

Edna Kesselring was born on December 8, 1924 in Wolsey, SD before the family moved to Chamberlain in 1935. She attended school in Chamberlain where she graduated from Chamberlain High School in 1943. She became the Chief Operator at the telephone office until June 30, 1946, when she was united in marriage to Percy B. Gunderson. They made their home on the Gunderson Homestead in American Township for 68 years.

Writing letters was one of Edna's main hobbies. She would call them Edna's scribbles in later years. Some special ones were found to have a shiny penny in them. She also wrote for the newspapers along with her own obituary.

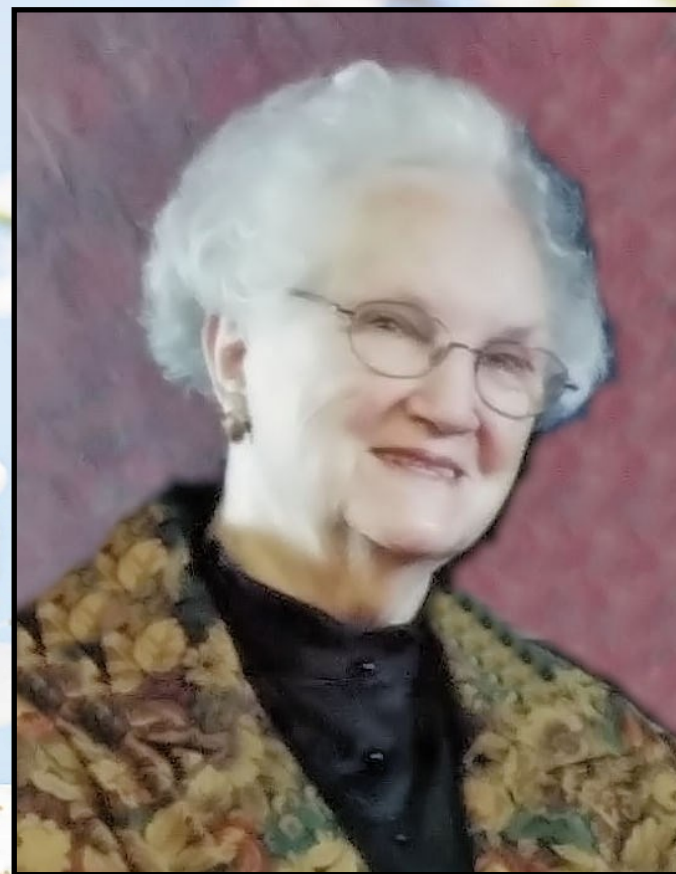
Edna enjoyed crocheting as she made many afghans throughout the years. Many reasons brought smiles to Edna such as two grandchildren were left handed as was she. Another joy would be having her first fifth generation grandchild.

Percy and Edna were honored and faithful through their years as members of the St. Olaf Lutheran Church at Ola.

Edna was so thankful for her big family and the blessings of having them close. If you were visiting Edna she may tell you "Love wasn't put in our hearts to stay. Love isn't love til we give it away." She was also proud of the servicemen in her family.

Edna passed away on June 2, 2026 at Sanford Care Center in Chamberlain at the age of 101. Gratefully sharing her life are her five children Denny and Kay Gunderson of Chamberlain, Dave and Gail Gunderson of Chamberlain, Dayle and Mike Chilson of Chamberlain, Donna and Donnie Dominiack of Chamberlain, and Dori and Bart Krenke of Chamberlain; son-in-law Dan Conkling of Yankton, SD; 15 grandchildren; 29 great grandchildren; and six great great grandchildren with baby Larson due in August.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her husband Percy, daughter Dee Conkling.



In Loving Memory Of

Edna L. Gunderson

1924 - 2026

In Loving Memory

Edna L. Gunderson

December 8, 1924 ~ June 2, 2026

Love

Love is like a diamond
It shines both night and day
It brings us joy and happiness
And brushes tears away.
When a storm is in the offing,
And dark clouds roll above
Nothing brings a ray of sunshine
Like a little bit of love
It will fill your life with blessings
Like the stars up in the sky
It will bring a host of friendships
That will never pass you by
It will bind the ties of friendship
Both the old ones and the new
It will bring both smiles and laughter
And peace and comfort too
It will help erase your sorrows
Your troubles and your cares
If you kneel beside your bed at night
And softly say your prayers.

This poem was written by
Lloyd Kesselring, Edna's father.

Prayer Service

Hickey Funeral Chapel
Chamberlain, SD

7:00 p.m., Friday, June 5, 2026

Funeral Service

St. Olaf's Lutheran Church
Ola, SD

11:00 a.m., Saturday, June 6, 2026

Officiating

Rev. Nicholas Schulz

Music

Kristy Nelson ~ Pianist
Wade Gunderson ~ Soloist

Casketbearers

Joe Gunderson
Brandon Chilson
Dylan Dominiack

Wade Gunderson
Garrett Chilson
Blaine Krenke

Interment

Union Cemetery
Bijou Hills, SD

Please join the family at the church
following the funeral services for lunch & fellowship.