



# Celebrating the life of *Winifred Ann Christensen*



August 9, 1935 - October 8, 2025

Celebration of Life

*Winifred Ann Christensen*

October 20, 2025

Officiant		Pastor Stephanie Tollefson
Organist		Bill Tweten
Prelude		
Entrance Hymn	<i>This is My Father's World</i>	#554
Welcome		
Reading	Ecclesiastes 3:1-4	Mackenzie Christensen
Reading	Romans 8:31-35,37-39	Maddie Christensen
Family Tribute		Dave Christensen Rachel Christensen
Special Music	<i>On Eagles Wings</i>	Soloist – David Ferreira
Gospel		
Message		Pastor Laurie Neill
Hymn	<i>All Creatures of Our God and King</i>	#527
Prayers		
Lord's Prayer		
Psalm 23		
Commendation		
Benediction		
Closing Hymn	<i>Amazing Grace</i>	#448
Recessional		

**Pallbearers**

Casey Christensen	Jona Christensen
Dane Christensen	John Knudson
Cooper Holm	Dale Zimprich

**Greeter**

Elise Christensen

**Interment**

Fargo National Cemetery – Fargo, North Dakota

*Please join us for lunch and fellowship in the Great Hall following the service.*





Thank you for joining us today to celebrate our mom's life. She was an amazing mother, grandmother, aunt, and friend to many. We will miss her kind and sweet conversations, quick smile, easy laugh, and comforting hugs. We will carry forward the many ways she inspired us, particularly her love of family, her quiet faith, her passion for education, and her sense of adventure. We will be forever inspired by her perseverance in the face of adversity, her positivity and capacity for joy and gratitude.

Her last words to us were perhaps one of the greatest gifts she gave us: "it's been a beautiful life, thank you." Thank you for the role you each played in making her life beautiful.

Mom, we will miss you dearly but today we celebrate you and your legacy. You were our rock, the glue of our family, and loved us unconditionally. With immeasurable gratitude we give thanks for you and your beautiful life.

Eric, David, Jeff and families



## The Wind Only Wins in the Dakotas

by Casey Christensen

The wind only wins in the Dakotas,  
breathing life back through its people,  
be it a whisper or a roar

through the vast plains of the west  
and specks of towns with worn books and combined classes,  
through the dimple-like hills on the open horizon  
and familiar elevators lit like cruise liners on a nighttime sea of wheat,  
through the valley's gardens, golden before harvest reaping  
and pasture where healthy heads of cattle feed, then wander,  
through the fields of sunflowers slowly opening their eyes  
and rich black dirt that pulls life from scorched earth,  
through the tree-lined footprints of rock-bottomed blue lakes  
and nests of daybreak-crooning loons,  
through the fragile beating wings of hummingbirds  
and the towering pines proudly holding their eagles

Be it a whisper or a roar  
breathing life back through its people,  
The wind only wins in the Dakotas



# *Winifred Ann Christensen*

August 9, 1935 — October 8, 2025

Winifred (Wini) Ann (Knudson) Christensen peacefully passed away after a brief illness on October 8, 2025 surrounded by friends and family at HIA Heather's House, a beautiful new hospice facility in Fargo. She moved on from this world like the warm, late-summer breeze that blows across her beloved Bad Medicine Lake.

The youngest of four children, Wini was born August 9, 1935, was raised on and maintained a deep connection to the 2K Ranch near Taylor, North Dakota. She graduated from Taylor High School and attended Concordia College in Moorhead, graduating in 1957 with a degree in Education. She was teaching 3rd grade at McKinley Elementary School, Fargo, when she met the love of her life, Douglas (Doug) Christensen. Following their marriage on August 7, 1960, Wini joined Doug in moving around the world to wherever his Army career took them. Over time, their family grew to include three sons.

In 1982, after many moves across 10 different states and Germany, they settled back in Fargo. Together, they enjoyed and contributed to a large community of friends, family, and organizations, traveled, and spent time at Bad Medicine Lake. After Doug passed in January 1995, Wini became even more involved in local activities and continued to travel.

Wini's community involvement included volunteer and board roles with PEO, Fine Arts Club, and her home base, First Lutheran Church. She had a rich schedule of weekly coffees with friends and neighbors, exercise class, and weekly Sunday brunches following her faithful attendance at First Lutheran Church's traditional service.

Wini was known affectionately as “Grandma Wini” by her seven grandchildren. She had close connections to them all, maintaining an impressive capacity to stay in touch via texts, phone calls, FaceTime and hosting weekend visits. The highlight of her year was spending time together each summer with the entire family for Cabin Week.

She will be remembered as wise counsel and an avid reader who loved the color blue, Bison football, Class B basketball tournaments, local college music programs, and a good dose of Bad Medicine Lake. Those who were lucky enough to spend even a short time with her recognized her kind, sweet, generous spirit and fun sense of humor.

She was preceded in death by her husband Doug, her parents Knute and Evaline Knudson, and siblings, Kenneth Knudson, Joyce Voorhees, and Vernon Knudson. She is survived by her sons, Eric, Hanover, MN, David (Tracy), Tampa, FL and Jeff (Amee), Farmington, MN; adoring grandchildren, Casey, Rachel, Jona, Madeline, Mackenzie, Elise, and Dane. She is also survived by extended family including the children and grandchildren of her siblings who were a major part of her life and brought her great joy.

In lieu of flowers memorials can be contributed to FLC Foundation, Fargo or HIA Heather’s House.