

The LORD is my *Shepherd;*
I shall not want.

He maketh me
lie down in green pastures:

He leadeth me beside the still waters,

He restoreth my
soul:

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for His name's sake. Yea though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death.

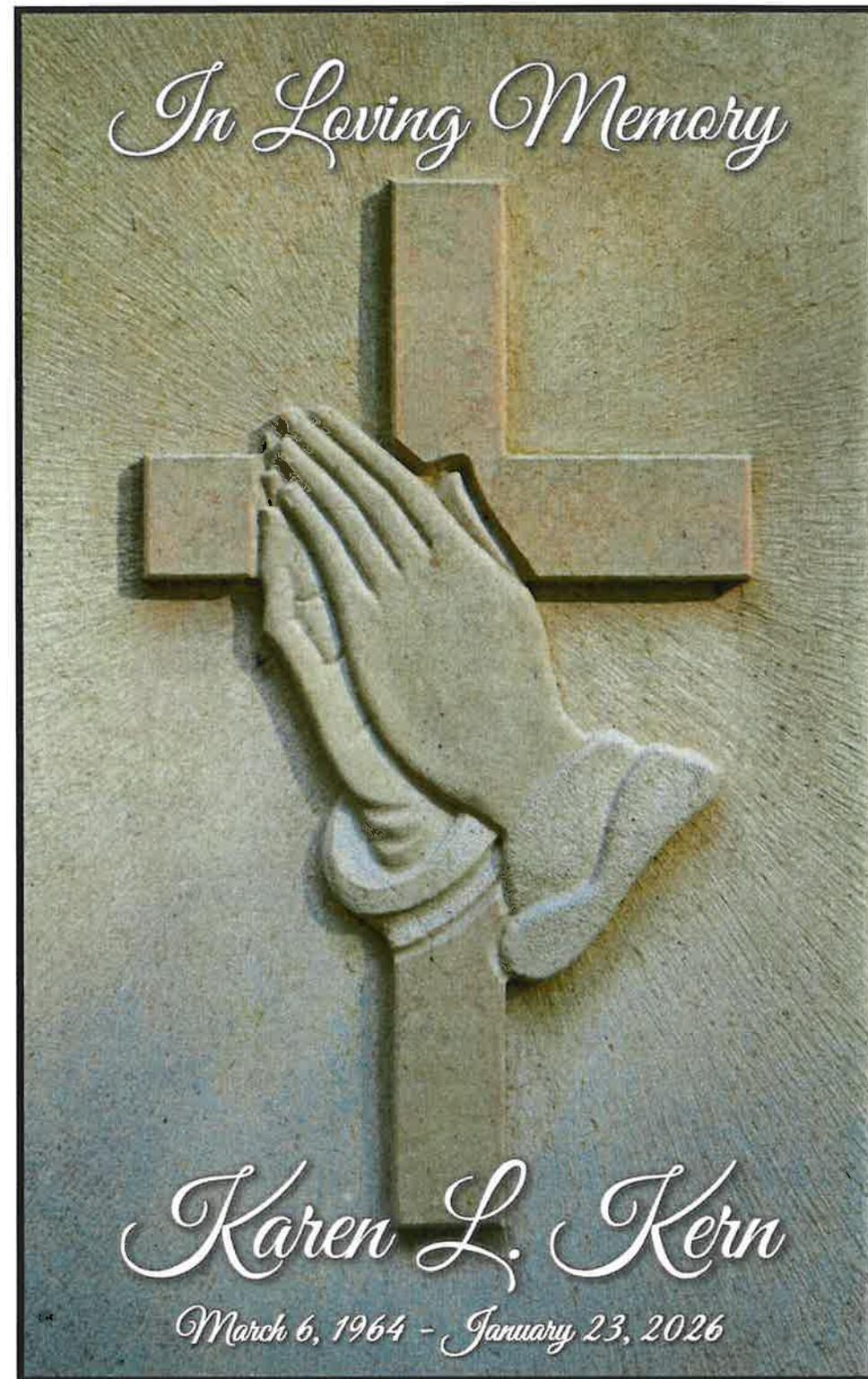
I will fear no evil:
for Thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

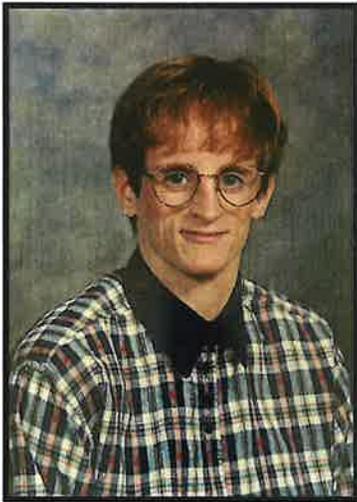
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies

Thou anointest my head with oil; My cup runneth over

Surely goodness & mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house
of the LORD *forever.*
- Psalm 23





Karen was born in Hallock, MN to Edward "Cope" and Mary (Smith) Kern. She was nicknamed "Toopie" by her Grandpa Kern. Karen was born deaf and was raised in Pembina, ND, with her education beginning at the Pembina Public School before transferring to the North Dakota School for the Deaf, graduating in 1984 as an honor student. It was there, at NDSB, that she made many lifelong friends.

Karen continued her education at TVI college in St. Paul, MN for two

years where she majored in graphic arts and graduated in 1986.

Karen worked in various jobs in Pembina until she moved to Fargo in 2000 and became involved with the deaf community. She was employed by Custom Graphics, Inc. in Fargo for 14 years before retiring due to health issues.

She enjoyed bible study, deaf social events, and crafts. Karen was also deeply active in the deaf community and in what she called "Deaf Church." She was a member of the Kern-Thompson American Legion Auxiliary, Community Alliance Deaf Church and the North Dakota Association of the Deaf.

Left to mourn Karen are her brother, Kevin "Cope" Kern and his daughter, Becca, the Kern cousins and a family of dear friends and her beloved cat, Walter.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents, brother, Dennis, grandparents, Walter and Mary Kern and Earl and Elise Smith and cousin, LuAnna Kern.

Karen L. Kern, 61, formerly of Pembina, ND, passed away on Friday, January 23, 2026 at Sanford Health in Fargo, ND.

FUNERAL SERVICE

Friday, January 29, 2026 - 10:30 a.m.

Pembina Pioneer Methodist Church

Pembina, North Dakota

CLERGY

Pastor Rob Kemp

INTERPRETER

Hannah Crotty

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

"What a Friend We Have In Jesus" #526

"Because He Lives" #364

SPECIAL MUSIC

"I'd Rather Have Jesus"

Doug Finney, Soloist Betty Irving, Accompanist

CASKET BEARERS

Cody Duncan Thomas Ellenbecker Clay Fairbanks

Jamie Kern Scott Kern Bernard L. Rolewitz

INTERMENT

Pembina Cemetery

Pembina, North Dakota