

*When tomorrow starts without me,
and I'm not there to see,
If the sun should rise and find your eyes
all filled with tears for me;
I wish so much you wouldn't cry
the way you did today,
while thinking of the many things
we didn't get to say.
I know how much you love me,
as much as I love you,
and each time that you think of me,
I know you'll miss me too;
But when tomorrow starts without me,
please try to understand,
that an angel came and called my name
and took me by the hand,
and said my place was ready
in heaven far above,
and that I'd have to leave behind
all those I dearly love.*

IN LOVING MEMORY



Caroline Kilen

1947—2025

Caroline Kilen, 77, of Mandan, ND, passed away peacefully on April 23, 2025, surrounded by her loving family after fighting a 8 month battle with Cancer.

Caroline was born on June 24, 1947, in Burt, North Dakota, to Florian and Margaret Hoerner. She married the love of her life, Thornton Kilen, on August 17, 1964. Together, they shared 60 beautiful years of marriage, building a life filled with love, laughter, and the joy of raising a close-knit family.

A devoted stay-at-home mom to five children, Caroline also helped care for six of her grandchildren, creating a warm and nurturing home that became the heart of the family. Her greatest joy came from being "Grandma" and "Great-Grandma"-a role that brought her the greatest joy.

Caroline had a lifelong love for gardening and took great pleasure in canning the vegetables she grew. You could always stop by and shop from her pantry. She rarely missed a sporting event of the grandkids, She made it a point to be at every game, always the proud grandma in the stands. She loved playing cards with her husband and friends. She enjoyed scrapbooking, sewing, and relaxing on the front porch with her husband, waiting for the grandkids to stop by. She loved to spend the summer months fishing and camping.

Caroline's love for animals was evident in the many pets she cared for over the years, each one holding a special place in her heart. Her dog, Bella, was a constant companion, never leaving her side, even in her final moments, providing comfort and love as Caroline peacefully passed. In 2020, she checked a big item off her bucket list by going on her first cruise-an adventure she absolutely cherished. But perhaps one of the moments she held dearest was celebrating 60 years of marriage with the love of her life just last year.

She was known for her loving and selfless nature, always concerned with the well-being of her family and where everyone was at any given time. Her kindness, strength, and care left a lasting impression on everyone lucky enough to know her.

Caroline is survived by her loving husband, Thornton; her children, David (Jodi) Kilen, Abercrombie, ND; Brenda (Brian) Barbour, Boise, ID; Steven (Nolana) Kilen, Mandan, ND; Lori (Joseph) Lockner, Mandan, ND; 10 grandchildren, Amber (Bryce) Brady, Tyler Kilen, Austin Kilen, Nicholas Barbour, Justin Kilen, Blake Kilen, Carter Kilen, Jonathan Lockner, Jericah Lockner, and Jace Lockner; 3 great-grandchildren, Brantley Brady, Ava Brady, and Abby Brady; sisters, Shirley (Jerry) Meisch and Violet (Daren) Heim. Caroline had many other dear relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Florian and Margaret Hoerner; her brother, Florian Hoerner Jr.; and her son, Michael Kilen.

She will be deeply missed, forever loved, and always remembered.

The family would like to express their deepest gratitude to Caring Edge Hospice for the love, care, and support they provided during the final four days of Caroline's life. The compassion and heartfelt assistance they extended to the entire family will be forever cherished.

Parish Rosary & Vigil	Sunday, April 27, 2025; 5:00 PM
Presider	Deacon Bob Wingenbach
Funeral Liturgy	Monday, April 28, 2025; 10:00 AM Church of Corpus Christi, Bismarck, ND
Celebrant	Msgr. Patrick Schumacher
Assistant	Deacon Bob Wingenbach
Musicians	Sebastian Haboczki & Colleen Reinhardt
Casketbearers	Amber Brady, Tyler Kilen, Austin Kilen, Nicholas Barbour Justin Kilen, Blake Kilen, Carter Kilen Jonathan Lockner, Jericah Lockner, & Jace Lockner
Lectors	Amber Brady & Jericah Lockner
Prelude	<i>"Hail Mary, Gentle Woman"</i>
Processional Song	<i>"Be Not Afraid"</i>
<hr/> <i>Liturgy of the Word</i> <hr/>	
Old Testament Reading	Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
Response	Psalm 25
<i>"To you, O Lord, I lift my soul."</i>	
New Testament Reading	Philippians 4:4-9
Gospel Reading	John 14:1-6
Homily	
<hr/> <i>Liturgy of the Eucharist</i> <hr/>	
Preparation of Gifts Song	"I Have Loved You"
Presentation of Gifts	
Eucharistic Prayer	
Communion Songs	"One Bread, One Body"
Communion Meditation	"The Old Rugged Cross"
Final Commendation	"Song of Farewell"
Closing Song	"Amazing Grace"
<hr/> <i>The family invites you for food & fellowship at the Mandan Eagles, 1400 Collins Avenue, immediately following the funeral service.</i> <hr/>	
Committal Service	10:00 AM, Tuesday, April 29, 2025 Mandan Union Cemetery Mandan, North Dakota