Charles Jerold Amell
(January 8, 1941 - May 17, 2016)

Funeral services are 10:30 A.M., Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at the Wagner Community Church in Wagner, SD. Burial is in Lakeview Cemetery, Lake Andes. Visitation will be Monday with the family present from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at the Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Wagner. Memorials will be directed to Northwest Baptist Missions - who supported Charles all these years of ministry.

Charles Jerold Amell, 75, of Ravinia, after a brief battle with cancer, went home to be with his Lord on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at Yankton Hospice Cottage of Majestic Bluffs in Yankton, SD. Charles was born on January 8, 1941 to Louis and Lois (Schroeder) Amell in Streator, Illinois. He was married to Sharon Marie Amell (Nielsen) on June 7, 1963 in Streator. She preceded him in death on December 17, 2012.

At a young age an older lady took an interest in Charles and began taking him to First Baptist Church of Streator. She paid for him to go to Bible camp where he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. As a young boy he enjoyed most all things that a boy enjoyed – sports, his friends, and family. At the age of 13, he was hit by a truck. While medical personnel did not hold much hope for his recovery, God had other plans. After spending a year in the Children’s Hospital of Chicago, he was discharged to go back to Streator, where he continued to live until he graduated from Streator High School in 1959.

After high school, Charles went to Pillsbury Baptist Bible College, Owatonna, MN. He graduated with a major in pastoral studies in 1963. From there he earned his Master of Divinity from Central Seminary, Plymouth, MN, in 1965. His passion was to go to South Dakota to do church planting. After living a brief period in Yankton, SD, he accepted a call to First Baptist Church of Toulon, IL (1967-1971). From there, he and Sharon went to First Baptist Church of Spring Valley, MN (1971-1979); and Liberty Baptist Church of Grand Junction, CO (1979-1988). During these years, he had never forgotten the need of good churches in South Dakota. In the 80’s he began deputation to raise support to go to Lake Andes, SD and start a church on the Yankton Sioux Reservation. In 1988, Charles and Sharon loaded their belongings and moved to Ravinia, SD and started the Lake Andes Baptist Church.

Charles loved all sports and it was not uncommon to find him listening to or
watching a game of baseball, football or basketball. Because Bible camp held a special place in his heart, he was actively involved with many camp activities over the years. He loved people. He often received calls in the night and he would immediately go to those in need to be a help and encouragement. His passion to see people come to Christ was evident to all who knew him. His family will treasure the memories of camping and spending time around the campfire with Indian fry bread; listening to him read his version of the Daily Bread; seeing him regularly reading his Bible and hearing him pray for those around him; caring for Sharon selflessly for ten years as she battled cancer and Alzheimers; and most of all phone calls talking about his children’s families and everyday happenings will be missed.

He is survived by his three children Catherine (George) Schulz of Lake Mills, WI; Charles (Jennifer) of Durango, CO; and Christine (Matthew) Mahan of Colorado Springs, CO. He has seven grandchildren: Lauren and Ben Schulz; Jessica and Kara Mahan; and Tekla, Theia and Otto Amell. He is also survived by one brother, Barry Amell of Streator; two sisters, Marge Rodrick and Judy (Paul) DeFrees, both of Streator; and several nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his brother-in-law and friend, Dennis Ray Nielsen (Bonnie) of Pickstown, SD.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Sharon; his parents; six siblings, Louis, Neil, Bruce, Edward, Donald and Ellen Amell; and one sister, Mary, in infancy.

Back