

The background of the left page is a light cream color with a subtle, repeating pattern of small, stylized butterflies in various colors including blue, purple, yellow, and pink. The text is centered in a dark blue, serif font.

In tears we saw you sinking  
and watched you fade away.  
Our hearts were really breaking  
but we could not make you stay.  
God watched you as you suffered  
He knew you had your share.  
He tenderly closed your weary eyes  
And took you in His care.  
But when we saw you sleeping  
Peacefully free from pain.  
We could not wish you back  
To suffer that again.  
Our hearts still ache with sadness  
And the secret tears still flow.  
What it meant to lose you  
Only God will ever know.  
To the place of rest we wander  
Where we say a little prayer.  
No one knows the heartache  
As we turn and leave you there.

The right page features a memorial photo of a woman with short, dark brown hair, smiling gently. She is wearing a dark green V-neck sweater with white stripes on the collar. The photo is set within a circular frame on a background of large, detailed flowers in shades of white, cream, and light orange, with green leaves and stems. A small orange and black butterfly is visible near the bottom right of the photo. The entire page has a decorative, dark, distressed border.

# *In Loving Memory*

*Karlene McLaurin*

Karlene Michelle was born on June 12, 1962, in Valley City, ND, the cherished daughter of Neil and Sonja (Faleide) Dahl. Karlene grew up in rural Maddock on the Faleide farm where she lived with her parents and siblings through the years. Karlene attended Maddock Public School and graduated with the class of 1980 from Maddock High School. She was baptized on July 1, 1962, at Viking Lutheran Church, Maddock.

Karlene was united in marriage to her high school sweetheart Jim McLaurin on August 9, 1980, and they shared their life together for 43 years. After marriage they lived in Maddock until 1982 when they made the move to Devils Lake and have since called Devils Lake home. Karlene is a member of Frist United Methodist Church where she previously taught Sunday School.

Throughout her career, Karlene displayed dedication and hard work. She worked at Wally's Inc. for seven years before joining the County Bottle Shop for a decade. In her later years, she served as a para-professional with Devils Lake Public Schools for eight years until increasing health problems forced her retirement.

A compassionate soul with a heart for animals, Karlene loved dogs and cats. She would rescue any animal whenever possible. Additionally, she found great joy working with children at Prairie View School and delighted in entertaining her grandchildren during the summer months and hosting holiday gatherings for her loved ones. An exceptional homemaker, Karlene took pride in cooking meals and decorating the house for every holiday. Her collection of angels and butterflies reflected her gentle spirit.

Karlene leaves behind her loving husband James D. McLaurin; their daughter and grandchildren Elisha McLaurin (Jeff Lunak) and their children Katelyn McLaurin, Kinley Lunak and Dayton Lunak; their son and grandchildren James N. McLaurin (Vanessa McLaughlin) and their children Brynn McLaughlin and Brielle McLaurin all of Devils Lake; She is also survived by her mother Sonja Dahl, rural Maddock ND; sisters Kristie (Jack) Zolondek, rural Maddock ND and Kathy (Todd) Oakland, Bisbee ND; brother Duwayne (Cathy) Dahl, Bismarck ND; mother-in-law Pam McLaurin, Fargo ND; brothers-in-law John A. McLaurin, Devils Lake, Jesse (Michelle) McLaurin, Queen Creek AZ; sister-in-law Bonnie Frith, Fargo ND. Karlene will be greatly missed by her special friends Shelley Larson, Rhonda Anderson and Sandy Kraft as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and their families.

She was preceded in death by her father Neil, grandparents Merle and Carl Faliede, father-in-law John F. McLaurin and sister-in-law Carol McLaurin.

***Forever Loved, Forever In Our Hearts  
Beloved Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Sister,  
Aunt, Cousin, Co-Worker and Dearest Friend***

***Karlene Michelle McLaurin***

**HER BIRTH**

*Tuesday, June 12, 1962  
Valley City, North Dakota*

**HER DEATH**

*Sunday, October 1, 2023  
At her home, Devils Lake, North Dakota*

**VISITATION**

*Gilbertson Funeral Home  
Devils Lake, North Dakota  
Sunday, October 8, 2023*

**FUNERAL SERVICE**

*First United Methodist Church  
Devils Lake, North Dakota  
Monday, October 9, 2023 ~ 2:00 p.m.*

**OFFICIATING**

*Reverend Dayne Zachrison*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Congregational Hymn  
Special Recording chosen by family  
Joyce Carter, Pianist*

**CASKET BEARERS**

*Duwayne Dahl ~ Jeff Lunak ~ Ethan Oakland  
Andrew Oakland ~ Travis McLaurin ~ Lonnie Anderson*

**LAID TO REST**

*Devils Lake Cemetery  
Devils Lake, North Dakota*