

Shirley J. Davis, 75, of rural Christine, ND, passed away peacefully at home on September 16, 2025, surrounded by love.

Shirley was born on February 1, 1950, in Fargo, ND, to Jim and Lois Johnson. She grew up in a family rooted in love, laughter, and resilience-values she carried with her throughout her life. On November 30, 1974, she married Robin Davis at Olivet Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND. Together, they built a life filled with love, adventure, and devotion to family.

She is survived by her husband, Robin; son, Sam (Heather) Davis of Dickinson, ND; daughter, Dana (Benjamin Schmitz) Davis of Fargo, ND; stepson, Matt (Becky) Davis and family of Sabin, MN; grandchildren, Rylee and Max Davis of Dickinson, ND; brothers, Steve (Janine) Johnson of Moorhead, MN, and Kip (JoAnn) Johnson of Port Orchard, WA; along with nieces, nephews, wonderful cousins, cherished friends, and her beloved mini goldendoodle, Cork. She was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Doug Johnson; and her sister-in-law, Nancy Johnson.

Shirley had a big heart for children and dedicated her career to serving them as a paraprofessional at Richland Elementary School in Abercrombie, ND, and Robert Asp Elementary School in Moorhead, MN. She had a gift for recognizing the children who needed love the most-often when they struggled to show it-and became the trusted adult they could depend on.

Her compassion extended far beyond the classroom. Together with Robin, she opened their farm as a place of respite for foster children through the PATH organization, offering safety, family, and unconditional love. The impact of their care is lasting-many of those children remain in touch to this day.

Shirley was a quiet giver, never seeking recognition for her kindness. Whether it was a winter coat, a pair of boots, or a set of school supplies, she always found a way to ensure children had what they needed. Usually, mysteriously, these items would show up in their locker or desk. She poured her heart into her family and home, creating a warm and adventurous place for her children to grow up. The farm was often the backdrop for laughter and new experiences. One of the family's favorite stories is the day Shirley called Robin at work and asked if he knew how to build a fence-because the kids had convinced her to adopt a pet pig, which was happily living in their playhouse. It escaped...you'll have to ask about the rest.

Shirley's creativity and curiosity knew no bounds. A lifelong reader, she devoured books with remarkable speed, always eager to dive into a new story. She was also a passionate crafter, finding joy in knitting (occasionally at Bison Football games), sewing, sketching, painting, and working with her kiln to create beautiful pieces. Summers at Pelican Lake, where she spent time at her grandmother's cottage throughout her life, brought her deep joy and lasting memories with family and the best neighbors.

Her humor, generosity, and quiet strength will be missed beyond words. Those who knew her will remember the countless ways she made life richer-through her compassion, her creativity, her fantastic laugh, and her unwavering love.

Shirley lived an incredible life, and we are deeply grateful to have been part of it.

IN LOVING
Memory



Shirley Jane Davis

February 1, 1950 - September 16, 2025

Death Is Nothing At All

By Henry Scott Holland

Death is nothing at all.
I have only slipped away to the next room.
I am I and you are you.
Whatever we were to each other,
That, we still are.

Call me by my old familiar name.
Speak to me in the easy way
which you always used.
Put no difference into your tone.
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed
at the little jokes we enjoyed together.
Play, smile, think of me. Pray for me.
Let my name be ever the household word
that it always was.
Let it be spoken without effect.
Without the trace of a shadow on it.

Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same that it ever was.
There is absolute unbroken continuity.
Why should I be out of mind
because I am out of sight?

I am but waiting for you.
For an interval.
Somewhere. Very near.
Just around the corner.

All is well.

Remembering

Shirley Davis

February 1, 1950 - September 16, 2025

Memorial Service

Friday, September 26, 2025 - 10:00 AM
Hanson-Runsvold Funeral Home
Fargo, North Dakota

Officiant

Pastor Kris Gorden

Congregational Hymn

Marlys Herring, *Pianist*
"Here I Am, Lord" #589

Music

Alex Rydell, *Violinist*
"Rainbow Connection" - Paul Williams & Kenneth Ascher
"Perhaps Love" - John Denver

All are invited to a luncheon following the service.



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