

Shirley Lotus Conraads was born on March 9, 1933, in Sioux Falls, SD. She was the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Welte) Reiners and the firstborn of ten children. She attended rural school and graduated from Milbank High School in 1951. Shirley attended two years of college and then taught in a country school for three years.

Shirley then met the "love of her life," Alvin Conraads. They were married in 1953 after a season of separation when Alvin was deployed to the Korean War. They settled on a family farm in Twin Brooks Township. They were blessed with four children. They were married for 52 years until God called Alvin home on December 31, 2005. Shirley later enjoyed the friendship of Francis Van Sambeek for several years until God called him home on July 21, 2023.

Shirley served as a librarian for the Grant County Library as well as the Milbank Middle School. She loved her middle school students and made reading fun for so many through creative and motivational activities. Shirley's talents and hobbies included playing the organ and piano, bowling, sewing, reading, and crocheting, always with a drive for excellence.

Shirley loved her church and was involved in leadership over the years. Despite many physical setbacks throughout her elderly years, she continued to attend and generously give until the age of 93.

Above all else, Shirley's greatest love truly was her four children, 13 grandchildren, and 27 great-grandchildren! Her legacy of love for Jesus, love of learning, and love for others has and will continue to carry on through the stories of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her sacrificial kindness and compassion will not be forgotten by neighbors, friends, and family.

Left to cherish her memory are one son, Timothy Conraads and wife, Deb of Aberdeen, SD; three daughters: Yvonne and husband, Pastor Greg Loy of Rochester, MN; Barbara and husband, Dr. Ward Fredrickson of Bismarck, ND; and Anita and husband, Pastor Kevin Lardy of Sheldon, IA.; her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; sisters: Marjorie Bohn of Milbank, SD; Phyllis Boerger of Peoria, IL; Janet Loeschke of Milbank, SD; Judie Hendry and husband, Doug of Placidas, NM; Jackie Mangnall and husband, Rick of Rapid City, SD; and one brother, David Reiners and wife, Ginger of Sioux Falls, SD. She was preceded in death by her husband, Alvin Conraads; special friend, Francis Van Sambeek; parents: Henry and Elizabeth Reiners; grandson, Christopher Conraads; brothers: Stan Reiners and Tom Reiners; sister, Ruth Howard; and several beloved nieces and nephews.

Her memory and godly heritage that she left behind will be remembered and cherished by many.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Shirley Conraads

WHO WAS BORN
March 9, 1933
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

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

FUNERAL SERVICE
Friday, October 2, 2026 - 10:30 a.m.
Central Church
Milbank, South Dakota

CLERGY
Rev. Michael Brossman
Levi Waddell

MUSICIANS
Renae Wollschlager, Pianist
Sarah Eveland, Vocalist
Zachary Lardy, Guitarist and Vocalist

SPECIAL SONGS
"What Wonderous Love Is This" - Renae Wollschlager
"Goodness of God" - Congregational Song led by Sarah and Zach
"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" - Congregational Song led by Sarah and Zach
"Precious Lord, Take My Hand" - Sarah Eveland
"My Jesus I Love Thee" - Yvonne, Barb, and Anita
"I Can Only Imagine" - Mercy Me

ACTIVE CASKET BEARERS
Ben Conraads | Zachary Lardy | Joshua Lardy
Aaron Loy | Jacob Loy | Joshua Loy

APPRECIATION
Shirley's family is grateful for your attendance at this service.
Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated.
Following the graveside service, please join the family for
lunch and fellowship in the church dining area.

ARRANGEMENTS BY
Mundwiler Funeral Home - Milbank, South Dakota

2 Corinthians 4: 16-18

Therefore we do not lose heart.
Though outwardly we are wasting away,
yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.
For our light and momentary troubles
are achieving for us an eternal glory
that far outweighs them all.
So we fix our eyes not on what is seen,
but on what is unseen,
since what is seen is temporary,
but what is unseen is eternal.

Shirley's family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all the friends and family who reached out to her with such love and care during these last few weeks. Shirley expressed how very loved she felt.

A special thanks to nurses and staff at Avera Hospital, Hospice, and St. Williams Care Center for treating mom and our family with such love, tenderness, and respect.

Please use this QR code to view Shirley's online obituary and guestbook.

