



Thelma (Dykstra) De Smit, daughter of Theodore “Ted” and Gertrude (Rozeboom) Dykstra, was born September 14, 1947, at Hull, Iowa. She attended a country school northwest of Rock Valley, Iowa, through the 6th grade. She then attended West Lyon Community School, graduating in 1965. Thelma was united in marriage with Jay Arlin De Smit on March 28, 1969, at Rock Valley. The couple celebrated 28 years together and were blessed with 5 children: Jason, Julie, Michael, Troy, and Tricia. Jay passed away October 29, 1997. Thelma continued to live in Rock Valley until moving to Oakhill Assisted Living in Hawarden, Iowa, until their closing, and eventually made her home at Pleasant Acres Care Center in Hull where she passed away on Saturday, May 10, 2025, at the age of 77.

Thelma worked for 13 years as a cook for the Sioux Center Hospital. She also spent time as a trainer for Hope Haven at the English House and Redwood Court. She cherished time with her children and grandchildren. A text message or phone call from her family always brightened her day. A visit with Grandma always included a game (or two) of marbles, UNO, or Hearts. There was sure to be a lot of conversation, laughter, and even some accusations of “cheating” or “bending the rules” during any of those spirited games. Thelma was always a good sport - even though she had to have a certain dice and color of marbles - and thoroughly enjoyed seeing her grandkids win the game. It was impossible to leave without a hug and “I love you” from her. These special times with her children and grandchildren brought Thelma much joy and happiness.

Thelma is survived by her 5 children and 15 grandchildren, **Jason (Joy Visser) De Smit** of Panton, Vermont, and children: Breanna (Howie) Vander Wey, Ashley and Marcus De Smit; **Julie (Tim) Bartels** of Rock Valley and children: Noah (fiancée Paige Drenth) Bartels, and Nathan (Johanna Zylstra) Bartels; **Michael De Smit** of Sioux Center and children: Allie, Jasmine, and Chris De Smit; **Troy (Lisa Van Middendorp) De Smit** of Maurice, Iowa, and **Tricia (special friend Wallace Jackmon, Jr) Bartels** of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and children: Josie, Callum, Aspyr, and Hollis Bartels; 2 sisters, Lenora (Bob) Raymon of Canton, South Dakota and Linette Johnson of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; brother, Theo (Dawn) Dykstra of Canton; and special friends, Harriet Van Veldhuizen, Kay and Gary Van Veldhuizen, Sid and Christie Bulthuis and boys, and Lynda Bulthuis.

Thelma was preceded in death by her parents, Ted and Gert Dykstra; husband, Jay; brothers, John and Gerald Dykstra; and nephew, Jeff Dykstra.

Remembering the Life of Thelma De Smit

September 14, 1947 ~ May 10, 2025

FUNERAL SERVICE

10:00 AM, Friday, May 16, 2025
Porter Funeral Home
Rock Valley, Iowa

OFFICIANT

Rev. Matthew Haan
First Christian Reformed Church
Rock Valley, Iowa

PIANIST

Carisa Maassen

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”
“Old Rugged Cross”
“Amazing Grace”

PALLBEARERS

Noah Bartels ~ Nathan Bartels
Marcus De Smit ~ Chris De Smit
Callum Bartels ~ Hollis Bartels

MEMORIAL

Wounded Warrior Project
<https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/>

PRIVATE FAMILY INTERMENT

Valley View Cemetery
Rock Valley, Iowa

The Arms of Jesus

Fall into the arms of Jesus
Well done, good and faithful one
Fall into the arms of Jesus
For you, the victory is won
Fall into the arms of Jesus
Your battle here on Earth is done
Fall into the arms of Jesus
Endless praises have only begun

Chorus

Fall into the arms of Jesus
Forever singing His praises
Fall into the arms of Jesus
Leaving behind all that was
Fall into the arms of Jesus
Forever in the presence of Him who saves us

Fall into the arms of Jesus
Look into your Savior's face
Fall into the arms of Jesus
You've completed your earthly race
Fall into the arms of Jesus
And into His loving embrace
Fall into the arms of Jesus
At Home because of His love and grace

Chorus

Fall into the arms of Jesus
Forever singing His praises
Fall into the arms of Jesus
Leaving behind all that was
Fall into the arms of Jesus
Forever in the presence of Him who saves us

We will meet again one day
His glory and majesty will be on full display
Then together forever we'll sing His praises
In gratitude of our Savior and King - Jesus

Chorus

Fall into the arms of Jesus
Fall into the arms of Jesus

Written by: Michael De Smit

