

Viola Janet (Gjestvang) Gisi was born March 28, 1932, to Ivar and Nora Helen (Rude) Gjestvang. She was the third of 7 siblings and was born in McHenry, ND, where there was a house used as a hospital.

The Gjestvang family lived at that time on a farm near Hamar, ND, then moved to a farm south of Warwick. Finally, the family moved to a farm 9 miles south of Warwick and across the road from the Lake Washington rural school where she completed the 7th and 8th grades in one year and then 9th and 10th grades. She learned to play piano and sang harmony with her sisters and others.

Vi attended New Rockford High School her last 2 years of high school, 20 miles from the family farm, living in a room rented in New Rockford by her parents; and she graduated NRHS at the age of 17. She then attended Mayville College where she obtained a teaching certificate. She first taught school near Hamar in a school that was destroyed by a fire that started during the school day, from which she had to remove the children. She finished that year teaching in a school held in a Hamar farmer's home.

Vi went to movies and attended dances while in high school in New Rockford, where she developed a crush on a young man, Johnny Gisi, who played violin in a dance band in the area. He would offer to drive her home after a dance. One of their first dates was going with other young people to the Fessenden Fair.

She married Johnny, son of John and Fanny (Glaser) Gisi on April 2, 1951, at the age of 19; and they lived on the Gisi family farm 15 miles east of New Rockford. Vi taught school at the Tiffany #3 school which was located near their farm, sometimes riding horse to get to the school. Helpful students would help her mount the horse when the school day was over, because the horse would not stand still for her to get on to ride home.

She stopped teaching to help with the farming and raise her family. She and Johnny played for area dances with family members and friends. She served on the school board, and taught piano at home to area children, including her own. She was a 4-H leader and helped teach many girls to sew and cook. She was a real partner in farming to Johnny until they retired, and she worked hard, gradually letting her daughters and sons take her place running farm equipment and feeding animals with Johnny. She worked for a short time at the Lutheran Home kitchen, and donated her time to do women's hair there as well.

Viola is survived by 7 children: Sandra (Rob Luby), Mesa, AZ; Judy (Tom Smith), New Rockford; Julie (Orley Sinkler), Marco Island, FL; John (Janine Ellingson), New Rockford; Philip (Trish Silletto), Grand Forks, ND; David, Reno, NV; and Rita (late Rob Lewton), Bowman, ND; 15 grandchildren, and 16 great grandchildren; siblings Gladys (late Fred Carlson), Luann (late Curtis Johnson), and Marlyn (Linda Aldrich); 2 sisters-in-law Audrey (McKelvey) Gjestvang and Glenna (Fleming) Gjestvang; and many nieces and nephews.

She was pre-deceased by her husband Johnny in 2010; beloved granddaughter Tara Sinkler; son-in-law Rob Lewton; and siblings Arnold, Alice, and Delvaine; brothers-in-law Clifford Erman, Curtis Johnson (Luann), George and Suneva Gisi, William and Lillian Gisi; and sister-in-law Rita (Gisi) O'Connor.

Viola passed away on December 2, 2022, at the Lutheran Home of the Good Shepherd, to join Johnny in their forever heavenly home.

The family asks that any memorials be given in her name to the Lutheran Home of the Good Shepherd, New Rockford, ND.



Celebrating

THE LIFE OF

Vi Gisi

MARCH 28, 1932 - DECEMBER 2, 2022



Celebrate My Life

Remember me with love and joy,
Let gratitude fill your heart.
Thankful for the time we had,
Gone...yet not apart.

If we measured life in moments,
Not in months or years,
I lived a hundred lifetimes,
Loved by all who hold me dear.

I hope you'll find your smile,
And generously speak my name.
Share stories and my heart,
Your love for life unchanged.

Celebrate the life I lived,
I will be watching from above.
I am always with you,
Sending you my light and love.

Celebrating The Life Of

Viola Janet Gisi

March 28, 1932 – McHenry, ND
December 2, 2022 – New Rockford, ND

VISITATION

Saturday, July 8, 2023
9:30AM - 10:30AM
First Lutheran Church, New Rockford, ND

FUNERAL SERVICE

Saturday, July 8, 2023
10:30AM
First Lutheran Church, New Rockford, ND

OFFICIATING

Rev. Amy Carlson Kippen

SPECIAL MUSIC

Recorded Music ~ *Tennessee Waltz*
Johnny and Vi played this song almost every time they played together
and with Willie & George & others.
A worship song ~ *Wind Beneath My Wings* by Sandra Gisi Luby & Nick Gisi
A worship song ~ *How Great Thou Art* by Nick Gisi, nephew of Viola
A worship song ~ *Our Father* by Nick Gisi, nephew of Viola
A worship song ~ *Whispering Hope* by Staci Sinkler, Kaiya & Benjamin

HONORARY BEARERS

All of Viola's Grandchildren

BURIAL

A private family burial will take place after the funeral reception.
St. John's Catholic Cemetery
New Rockford, ND

Arrangements by
Evans Funeral Home – Carrington & New Rockford, ND
www.EvansFuneralHomeND.com