

Verla Annabelle Tokheim was born at home on March 19, 1934, to Joseph and Agnes (Peterson) Tokheim. She grew up with her 4 siblings on their farm east of Colton attending the one-room Hamre School and graduating from Lyons High School in 1952. Verla then attended the Sioux Valley Nurses Training program and became a Registered Nurse. The majority of her career was spent working with Dr. John Devick at the clinic in Colton, SD.

Verla married Ron Thompson at First Lutheran Church, Colton, SD on June 1, 1958 and they made their home for 61 years on a farm that had been homesteaded by Tokheim relatives and was exactly halfway between both of their parents.

Homemade bread was Verla's specialty. It was especially loved by her grandchildren, nieces and nephews. There would never be any left over at family gatherings and getting the last piece was a coveted claim. In later years, Verla and Ron became lefse making experts. As soon as the fall harvest was done, Verla would start mixing up batches of lefse and Ron would do the rolling and cooking. The two of them had the process down to a science and they enjoyed sharing the treat with friends and neighbors.

First Lutheran Church always played a very important role in Verla's life. Having been a member there since the day she was baptized, her faithfulness was evident in word and deed. She taught Sunday School, lead Bible Study and hosted Ladies Aid. But her greatest passion was quilting. Every Wednesday morning, Verla and a devoted group of ladies would gather in the church basement and make quilts from anything that was donated – even taking apart clothes to cut them into squares to sew them into strips and sew the strips into colorful quilt tops. Quilts in process would regularly be found spread on her dining room table at home or neatly stacked on the chairs after she had hemmed them. Over the years, Verla helped make hundreds of quilts for those in need that were shipped all over the world through Lutheran World Relief. Verla ran a pretty tight ship in the church kitchen and the parish hall dining room. Everyone knew that if there had been a gathering in the basement, the tables needed to be returned to the proper “quilter's layout” (map posted in the kitchen) and the kitchen returned to an orderly state.

Verla passed away on Friday, May 2, 2025, at Dow Rummel in Sioux Falls, at the age of 91.

Grateful for having shared her life are her sons, Jeff (Karen Medema) Thompson, Colton, SD; Keith (Mara) Thompson, Minneapolis, MN; and daughter Leslie (Mark) Johnson, Crooks, SD. Verla was a very proud grandmother to Matthew (Maggie) Thompson, St. Paul, MN; Carl (Brooke) Johnson, Dell Rapids, SD; Chris (Maddy) Thompson, New York, NY; Emma (Zach) Dorgan, Colton, SD; and great-grandmother to Rosie and Ella Thompson; Rhett, Riggs, Rhody, and Laramie Johnson; Nora Thompson; and Kordella and Theodore Dorgan. She is survived by her brother, Alton (Delores) Tokheim; sister-in-law Sharol (Cliff) Bjerke and numerous nieces and nephews.

Verla was preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, Ron Thompson; her parents, Joe and Agnes Tokheim; siblings and spouses Marilyn (Gene) Graber; Mildred (Norman) Jorgenson; brother Ronald (Ruth) Tokheim; and sister-in-law and husband, Jewyll (Rich) Peterson.

In Memory Of **Verla Annabelle Thompson**

March 19, 1934 † May 2, 2025

Funeral Service

10:30 AM

Monday, May 12, 2025

First Lutheran Church

Colton, South Dakota

Officiating

Rev. Herb Wounded Head III

Organist

Deb Bunde

Congregational Hymns

“How Great Thou Art”

“On Eagles Wings”

Soloist

Rev. Randall Questad

“Beautiful Savior”

