

Leona Black, 97, passed away on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at the Lutheran Home of the Good Shepherd, New Rockford, ND.

Leona was born on November 27, 1928 in Brantford, ND to Edwin and Etta Mae (Frazer) Tonn. She grew up and attended school in New Rockford, ND. She met William (Bill) Black on New Year's Eve 1944 and they danced every dance. They married on October 19, 1947 in New Rockford. They farmed near Grace City, ND, until 2014. They raised four children: Rebecca, Barbara, Donetta and Kevin. They were married for 69 years.



Leona is survived by her daughters, Barbara Venarchick and Donetta Black, Casa Grande, AZ; son, Kevin (Judy) Black, Glenfield, ND; son-in-law, David Utke, Glenfield, ND; six grandchildren: Janna (Todd) Vetsch, Lebanon, MO, Brenna (Bryan) Coltrane, Silver City, NM, Joel (Holly) Utke, Glenfield, ND, Meghan McLaughlin, Hobbs, NM, Kim (Kip) Brandt, Anamoose, ND and Shane (Jessica) Black, McHenry, ND; fifteen great grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; and many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband, William; her parents; four sisters: Vera (Frank) Hilbert, Evelyn (Ernest) Halvorson, Carol (Clayton) Nelson and Annie Lou (Norman) Anderson; three brothers: William Tonn, Edwin Tonn and Martin (Ann) Tonn; infant son, Robert; daughter, Rebecca Utke; son-in-law, Robert Venarchick.



In lieu of flowers, please send memorials to the Lutheran Home of the Good Shepherd, New Rockford, ND or a charity of your choice.

Celebrating

THE LIFE OF



Leona Black

NOVEMBER 27, 1928 – FEBRUARY 25, 2026

A Mother's Love Can Understand

There are times when only a Mother's love
Can understand our tears,
Can soothe our disappoints,
And calm all of our fears.

There are times when only a Mother's love
Can share the joy we feel
When something we've dreamed about
Quite suddenly is real.

There are times when only a Mother's faith
Can help us on life's way
And inspire in us the confidence
We need from day to day.

For a Mother's heart and a Mother's faith
And a Mother's steadfast love,
Were fashioned by the Angels
And sent from God above....

-Author Unknown

In Loving Memory Of

Leona Marie Black

November 27, 1928 – Brantford, ND
February 25, 2026 – New Rockford, ND

VISITATION & PRAYER SERVICE

Tuesday, March 3, 2026
Visitation ~ 5:00PM-6:00PM
Prayer Service ~ 6:00PM

Officiating ~ Paula Loewen

Lutheran Home of the Good Shepherd Chapel, New Rockford, ND

FUNERAL SERVICE

Wednesday, March 4, 2026
2:00PM

Grace Lutheran Church, Grace City, ND

OFFICIATING

Marla Larson

EULOGY

Gilbert Black

SPECIAL MUSIC

Rachel Cunningham ~ Pianist

It Is Well With My Soul ~ Sarah Rasgdale (piano solo)

Amazing Grace ~ **Congregational Hymn**

Take My Hand, Precious Lord ~ Joey & Rory

The Lord's Prayer ~ Andrea Bocelli

How Great Thou Art ~ **Congregational Hymn**

PALLBEARERS

Great-Grandsons:

Benjamin Vetsch ~ Joshua Vetsch ~ Branson Coltrane

Daniel Coltrane ~ Drew Utke ~ Ethan Utke

Bryce Utke ~ Tyler Meckle ~ Jordan Meckle ~ Aiden Flores

HONORARY BEARERS

Grandchildren:

Janna Vetsch ~ Joel Utke ~ Brenna Coltrane

Meghan McLaughlin ~ Kimberly Brandt ~ Shane Black

BURIAL

Grace City Cemetery, Grace City, ND

Arrangements by

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