



Jeanette Cornelia Van Beek was born to Gilbert and Nellie (Van Egdom) Vande Stroet on January 9, 1936, on a farm near Parker, South Dakota. She grew up on a farm near Fairview, South Dakota. She met Gerard Van Beek at church in Fairview, and they were married on June 29, 1955, at First Reformed Church in Rock Valley, Iowa. They raised six children on a farm near Hudson, South

Dakota, until moving to Rock Valley in 1974 where they lived in "the big grey house north of the swimming pool." Jeanette and Gerard loved a good road trip. They traveled the country to see their kids, friends and relatives and later loved the ease of bus trips and cruises.

Jeanette loved music. She played piano, organ and accordion flawlessly, by ear, and she dabbled with the guitar, harmonica and squeeze box. Her record player got a workout. She could hear a country song on the radio and then play it on the piano, singing along every time. As a teenager she played accordion on a Saturday morning radio show while accompanied by her mom on the piano.

After getting six children through high school she returned to school herself and obtained her GED in 1985. She drove school bus for Area 4 for over 20 years. Jeanette had the cleanest bus. She sent hundreds of handmade greeting cards every year, NEVER missing a birthday or anniversary for her family and friends. Jeanette passed away at the age of 90 on Saturday, August 1, 2026, at Fellowship Village in Inwood, Iowa with her family by her side.

Jeanette is survived by her husband of 71 years, Gerard; daughter, Nelinda Rhode; sons, Arlo (Carla) Van Beek, Gilmar (Nancy) Van Beek, Merwin (Sharla) Van Beek; daughter, Janae (Tony) Rau; 26 incredibly smart grandchildren; 37 highly talented, great grandchildren; and 4 unbelievably cute, great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Natalie; son-in-law, Jon; parents, Gilbert and Nellie; siblings, Evelyn, Bernice, Peter and Rick; and her best friend, Donna.

In Loving Memory
Jeanette Cornelia Van Beek
January 9, 1936 ~ August 1, 2026

FUNERAL SERVICE

11:00 AM, Wednesday, August 5, 2026
First Reformed Church
Rock Valley, Iowa

OFFICIANT

Rev. Dr. Cliff Hoekstra

PIANIST

Robin Te Slaa

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

"What A Friend We Have In Jesus"

"The Old Rugged Cross"

"Blessed Assurance"

"Amazing Grace"

PALLBEARERS

Heather Widger ~ Neliesha Daws

Jennifer Bergsma ~ Bill Van Beek

Jason Van Beek ~ Jessie Rau

INTERMENT

Valley View Cemetery
Rock Valley, Iowa

Jeanette's family invites everyone for a time of food and fellowship in the church fellowship hall following the committal service at the cemetery.

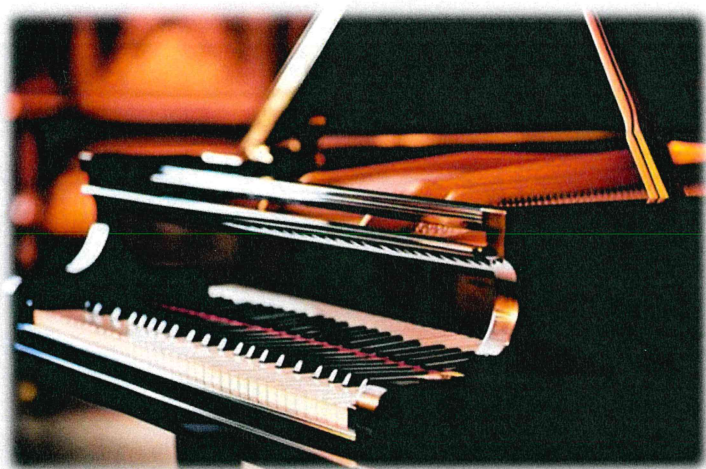
*Bear with each other and forgive one another
if any of you has a grievance against someone.*

Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

~ Colossians 3:13

*If it is possible, as far as it depends on you,
live at peace with everyone.*

~ Romans 12:18



Footprints

One night I had a dream. I was walking along the beach with the Lord, and across the skies flashed scenes from my life. In each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand. One was mine, and one was the Lord's.

When the last scene of my life appeared before me, I looked back at the footprints in the sand, and to my surprise I noticed that many times along the path of my life there was only one set of footprints. And I noticed that it was at the lowest and saddest times in my life.

I asked the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way. But I notice that during the most troublesome times in my life there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why you left my side when I needed you most."

The Lord replied, "My precious child, I love you and would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, where you see only one set of footprints, I was carrying you."