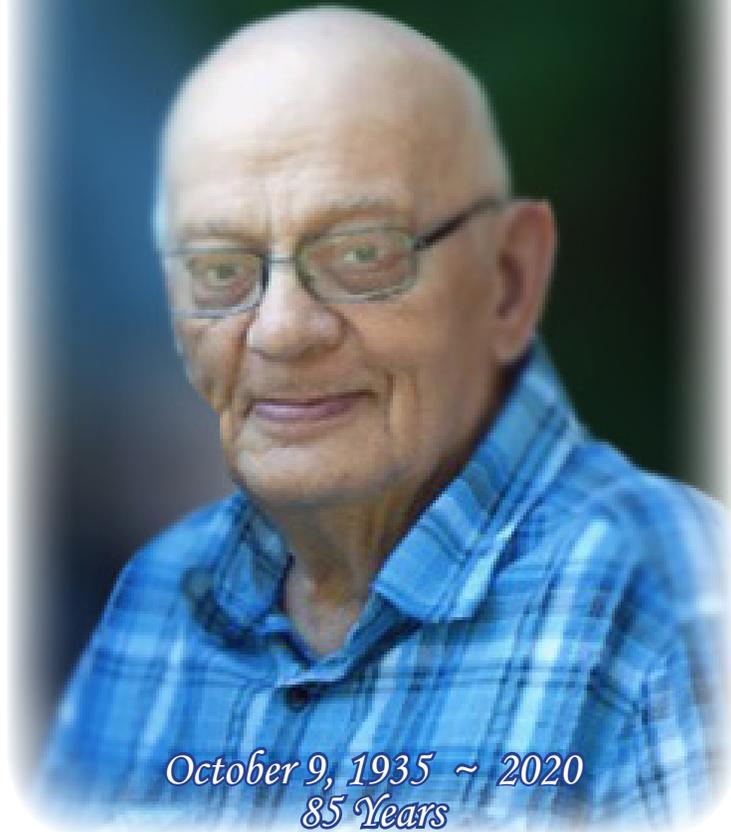
*Just a closer walk with Thee,  
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
Daily walking close to Thee,  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

**APPRECIATION**

The family wishes to express their gratitude for your kindness evidenced in thought and deed,  
and for your attendance at the funeral service.

SCHULER-LEFEBVRE FUNERAL CHAPEL - Humboldt, Saskatchewan  
"Dedicated to those we serve."

*In Loving Memory Of*  
***Gilbert Menno Epp***



*October 9, 1935 ~ 2020*  
***85 Years***

**FUNERAL SERVICE:**

Saturday, August 1, 2020 - 11:00 a.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Lanigan, Saskatchewan

**Officiant:**

Rev. George Hind

**INTERMENT:**

At a later date

Lanigan Public Cemetery, Lanigan, Saskatchewan

**Memorial Donations:**

Mennonite Central Committee

#600 - 45th Street West, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7L 5W9

Phone: 1-306-665-2555; Email: saskoffice@mccsk.ca



Gilbert is survived by his wife Elma (nee Klaassen) Epp; two children: Joanne (Ryan Rempel), and Tim (Karen Dennison); four grandchildren: Naomi Epp, Jennifer Epp, Alan Rempel, and Paul Rempel; three sisters: Leona Epp, Viola Kruger, and Norma Koop; and five nephews and nieces. He was predeceased by his older brother, Norman; his parents, Jacob "J.J." and Dora (nee Schmidt) Epp; and by two brothers-in-law: Henry Koop and Isaac Kruger.

Gilbert, the youngest child of Jacob (J.J.) and Dora (nee Schmidt) Epp, was born in Waldheim, SK, on October 9, 1935. The family lived in Waldheim until 1949, when they moved to Rosthern, SK. After finishing school, Gilbert eventually went to work for his father, who ran the Esso bulk fuel service in Rosthern. Later, when J.J. built the Esso service station, Gilbert worked as a mechanic. He and Elma Klaassen, from the Eigenheim district near Rosthern, began getting to know each other on the day of her high school graduation. They were married in 1961 and were able to celebrate their 50th anniversary with many relatives and friends in 2011. After J.J. retired and sold the Esso station, Gilbert went into business on his own, first taking a variety of sales jobs, then taking the big step of opening his own store. In 1977, our family moved to Lanigan, SK, where Gilbert and Elma ran a Macleods hardware store together. Those were busy and stressful years. Taking annual inventory was a family affair; we children would help, and J.J. would often come out from Rosthern, too. His next business venture, an arts and crafts shop in North Battleford, SK, was not as successful, so they moved back to Lanigan after two years. There he began selling Watkins and Rawleigh products, which he thoroughly enjoyed, not least because it meant building contacts with a wide variety of people in the Lanigan area and beyond. In his retirement, Gilbert began writing and painting, working steadily at both pursuits. His writings included novels, non-fiction, and narrative poetry. Animals and birds were among his favorite subjects for painting. He was always fond of music. In his youth, he played clarinet in the Rosthern town band; later he took up the clarinet again, and loved playing classic jazz, swing, and gospel songs. He would often sing a bit of a song that expressed his mood, whether happy, serious, or teasing. Gilbert had always wanted to travel, and when he was 65 he did; he went on a tour to Costa Rica, where he went horseback riding and whitewater rafting, and enjoyed the colorful bird life. That trip later inspired one of his books. Gilbert spent his last year-and-a-half living at Central Parkland Lodge, a change that was difficult for him and for Elma. She spent time with him every day, and as often as possible they still had their evening devotions together. In his later years, his poor hearing hindered him from attending church, but Bible reading and prayer remained a vital part of his daily life and guided his outlook on the world. We are grateful for the care Gilbert received at Central Parkland Lodge, and very thankful that Elma was able to be at his side.