

Donna Mae (Van Cleve) Kaufman was born on April 23, 1940, in Sisseton, SD, to Donald and May (Evers) Van Cleve. She graduated from Wilmot High School in 1958 and from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, in 1961 with a degree in Elementary Education and a minor in Music Education.

On June 11, 1961, Donna was united in marriage to Milton Kaufman. They lived near Browns Valley for one year and then moved to rural Wilmot in 1962, where they resided until Donna moved to Watertown in 2018. During her life, Donna taught elementary school in Browns Valley for five years and then taught elementary music in Wilmot for 30 years.

Donna was a faithful member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Wilmot. She enjoyed teaching, playing, and sharing music, gardening, sewing, camping, playing cards, and spending time with her family. Donna loved people, as shown through her involvement in LCMS church missions, 4-H, Marriage Encounter, foster parenting, foreign youth exchange programs, and volunteering for Hospice. Most important to Donna was sharing Jesus and music with everyone she met.

Cherishing her memory are her children: David (Melissa) Kaufman of Las Vegas, NV; Linda (Mark) Ramsey of Castlewood, SD; Paula (Dave) Hulscher of Florence, SD; Sarah (Nick) Geikas of Bay City, MI; and Becky Kaufman of Sioux Falls, SD; grandchildren: Andrew Kaufman, Alex Kaufman, Joshua (Amanda) Williams, Jacob (Nicole) Williams, Adam (Nicole) Williams, Rebekah Ortiz, Joey (Rebecca) Ramsey, Allison (Scott) Schmitz, Nathan Hulscher, Lukas Hulscher, Kate Hulscher, George (Whitney) Geikas, Jonah Geikas, Wesley Runge, Danica Runge, Genequa Christion, and Mataires Duncan; great-grandchildren: Savanna Schmitz, Thomas Ramsey, Gidian Ramsey, Peyton Williams, Weston Williams, Kaiden Williams, Carson Williams, James Williams, Lincoln Williams, Nicholas Geikas, and Josette Jones; sisters: Jean Elsinger of Wilmot, SD; Dorothy Bogue of Brookings, SD; and Beverly (Tom) Blann of Lakehills, TX; as well as many nieces, nephews and many foreign exchange students, especially her Japanese daughter, Hiromi Kushida.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents: Donald and May Van Cleve; her husband, Milton Kaufman; and her foster daughter, Marjorie Metellus Duncan.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Donna Mae Kaufman



WHO WAS BORN

April 23, 1940
Sisseton, South Dakota

AND CALLED TO HER ETERNAL HOME

June 27, 2026
Watertown, South Dakota

FUNERAL SERVICE

Wednesday, July 15, 2026 - 10:30 a.m.
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Wilmot, South Dakota

CLERGY

Rev. Aaron Asmus

MUSICIAN

Nancy Hanson, Organist

SPECIAL SONGS

"I'm But a Stranger Here" | "He's Risen, He's Risen"
"My Song is Love Unknown" | "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

ACTIVE CASKET BEARERS

Joey Ramsey | Andrew Kaufman | Alex Kaufman
Nathan Hulscher | Lukas Hulscher | Wesley Runge

HONORARY CASKET BEARERS

All of Donna's grandchildren and great-grandchildren

APPRECIATION

Donna's family is grateful for your attendance at this service. Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated. Following the interment, please join the family for food and fellowship at the Wilmot Community Center.

Mundwiler Funeral Home - Milbank, South Dakota

Cling to the Truth

1. What is the truth? The truth is this,
God is our maker and we are His.
We are not our own; we dare not be.
But belonging to God, we really are free.

Chorus: Cling, cling, cling to the truth,
Carry the truth in your heart.
Know ye what is the truth,
And, knowing, some real living start.

2. What is the truth? The truth we must see,
We are all sinners; we always will be.
Neglecting, not caring, defying and lying,
Ignoring, postponing, not hearing the crying.

3. What is the truth? Simply God's Son,
He did redeem us, the work is all done.
But do not relax, go your own sinful way,
Cling to the truth, let it guide you each day.

4. What is the truth? Cling to God's Word,
It can direct, sustain those who've heard.
The truth, the truth God's Spirit must give
And grow in your heart – you really can live!

*Written by Donna Kaufman
April 1974*

Please use this QR Code to view Donna's
online obituary, tribute video, and guestbook.



Celebrating THE LIFE OF Donna Kaufman



*Rejoice in the Lord, always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
Philippians 4:4*