

**Judy K. Houghton, age 77, of Detroit Lakes, MN, formerly of Vergas, MN,
passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, January 13, 2018,
at Essentia Hospital in Fargo, ND, surrounded by her family.**

Judy Karen McDonald was born December 12, 1940, in Gardner, ND, to Harold and Lillian (Johnson) McDonald. Judy attended St. Anthony's Catholic School in Fargo, ND. Following her schooling, Judy lived in Moorhead, MN, and worked several jobs. She was blessed with 5 children: Brian, Mark, Michael, Brenda and Carmen.

In 1974, Judy and her children moved to Vergas, MN. Judy met Duane Houghton and the couple married November 18, 1975, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Loon Lake. The family made their home on Duane's farm in rural Vergas. Judy enjoyed life on the farm and worked right alongside Duane doing whatever work needed to be done. She loved the outdoors and tended huge flower and vegetable gardens. She was a great cook and enjoyed preparing meals for her family. She also canned the produce she harvested from her huge gardens each year, and will be remembered for her famous dill pickles. Her children learned well from their Mom and continue her legacy of cooking and canning.

Judy was an avid bird watcher and had several bird feeders in her yard. She also enjoyed watching the other animals that made their homes on the farm, especially the rabbits.

Judy was always up for an adventure. Judy, her sisters and their families took trips all over the country. They visited the ocean, the mountains, and even made a trip to Thunder Bay to dig for amethysts; trips Judy thoroughly enjoyed.

Judy loved to dance, mostly to Polka music, and encouraged her children to dance with her. She treasured the time she spent with her family and loved living so close to her siblings. The family gathered together often, especially during the holidays, to make lefse and other family favorites.

She was an active member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Vergas, helping out however she could, and enjoyed volunteering in the kitchen.

Judy is survived by her husband, Duane Houghton of Detroit Lakes; 5 children: Brian McDonald of Bradenton, FL, Mark (Pam) McDonald of West Fargo, ND, Michael McDonald of Bradenton, FL, Brenda (Chris) Johnson of Port Charlotte, FL, Carmen Johnson (Tim) of Fargo, ND; 17 grandchildren; 6 great grandchildren; siblings: Jim (Charlotte) McDonald, Jennifer (Larry) Jensen, Joyce (Vic) Stach, Jerry (Linda) McDonald, Joan (Lon) Zimmerman; sister-in-law, JoAnn McDonald; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding Judy in death were her parents; siblings: Joe McDonald and Jean McDonald; brother-in-law, George (Lucille) Houghton and sister-in-law, Lillian (Adolf) Lange; and nephew, Ronald Lange.

Celebrating The Life Of Judy K. Houghton



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In Celebration Of
Judy Karen Houghton
Age: 77

Date of Birth

~
December 12, 1940
Gardner, North Dakota

Date of Death

~
January 13, 2018
Fargo, North Dakota

Footprints

One night I had a dream.

I was walking along
the beach with the Lord,
and across the skies flashed
scenes from my life.

In each scene,
I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand.
One was mine and one was the Lord's.

When the last scene of my life appeared before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand, and
to my surprise I noticed that many times along the
path of my life there was only one set of footprints.
And I noticed that it was at the
lowest and saddest times in my life.

I asked the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that
once I decided to follow you, you would walk with
me all the way. But I notice that during the most
troublesome times in my life there is only one set of
footprints. I don't understand why you left my side
when I needed you most."

The Lord replied, "My precious child, I love you
and would never leave you. During your times of
trial and suffering, where you see only one set of
footprints, I was carrying you."



Funeral Service

Friday, January 19, 2018 ~ 11 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran Church
Vergas, Minnesota

Officiant

Pastor Jacob Wagner

Accompanist

Kim Kratzke
"How Great Thou Art"
"Amazing Grace"
"Jesus Loves Me"

Casket Bearers

David Antonsen
Duane Sonnenberg
Terry Houghton
George Houghton
Jerry McDonald
Walter Wallace
Gary Houghton
Tim Bird

Interment

St. John's Lutheran Cemetery
Vergas, Minnesota

