



## Christian Earhart

March 18, 1965 - August 19, 2025

Christian D. (Chris) Earhart, 60, of Bluffton passed away on Tuesday morning, August 19, 2025, at his residence into the loving arms of God, free of pain, surrounded by his loving family. He was born on March 18, 1965, in Bluffton, Indiana to Charles D. Earhart and Louise D. (Bertsch) Earhart.

Chris married Jennifer Thompson in Bluffton on July 13, 1991. They welcomed their daughter Shelby Earhart in 1992.

Chris never shied away from hard work. In his teen years, his first job was working for Chuck and Juanita Munson on the family farm under Rod and Max, doing various farm jobs. Chris graduated from Norwell High School in 1984 and briefly worked at North American Van Lines in Fort Wayne as a dispatcher. In the spring of 1985, Chris began working at Sterling Casting in Bluffton at the age of 19. He remained there for 18 years until it's closing in 2003. After the foundry closed, Chris worked at PolyHigh Solidur in Fort Wayne and Gold Shield in Decatur, before finishing his career at Dairy Farmers of America in Huntington. Chris worked for 20 years at this location. Chris was a member of Tocsin Methodist Church, where he was baptized. Chris and Jennifer welcomed their only granddaughter, Piper Mae, in 2015, and she is their pride and joy. Piper quickly became Chris's fishing partner, dancing partner and overall little shadow.

Chris didn't know a stranger. Anyone and everyone was welcome to his backyard retreat to often times enjoy the rewards of his fishing and hunting. He was an avid Chicago BEARS fan. Many family and friends have spent time

around his meticulously stacked fire pit. His booming voice, but gentle soul was always present. He often had a story to tell or a funny, sometimes embarrassing event to share. Always in detail, often under the watchful side eye of Jenn, with one ear listening. If you know, you know. He was always open to a night in his garage “man cave,” throwing darts, playing cards, or partaking in mischievous dares, often involving his nieces and nephews who adored him. Chris and Jenn’s house was the fun Aunt and Uncle house where many sleepovers occurred.

Chris was all about family and friends. Young and old, he could connect with anyone. He absolutely adored his girls, Jenn, Shelby and Piper. They were his world and always by his side.

Chris is preceded in death by his parents, along with his father-in-law, William “Bill” G. Thompson.

He is survived by his wife, Jennifer, his daughter Shelby (fiancé Clint Baumgartner) Earhart and a granddaughter Piper Mae Earhart “Precious Punk Punk”, who lovingly called him Pa. He is also survived by his siblings, Anita (Brian) Penrod and Charlie (Deb) Earhart, along with his loving mother-in-law, Cheryl Thompson (Craig) Mann and brother- and sister-in laws, Jeff (Tonya) Thompson and Jami (Tim) Prough. Additionally, Chris had many nieces and nephews, Derrick (Nina) Penrod, Logan (Kristen) Penrod, Jobe (Tessa) Thompson, Josh Thompson, Derek (Lacey) Prough, Trevor (fiancé Elyse) Prough, Brook Earhart and Jaci Prough, great-nephews Emmett Earhart and Jason Prough, great-nieces Lila and Addie Penrod, Tallulah Thompson and Emily Prough.

Our family, friends, neighbors and co-workers have lost a good one, and he will be greatly missed by all. Fly high Chris!

Visitation will be held from 2 P.M. to 8 P.M. on Monday, (August. 25, 2025) at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton, and for one hour prior to the service on Tuesday.

Funeral services will take place at 10:30 A.M. on Tuesday, (August 26, 2025) at the funeral home with Rev. Lyle Breeding officiating.

