

Marlys Lorraine Larsen was born on May 14, 1931, in Watertown, SD, to Edwin and Lydia (Mandler) Matthes. She was the eldest of seven children. Marlys spoke only German until she began school; fortunately, her teacher was fluent in both German and English.

She lived her entire life in Codington and Grant Counties until February of 2020, when she moved to Winner, SD, to live with her daughter. Marlys completed eight grades of education and was confirmed at Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church. Growing up during the Great Depression, often referred to as the “Dirty Thirties,” she learned the value of hard work and making wise, careful decisions, traits she carried throughout her life. She was conservative by nature and believed strongly in never wasting anything.

Marlys worked at the South Shore Creamery from 1953 to 1965. On November 14, 1958, she married Oscar Larsen in Ortonville, MN. From this union, their only daughter, Linda Ann, was born on May 23, 1965. Marlys and Oscar farmed together until 1984, when they moved into Stockholm, SD.

From 1986 through 1995, Marlys worked as a custodian at the Grant County Courthouse in Milbank, SD. In August of 1989, Oscar and Marlys became grandparents when Jim and Linda adopted a family of three children. They were extremely excited and proud to welcome their grandchildren.

Oscar passed away on December 12, 1997, in Ortonville, MN. Marlys was a hard worker for most of her life, and when her health no longer allowed her to do the things she enjoyed, it was very difficult for her. She loved visiting with people, especially those at the local café, Alice’s, in Stockholm. She also enjoyed gardening, driving through the countryside, and observing nature, which brought her great joy. At the age of 94, Marlys had her first airplane ride.

She is survived by her daughter, Linda Calhoon of Winner, SD; three grandchildren: Marie Calhoon of Rapid City, SD; Adam Calhoon of Big Stone City, SD; and Joanna Calhoon of Mitchell, SD; ten great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; along with five siblings; and numerous nieces; nephews; friends and family. She was preceded in death by her parents: Edwin and Lydia Matthes; husband, Oscar Larsen; infant sister, Janet Matthes; son-in-law, Jim Calhoon; and granddaughter-in-law, Candra Calhoon.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Marlys Larsen

WHO WAS BORN

May 14, 1931
Watertown, South Dakota

AND CALLED TO HER ETERNAL HOME

December 21, 2025
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

FUNERAL SERVICE

Tuesday, December 30, 2025 - 1:00 p.m.
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church
South Shore, South Dakota

CLERGY

Pastor Ken Nelson

MUSICIAN

Colleen Quade, Pianist

SPECIAL SONGS

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” | “I’m But a Stranger Here”
“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

ACTIVE CASKET BEARERS

Kris Pekelder | Nathaniel Pekelder | Jake Peterson
Ryan Pekelder | Ryder Peterson | Devin Pekelder

BURIAL

Tabor Lutheran Cemetery
Strandburg, South Dakota

APPRECIATION

Marlys’s family is grateful for your attendance at this service. Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated. Following the service, please join the family for a time of fellowship and a luncheon in the church dining area.

I'm Spending Christmas in Heaven This Year



I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below,
With tiny lights like heaven's stars reflecting on the snow.

The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away that tear,
For I am spending Christmas in Heaven this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear,
But the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here.

For I have no words to tell you the joy their voices bring,
For it is beyond description to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me and the pain inside your heart,
But it is only for a time that we are now apart.

I can't tell you the splendor or the peace here in this place,
Can you just imagine Christmas with the Savior, face to face?

So, please let your hearts be joyful and let your spirit sing,
For I am spending Christmas in Heaven and I'm walking with the King.

Please use this QR Code to view Maryls's
online obituary and guestbook.



Celebrating THE LIFE OF



Maryls Larsen