

Painting is of the building where Lavonne would play as a child.

The Family Chain

We little knew that morning
That God was going to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we do the same.

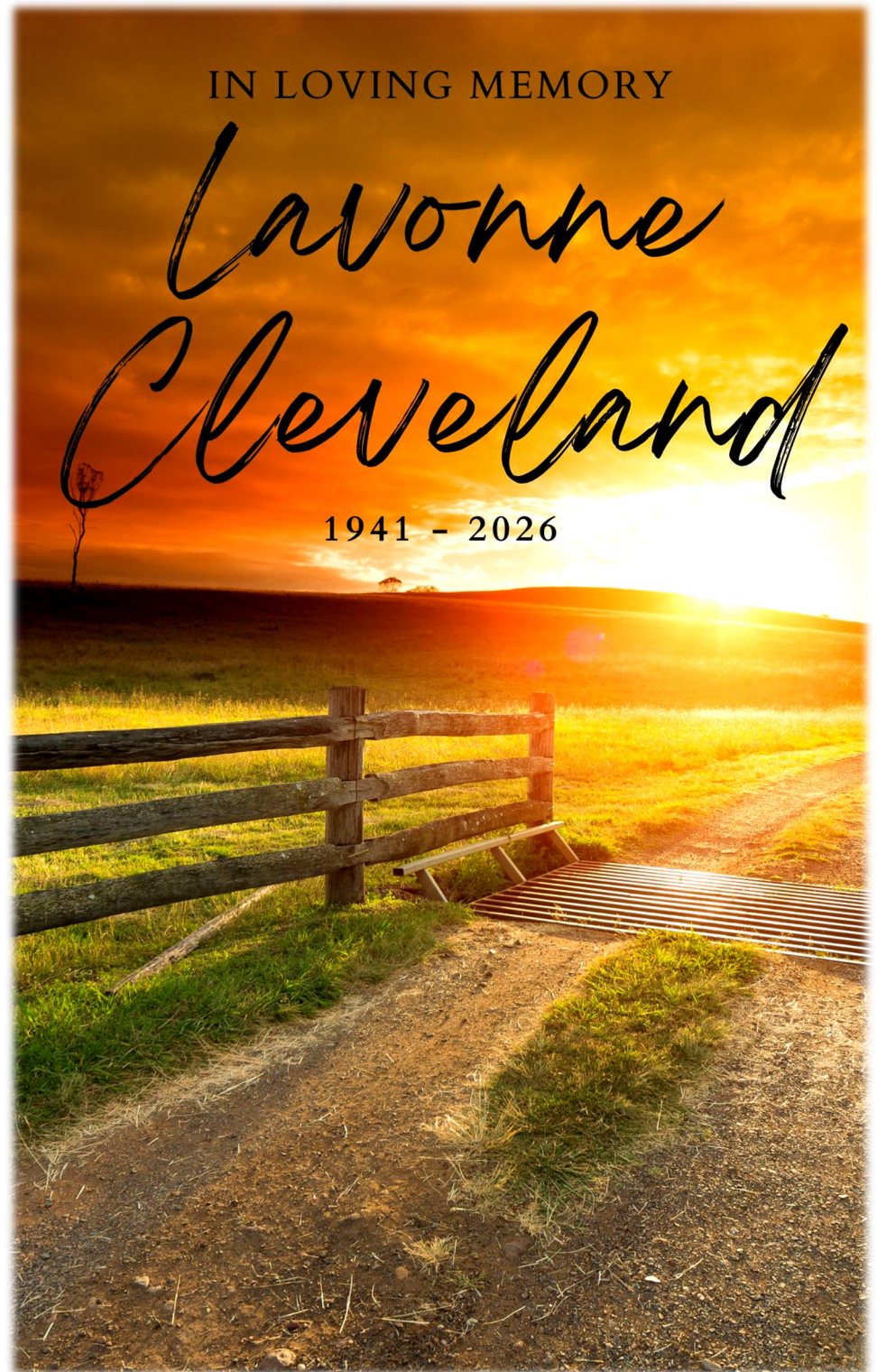
It broke our hearts to lose you,
You did not go alone,
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.

You left us peaceful memories,
Your love is still our guide,
And though we cannot see you,
You are always at our side.

Our family chain is broken
And nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again.



Please scan the QR
code to view Lavonne's
Celebration of Life
Tribute video.





Lavonne Cleveland, 84, of Center, peacefully went to be with our Lord on January 16, 2026, while being held in the hands of her loving family.

