



Only A Prayer Away

*About the place where now I live
There is so much to tell.
It is so calm and peaceful here.
God reigns supreme, and all is well.
I am with loved ones and with friends,
Who settled here sometime ago.
And of the joys I with them share,
I'm sure you will be glad to know.
There is no sickness, grief or death
To mar the beauty of this place;
And light that's brighter than the sun
Shines from the blessed Master's face.
So do not grieve for me, my dears,
But rather when you kneel to pray,
Thank God for my arrival home,
Where free from pain I am today.
The time has come for me to close,
And there isn't much more I can say.
Except don't think of me as gone;
I'm only just a prayer away.*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Donna Pearl Berkner

WHO WAS BORN
November 1, 1951
Milbank, South Dakota

AND CALLED TO HER ETERNAL HOME
August 3, 2024
Stockholm, South Dakota

MEMORIAL SERVICE
Monday, August 12, 2024 - 2:00 p.m.
Tabor Lutheran Church
Strandburg, South Dakota

OFFICIANT
Vicar Emelia Enquist

MUSICIANS
Kathy Granquist, Organist
Joel Koustrup, Vocalist

HONORARY URN BEARERS
Tyler Berkner | Payton Berkner
Colten Berkner | Brayden Berkner | Nathaniel Borchert

APPRECIATION
Donna's family is grateful for your attendance at this service.
Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated.
Following the memorial service, please join the family
for lunch and fellowship in church dining hall.

Mundwiler Funeral Home of Milbank, South Dakota

Donna Pearl (Lundquist) Berkner was born on November 1, 1951, in Milbank, SD, to Kern and Inez (Gill) Lundquist. She was raised on the family farm near Stockholm, attended Country School District #3 and later graduated from Milbank High School with the Class of 1969. After completing her education at Watertown Business University in 1970, she returned to the family farm.

On February 19, 1972, Donna was united in marriage with David Berkner at Tabor Lutheran Church in Strandburg, SD. Together, they were blessed with two children: Dan and Jaime.

Always a hard worker, Donna worked at Watertown Monument Works before her marriage to David. She worked for Elshere Spray Service for four summers and also worked at United Hardware for 10 years. Donna found most fulfillment as a homemaker and caring for her family.

Throughout her life, Donna remained dedicated to her community and her loved ones. She was a lifelong member of Tabor Lutheran Church in Strandburg where she shared her faith as a Sunday School Teacher. She was a member of Home Extension Women's Club and she helped start the Mothers Against Drunk Driving program in the schools. Donna loved to attend area community events, especially the South Shore Hoedown.

Donna's passion for gardening, supporting her children in sports and 4-H Club activities, and her love for birds and artistic endeavors defined her character. She was a talented artist, finding joy in creating Swedish Dala Horse signs, and she deeply appreciated the beauty of nature, often tending her garden and feeding the birds.

Donna's memory will be cherished by her family and friends. She enjoyed learning about the Berkner family genealogy and relished spending time with her grandchildren. She was always attentive and caring to those around her, including her beloved pets and occasionally caring for baby livestock that needed a little extra care. Donna always put her family first and loved making them treats. Her kids and grandchildren loved getting packages from her filled with her special cutout sugar cookies and they were always beautifully decorated. Most of all, Donna loved her grandchildren. She enjoyed hearing every update and cherished every moment spent with them. Around the 4th of July was a time very special to Donna as she got to gather with her family for the Gill Family picnic and spend time with her children and grandchildren every year.

Left to cherish Donna's memory are her husband, David; son, Dan (Jennifer) Berkner of Amboy, MN; daughter, Jaime Borchert (Erick Harrison) of Sioux Falls, SD; five grandchildren: Tyler Berkner (Ashtin Cotter), Payton Berkner, Colten Berkner, Brayden Berkner, and Nathaniel Borchert; and four great-grandchildren: Emmie Cotter, Beckham Cotter, Carson Berkner, and Wren Berkner.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

