

**D**orothy Helen Rogness, age 96, formerly of Renner, passed away on Saturday, January 3, 2026, at Washington Crossing in Sioux Falls. Dorothy was born in Lyons, SD on June 14, 1929. While she was growing up, her parents instilled in her a deep faith and service to others. She graduated from Lyons High School and worked at Reetz Photography in Sioux Falls. Determined to never marry a farmer, she met Duane Rogness on a blind date who informed her all he wanted to do was farm. She, and her children, are thankful she never looked back. She and Duane were married on May 29, 1954. Shortly after their marriage they moved to a farm near Renner where they raised their family. Dorothy worked on the farm and cleaned homes for others to assist financially, while befriending and supporting her neighbors and expanded community. They lived on the farm for over 60 years until Duane passed away in January 2018.

Dorothy was an accomplished singer and sang for many weddings, funerals and special events over the years. She loved music and joyously shared her talent. She was a woman with a strong faith, and dedicated much of her life in service to Benton Lutheran Church, which was established by her grandfather and his brother, by making pies with the ladies, teaching Sunday school, leading music, serving on various boards and continually supporting the church's mission. Following in her father's footsteps she served as president and other roles on the board of Bethany Lutheran Home, continuing compassionate and quality care for the elderly. In September, Dorothy was honored to receive the inaugural Legacy Award from Bethany Home Foundation. Dorothy was also an advocate for farming and farmers and participated in Farm Bureau, Extension Club and other farming organizations. She loved her family dearly and told them that often. She was also the proud godparent of seven. Her direct message to her godchildren is, "Even though I haven't been in close contact, you've always been in my prayers." She believed strongly in prayer and had a long list of people she prayed for every night.

Dorothy is survived by her children: Susan (Arnie) Martens of Sioux Falls, David (Dixie) Rogness of Lyons, Carrie Rogness (Mark Sibley) of Rochester, MN and son-in-law Brian Peterson, New Salem, ND. She is also survived by her brother-in-law, Orville Lonneman, her sister-in-law, Carol Blaisdell, her brother-in-law, Allen Rogness, her grandchildren, great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. She is also survived by her "much-loved godchildren" Jim Sandberg, Genell Sandberg, Wade Davis, Dan Anderson, Corey Blaisdell, and Reed Froseth. Dorothy also leaves behind a lifetime of wonderful memories and stories for her family to share.

She was preceded in death by her husband Duane, daughter Diane, brothers Charles, Leonard, and baby Lawrence Sandberg, sisters-in-law Elaine Lonneman and Rose Sandberg, and nephew/godchild Keith Sandberg.

*"A family is a circle of love, not broken by a loss, but made stronger by the memories. We are forever blessed that God connected us to you."*

*"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"*

# *In Memory Of* **Dorothy Helen Rogness**

June 14, 1929 † January 3, 2026

## **Funeral Service**

10:30 AM

Friday, January 9, 2026  
Benton Lutheran Church  
Crooks, South Dakota

## **Officiating**

Rev. Renae Boehmer  
Vicar Kendra Kappler

## **Organist**

Jill Rye

## **Congregational Hymns**

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”  
“Sweet Hour of Prayer”  
“It is Well with My Soul”  
“In the Sweet Bye and Bye”

## **Special Music**

“The New 23rd”

## **Pallbearers**

Travis Ellison  
Seth Ellison  
Brittany Moeller

Kevin Ellison  
Brett Martens  
Colin Moeller

## **Interment**

Benton Lutheran Cemetery  
Crooks, South Dakota

**"We little knew that morning  
God was going to call your name  
In life we love you dearly  
in death we do the same  
It broke our hearts to lose you  
you did not go alone  
For part of us went with you  
the day God called you home  
You left us beautiful memories  
your love is still our guide  
And though we cannot see you  
you are always by our side  
Our family chain is broken  
and nothing seems the same  
But as God calls us one by one  
the chain will link again."**

*The family of Dorothy Rogness thanks you for your presence and support. They invite you to lunch and fellowship at the church following the committal service.*



# *A Celebration of Life*



**Dorothy Helen Rogness**  
**June 14, 1929 - January 3, 2026**