Lavonne “Vonnie” was born south of Price, ND on May 11, 1941, and later as a child, moved to the Hall Coulee where her father, Martin Husfloen, leased land for farming. Her mother, Alice, taught school at the Miller School during this time. The transportation to school was by horse, and in the winter by sleigh. Often times in the winter, they slept in the schoolhouse and kept warm by a wood-burning stove. In the early 1950's, her father bought a farm northwest of Center, but the old farmhouse was too drafty, so they lived in Center

during the winters. Vonnie attended school in Center where she was on the 1956 basketball team that placed 2nd in State under the coaching of Leonard Moore. After high school, she attended Dickinson State College and the University of North Dakota.

In 1961, Vonnie married Delbert Cleveland in the Lutheran church in Center and the wedding dance was held in the old pig barn in Price. They danced the night away with best man and maid of honor, Chuck and Jan Staigle. One year later, where times were tough, Vonnie and Delbert moved to the Leo Ogden farm near Hensler. Here, their daughter, Jody, was born and they also took in Delbert’s niece and two nephews. The only water was from a well, which had to be hauled from the well to the house for bathing, cooking, and washing clothes. A few years later, they moved back to Center, where their sons, Marty and Patrick were born. In 1968, the family moved to Cross Ranch where Delbert became the manager. In 1973, Vonnie became the secretary at Center High School where she worked until 1979. Vonnie decided to attend powerplant school at Bismarck State College, which was a surprise to many, as not many women were doing such a thing back then. While in school, she was sent to Basin Electric under a work/study program. Following power plant school, Vonnie became a part of the area's medical board and managed clinics in Center and Beulah. She recalls having a tough time getting doctors to come to the small towns. One time, a doctor called in sick because he was in jail in Stanton. In 1981, she obtained a part-time job at the United States Postal Service in Bismarck and in 1984, she became the postmaster in Riverdale where she worked for many years until her retirement. After Vonnie retired, she and Delbert moved back to Center where they lived a happy life, surrounded by friends and family. Vonnie enjoyed baking and playing cribbage, pinochle, and bridge, as well as crossword puzzles and jigsaw puzzles. Vonnie was a true matriarch to her family. Her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren thought of her as a saint and were blessed to have her in their lives. She always seemed to be happy and smiling and never had a bad word to say about anybody.

Vonnie was preceded in death by her husband, Delbert Cleveland; her parents, Martin and Alice Husfloen; and sister, Lenore Sack.

Vonnie is survived by her siblings, Lee (Regina) Husfloen and Michele (Royce) Roberson; brother-in-law, Jim Sack; daughter, Jody (Jeff) Reinke; sons, Marty Cleveland and Patrick (Joan) Cleveland; grandchildren, Morgan (Jeremy) Gordon, Jordan (Susan) Reinke, Aaron (Olivia Haugrose) Reinke, Colton Reinke, Brittany (Chris) McCabe, Garrett (Madison) Cleveland, and Weston (Aspen) Cleveland; great-grandchildren, Gianna, Blake, and Bo Gordon, Avrey, Eli, Henry, Benjamin, and Thomas Reinke, Lainey Haugrose, Ryan and Connor McCabe, Riley Cleveland, and Gianna Cleveland; and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Memorials are suggested to benefit Oliver County Ambulance Service.

Funeral Service Saturday, April 11, 2026; 10:30 AM
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Center, ND

Officiant Pastor Dennis Ristvedt

Musician Renee Schmidt

Casketbearers Grandchildren ~ Weston Cleveland, Garrett Cleveland
Brittany McCabe, Jordan Reinke, Morgan Gordon
Aaron Reinke, & Colton Reinke

Honorary Casketbearers Great Grandchildren ~ Avrey Reinke, Eli Reinke
Henry Reinke, Benjamin Reinke, Thomas Reinke, Blake Gordon
Gianna Gordon, Bo Gordon, Ryan McCabe, Connor McCabe
Riley Cleveland, Gianna Cleveland, & Lainey Haugrose

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LAVONNE CLEVELAND

Proclamation 2 Corinthians 4:3-4
Romans 6:3-5

Processional “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” – sung by Nancy DeVore

Welcome

Prayer of the Day

Psalm 23 – read by Avrey Reinke

Memories

A Brief Life History

Gospel John 17:24-26

Message from Rev. Dennis Ristvedt

Hymn of the Day “The Day is Surely Drawing Near” #321 LBW

The Apostle’s Creed

Prayers of Intercession - The Lord’s Prayer

Commendation & Benediction

Recessional “I Know My Redeemer Lives” #352 LBW

***The family invites you for food and fellowship
in the church basement immediately following the funeral service.***

Graveside Service 12:00 PM, Bagnell Cemetery
Center, ND