

Nancy Jane (Gunderson) Hansen was born on March 10, 1947, at Luther Hospital in Watertown, SD, to Carl and Rhoda (Neville) Gunderson. Nancy was baptized and confirmed at Bergen Lutheran Church near rural Florence, SD. She grew up on a farm northeast of South Shore, SD, and graduated from South Shore High School in 1965.

After high school, she attended Watertown Business University. She later moved to Minneapolis, MN, where she worked for a short time at Lutheran Brotherhood Insurance before returning to South Dakota.

On July 27, 1968, Nancy married her high school sweetheart, Ralph Hansen, at American Evangelical Lutheran Church in Milbank, SD. The couple were blessed with three children: Raquel, Heather, and Jess. They first made their home in Milbank before moving to South Shore, where they operated the local grocery store for a time. They eventually returned to Milbank, where Nancy began a long career at Valley Queen in 1976. Nancy worked in various positions at Valley Queen for 40 years, retiring in 2016.

Her faith and church community were important parts of her life. Nancy was very involved with American Lutheran Church in Milbank. She was especially known for helping in the kitchen, baking and preparing food for church gatherings and special events. She also supported the Grant County Appeal. In her free time, Nancy enjoyed visiting the casino. She also enjoyed animals, especially her farm cats.

Nancy is survived by her husband, Ralph Hansen of Milbank, SD; her daughters: Raquel (Daniel) Gorecki of Clear Lake, MN; and Heather (Angie Curtis) Hansen of Milbank, SD; grandchildren: Jacob (Abby) Gorecki of Champlin, MN; Emma (Darren) Barbera of Sauk Rapids, MN; and Brandon Hansen of Rapid City, SD; one great-grandson, Henry Barbera; and sister, Gayle Heupel of Sioux Falls, SD.

She was preceded in death by her parents: Carl and Rhoda Gunderson; beloved son, Jess Hansen; and siblings: Barbara (Orville) Anderson, Ronald “Ronnie” Gunderson, and Roger Gunderson; and nephew, Tony Gunderson.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Nancy Jane Hansen

WHO WAS BORN
March 10, 1947
Watertown, South Dakota

AND CALLED TO HER ETERNAL HOME
October 27, 2026
Milbank, South Dakota

MEMORIAL SERVICE
Friday, October 30, 2026 – 2:00 p.m.
American Lutheran Church
Milbank, South Dakota

CLERGY
Pastor Justin Neugebauer

MUSICIAN
Mary Bjordahl, Organist

SPECIAL SONGS
“On Eagle’s Wings” | “Amazing Grace”

ACTIVE URN BEARERS
Beloved Grandchildren
Jacob Gorecki | Emma Barbera | Brandon Hansen

HONORARY URN BEARERS
All of Her Former Valley Queen Cheese Factory Co-Workers

INURNMENT
Milbank City Cemetery
Milbank, South Dakota

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

Mundwiler Funeral Home – Milbank, South Dakota

Remember Me

Don't remember me with sadness,
Don't remember me with tears,
Remember all the laughter,
We've shared throughout the years.
Now I am Contented
That my life it was worthwhile,
Knowing that I passed along
the way I made someone
smile.
When you are walking down
the street and you've got me
on your mind,
I'm walking in your footsteps
Only Baby a step behind
So please don't be unhappy
Just because I'm out of sight,
Remember that I'm with you
Each morning, Noon and night

Handwritten by Nancy Hansen

Please use this QR code to access
Nancy's online obituary and guestbook.

