

Ellen Maxine Van Meeteren was born on September 2, 1943, to Leonard and Clara (Miller) Harris in Hudson, South Dakota. She attended Hudson high school, was a member of the saddle club and took pleasure in horseback riding and then graduated in 1961. Following graduation, she worked as a bank teller in Hudson. On June 23, 1963, Ellen married Harvey Van Meeteren and they farmed together until his death on January 22, 2007. Together they raised three children and expanded the family farm. She remained on the family farm until recently moving to Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Ellen had a servant heart and spent many hours volunteering at the church, the senior center and the schools where her children attended. Known by most as mom or grandma, she was also a devoted wife and caretaker to her husband, Harvey. Ellen was a true friend to many and she possessed a strength and loyalty that was unbreakable. Her smile was warm and her soul was spirited. Ellen passed away unexpectedly on December 12, 2025, at her home in Sioux Falls from cardiac arrest at the age of 82.

Ellen is lovingly remembered by her three children: son, Wayne (Mollie) Van Meeteren of Harrisburg, South Dakota and their children, Mitch, Luke, Bree and Sadie (Ian) Rinken and great grandchildren, Malachi, Kenan, Eliana; daughter, Paula (Paul) Hammond of Sioux Falls, South Dakota and their children, Sarah, Jack and Joe; and son, Terry (Lynn) Van Meeteren of Hudson, South Dakota and their children, Morgan and Zac. Ellen is also survived by five sisters: Doris (Gerald) Harms of Worthing, South Dakota, Ruth Stocking of Syracuse, Nebraska, Kathy (Jim) Haroldson of Ruthton, Minnesota, Carol (Ron) MacFarlane of Campbellsport, Wisconsin and Evy (Bill) Arndt of West Bend, Wisconsin.

Preceding Ellen in her death were her parents, Clara and Leonard Harris; husband, Harvey Van Meeteren; and infant grandson, Shane Van Meeteren.

***How extraordinary an ordinary life can be!***

## REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF ELLEN MAXINE VAN MEETEREN

SEPTEMBER 2, 1943 ~ DECEMBER 12, 2025

### FUNERAL SERVICE

10:00 AM, Saturday, December 20, 2025  
Hudson Lutheran Church  
Hudson, South Dakota

### OFFICIANT

Pastor Carolyn Salberg

### ACCOMPANIST

Heather Brenner

### EULOGY

Paula Hammond ~ Bree Ellen Van Meeteren  
Wayne Van Meeteren

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*"Soon and Very Soon"*  
Joe & Sarah Hammond  
*"God Be With You Till We Meet Again"*  
Sadie Rinken

### CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

*"How Great Thou Art"*  
*"Amazing Grace"*

### PALLBEARERS

Zac Van Meeteren ~ Luke Van Meeteren  
Mitch Van Meeteren ~ Jack Hammond  
Joe Hammond ~ Ian Rinken ~ Riley Phillips

### HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Chad Koopsma ~ John Anderson  
Gary Warner ~ Merlyn Wennblom ~ Tracy Homandberg

### INTERMENT

Eden Cemetery  
Hudson, South Dakota

*Ellen's family invites everyone to the church basement for a time of food and fellowship following the committal service.*

## IN LOVING MEMORY



**ELLEN VAN MEETEREN**

SEPTEMBER 2, 1943 ~ DECEMBER 12, 2025

*To everything there is a season,  
And a time to every purpose  
under the heaven:*

*A time to be born, and a time to die;*

*A time to plant, and a time to  
pluck up that which is planted;*

*A time to kill, and a time to heal;*

*A time to break down,  
and a time to build up;*

*A time to weep, and a time to laugh;*

*A time to mourn, and a time to dance;*

*A time to cast away stones,  
and a time to gather stones together;*

*A time to embrace,  
and a time to refrain from embracing;*

*A time to get, and a time to lose;*

*A time to keep, and a time to cast away;*

*A time to rend, and a time to sew;*

*A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;*

*A time to love, and a time to hate;*

*A time of war, and a time of peace.*

***Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8***