Pallbearers

Matthew Thompson

Zach Dorgan

Joe Tokheim

Carl Johnson

Brian Jorgenson

Joel Hazel

Honorary Pallbearers

Christopher Thompson

Interment

Hills of Rest Cemetery

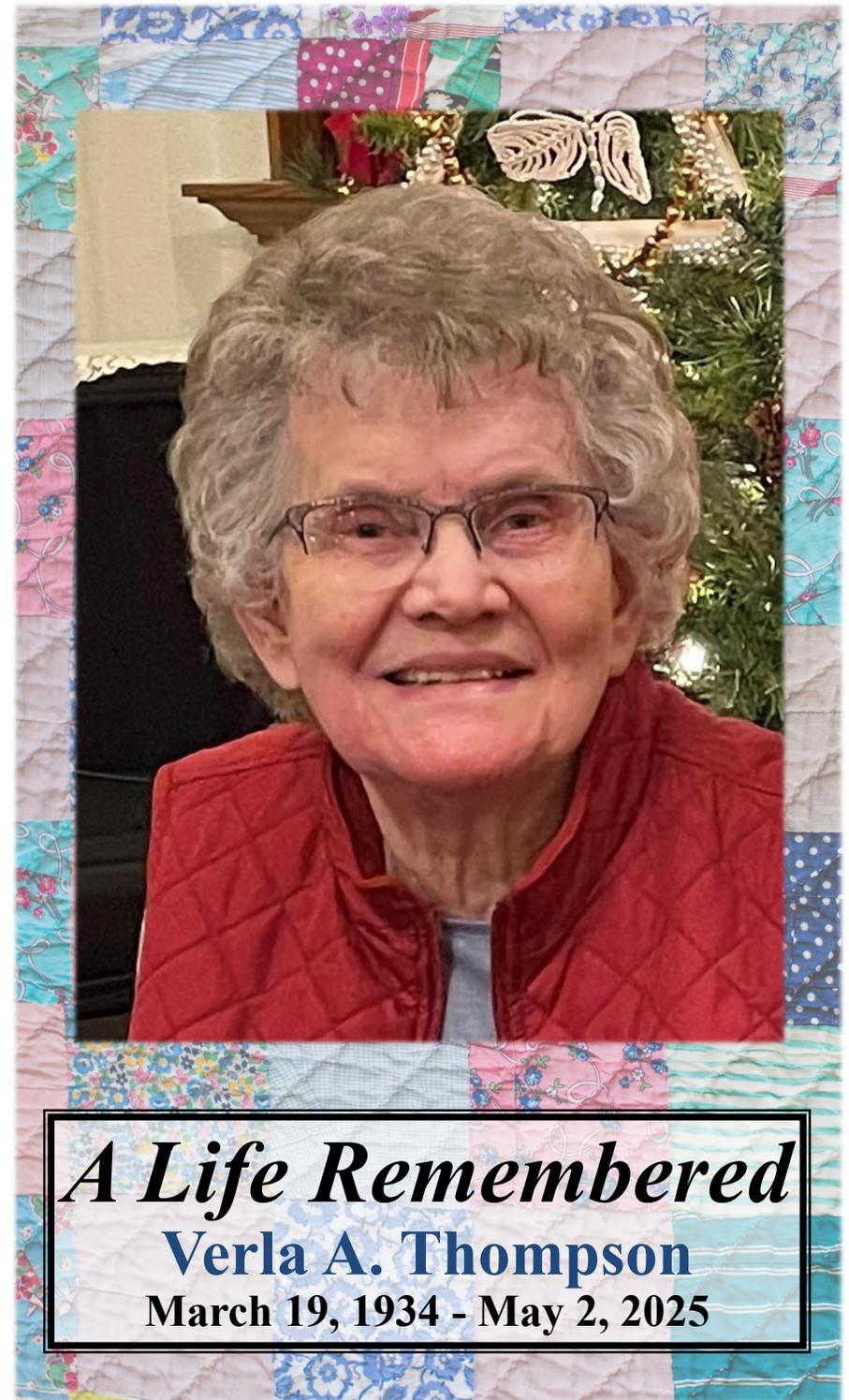
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Memories of Mom

The mixing bowls are empty now.
The beaters shiny clean.
The bread pans scratched and dented
served well when times were lean.
So many sheets of cookies
you baked and froze and shared.
It was your way of showing
how very much you cared.
Your sewing machine stands silent
after decades of loving use.
From making clothes to patching them,
there wasn't a stitch you couldn't do.
You ripped out seams and zippers
from clothing cast aside
To create a patchwork quilt top
made strong and made with pride.
Oh, the cherished memories made
to see you with "Grands" and "Greats"
There was always time for stories,
and treats no matter how late.
As a farmer's wife you did it all,
with determination and a smile.
At the end of the day you'd always say
"We'll see what tomorrow brings".
Your time on earth is over
but your love will still live on.
So " 'bye for now", as you would say,
we'll miss you dearly, Mom.

Leslie Johnson

*The family of Verla Thompson thanks you for your presence
and support. They invite you to refreshments and fellowship in
the church basement following the service.*



A Life Remembered

Verla A. Thompson

March 19, 1934 - May 2, 2025