

Joyce Elaine Starke peacefully passed away July 17th, 2025 while a resident at the Griggs County Care Center, Cooperstown ND. Several family members were at her side when she quietly left this worldly realm and went home to Jesus.

Joyce was born to William and Lenore Neuharth (Begordis) September 6th, 1931 in Washburn, ND. In 1941 the Neuharth family moved to Portland, ND, then again in 1947 moved to New Rockford, ND, where she graduated from high school. Joyce was united in marriage to William (Bill) H. Starke on September 3rd, 1950, New Rockford ND.

Joyce lived a full and joyful life, involved in many diverse organizations and building community wherever she went. However, the most important things in her life were her 71 years of marriage to Bill, her devotion to their family as it grew over the years, the enjoyment derived from her large circle of friends and most importantly, her deep faith in God.

Joyce will be fondly remembered for being a gracious host for all the holidays and celebrations that took place at "The Farm". Easter, Christmas, Thanksgivings and birthdays were all joyous occasions celebrated around her table, Bill on the west end and Joyce the east. It was rare to leave her table without being over full.

Joyce's longest running avocation was her hands-on involvement in the music ministry at the 1st Congregational Church. Playing the organ and piano, singing in and directing the choir and the occasional soprano solo were talents she shared with her church family, and the community at large for many years. Her love of music set an example for her children and grandchildren, instilling a lasting legacy of music ministry.

As mentioned, Joyce was a member supporter of many organizations. Congregational Church, Homemakers, 4-H, CNDSTR, DPRCA, Red Hatters, CCU, Soil Conservation, Music Clubs, Lions and many more.

Perhaps the most profound legacy Joyce has given us was her example of true love and friendship. Her union with Bill was one of honest partnership and deep devotion. Bill and Joyce dedicated their lives to bettering their community and worked endlessly to share their home and hearts with the people surrounding them. They served as pillars of the community through leadership and servitude.

The family of Joyce would like to extend their deepest, heartfelt appreciation to the staff of The Lutheran Home of the Good Shepherd in New Rockford and the Griggs County Care Center in Cooperstown. The good people that walk those hallways to assist and care for their residents are in our opinion, heroes. We thank you.

Joyce is survived by her daughter, Deborah (Dave) McCullum; son, Clinton; grandchildren, Katie and Laura (Deborah), Josh, Tyler, Megan, Alyssa, Hillary and Audra (Clinton), and 5 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Vern; husband, Bill; daughter-in-law, Brenda and grandson-in-law, Adam.

In lieu of flowers please send donations to Lutheran Home of the Good Shepherd, Griggs County Care Center or HIA Hospice.



Celebrating

THE LIFE OF



Joyce Starke

SEPTEMBER 6, 1931 – JULY 17, 2025

UNTITLED

Before a trip so grandiose,
I pause to mention this.
The clutch of death is very close,
When, in fact, it is.

But death is near all who
know that life is just a vapor.
So, I will breathe this vapor deep
In hopes that I may savor
A moment here, a second there
Must be my own forever.

So as life lasts, I hope to pass
The little moment greater.
By living well, the wish and will
Of God the great Creator.

by Joe Wendel
(a friend of Dave and Debbie)

EPHESIANS 2:10

(taken from the Message translation)

We have become His poetry,
a re-created people that will fulfill the destiny
he has given each of us,
for we are joined to Jesus, the Anointed One.
Even before we were born,
God planned in advance our destiny
and the good works we would do to fulfill it!

Celebrating The Life Of

Joyce Elaine Starke

September 6, 1931 – Washburn, ND

July 17, 2025 – Cooperstown, ND

VISITATION

Friday, August 29, 2025

12:00PM - 1:00PM

First Lutheran Church, New Rockford, ND

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Friday, August 29, 2025

1:00PM

First Lutheran Church, New Rockford, ND

OFFICIATING

Pastor Mindy Meier

SPECIAL MUSIC

Annette Hovey ~ Pianist

Congregational Hymn

Hymns Sing (insert)

Granddaughter's Quartet

Megan ~ Alyssa ~ Hillary ~ Audra

Bridge Over Troubled Water

Congregational Hymn

On Eagle's Wings - page #787

"Bye for Now!" ~ Joyce

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

All of Joyce's Family and Close Friends

BURIAL

Prairie Home Cemetery, New Rockford, ND

Arrangements by

Evans Funeral Home – Carrington & New Rockford, ND

www.EvansFuneralHomeND.com

Starke Homestead
Est. 1833