Memorials may be made to Friends Who Care Cancer Relief Foundation or Stillwater Hospice and can be directed to the funeral home.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends may share online condolences with the family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Fairview Cemetery

3101 East Division Road  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
(260) 824-2832  
<http://www.themonumentcenter.com/about/cemeteries/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **25**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
<http://www.thomarich.com>

## Visitation

AUG **26**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
<http://www.thomarich.com>

## Funeral Service

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AUG **26**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
<http://www.thomarich.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Christian Earhart*



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**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - August 25, 2025 at 01:50 PM

JW

“ *Chris, you were one of a kind. You were an amazing soul through and through. You were a fighter! I love you man.....so much. - Jeremy Wilburn*

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**Jeremy Wilburn** - October 15, 2025 at 01:35 PM

TA

“ *The Andersons planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christian Earhart.*

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**The Andersons** - August 25, 2025 at 11:49 PM

TA

“ *The Andersons purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Christian Earhart.*



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**The Andersons** - August 25, 2025 at 11:49 PM

RA

“ 🧡 🙏



ruth allen - August 25, 2025 at 10:45 AM

RA

“ *Dear Jennifer, unfortunately I won't be able to be with you today but always know that I'm holding you in my heart and in my prayers Piperyou're the light of grandpa's eye and he'll still be keeping his eye on Curt and Chris can be up there together no pain and fish away holding you in my heart in my prayers Ruth Allen.*



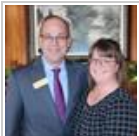
ruth allen - August 25, 2025 at 10:15 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Christian Earhart.*



August 24, 2025 at 04:10 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Life Tributes*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - August 24, 2025 at 03:06 PM



“ 105 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - August 24, 2025 at 01:34 PM

HF

“ *Hans, Tiff & family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Christian Earhart.*



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**Hans, Tiff & family** - August 24, 2025 at 12:33 PM

FM

“ *From Jared and Ashley Meschberger purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Christian Earhart.*



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**From Jared and Ashley Meschberger** - August 23, 2025 at 11:40 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Christian Earhart.*



August 22, 2025 at 04:13 PM



“ *Seems just like the other day we were all catching snapping turtles big enough to take a hand off, I loved always seeing airhead when I was a kid nothing but good memories <3*

**Xavier Shuman** - August 22, 2025 at 10:53 AM



“ *Jennifer, Shelby and Piper I'm so sorry for your loss hugs and prayers your way*



**Lisa Dillon** - August 21, 2025 at 05:52 PM



“ *Chris was a great neighbor! We shared great food together and laughs, gonna miss you my friend! Praying for the whole family!*

**Mike Berkshire** - August 21, 2025 at 02:45 PM

MB

“ Mike Berkshire lit a candle in memory of Christian Earhart



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**Mike Berkshire** - August 21, 2025 at 02:43 PM

RS

“ Chris always had some food to share with us and was an extraordinary human being. Thank you for being there my friend. You will be missed! We loave you!



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**Roger Snyder** - August 21, 2025 at 11:53 AM

SV

“ Chris was an amazing person. He was the most amazingly strongest person I have ever met. I will miss him so much! He was like a big brother Sending hugs to all the family

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**Sheila R VanCamp** - August 20, 2025 at 08:56 PM

C(

“ Chris is a fantastic soul. Funny, kind, and like a second dad during high school. He will be missed. I'm sending all of my love and prayers.

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**Chelsea Strid (Rhodes)** - August 20, 2025 at 04:24 PM

HB

“ Chris was such an amazing guy. Going to miss him. Always made my day seeing him and chatting with him. Prayers for the family.



holly bailey - August 20, 2025 at 01:18 PM

DH

“ So very sorry ! Love and hugs to all of you!  
Love Scott and Dawn



dawn hunt - August 20, 2025 at 12:55 PM

BC

“ So very Sorry to hear about Chris passing!  
Prayers to the Earhart Family! 🙏🙏🙏 Love,  
Barry and JoEllen! ❤️



Barry Crosbie - August 20, 2025 at 01:42 AM

B(

So sorry for the loss of my nephew Chris. We will miss him and his great smile, sense of humor, and cherish the memories especially his hugs.

Aunt Bertie Kunkel

Bertie Kunkel c/o Connie Houser (cousin) - August 25, 2025 at 10:25 PM



*We are so sorry for your family's loss of Chris. Our thoughts & prayers are with all of you. May God Bless you and fill your hearts with those ever lasting loving memories.*

*The Houser Family*

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**.Connie & Jerry Houser and Sons** - August 25, 2025 at 11:02 PM



*So sorry for your family's loss. I had a lot of great memories of Chris at Sterling Casting, and I will never forget him Prayers to your family.*

*Eugene Beer*

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**Debbie Massey** - August 29, 2025 at 08:46 PM