



### *Because You Loved Me*

*You were my strength when I was weak,  
You were my voice when I couldn't speak,  
You were my eyes when I couldn't see,  
You saw the best there was in me.  
Lifted me up when I couldn't reach;  
You gave me faith 'coz you believed.  
I'm everything I am  
Because you loved me.*

*I lost my faith, you gave it back to me.  
You said no star was out of reach.  
You stood by me and I stood tall,  
I had your love I had it all.  
I'm grateful for each day you gave me;  
Maybe I don't know that much  
But I know this much is true-  
I was blessed because I was loved by you.*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

## *Karen Elaine Dockter*

WHO WAS BORN  
October 10, 1940  
Ponca, Nebraska

AND CALLED TO HER ETERNAL HOME  
February 18, 2023  
Ortonville, Minnesota

MEMORIAL MASS  
Friday, March 17, 2023 - 11:00 a.m.  
St. John's Catholic Church  
Ortonville, Minnesota

CELEBRANT  
Fr. Brian Oestreich

MUSICIANS  
Diane Vangsness, Organist  
St. John's Funeral Choir

INTERMENT  
Milbank City Cemetery  
Milbank, South Dakota

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

*Mundwiler and Larson Funeral Home  
Ortonville, Minnesota*

Karen Elaine (Lanser) Dockter was born on October 10th, 1940, to Raymond and Geraldine (Anderson) Lanser. She graduated from Milbank High School with the Class of 1959. Karen was united in marriage with Howard Dockter on November 5, 1960, at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Milbank. They were married 60 years before Howards passing in 2021.

Howard and Karen initially made their home in Milbank, SD, moving to Huron, SD, for a couple of years from 1961 to 1963, then back to Milbank. They moved to Big Stone City, SD, in 1975 then to Ortonville, MN, in 2016.

The couple welcomed two children into their home: Steven and Barbara. Karen's children remember her as a loving mother who was proud of her children, she loved her family and extended family more than anything.

Karen spent her early adulthood working in the bank as a teller and a proofer, she would point out that was "back in the days before computers". Once her and Howard welcomed children into their home, Karen became a stay-at-home mom and spent every minute she could be with her children at home. During that time Karen also took in other children doing in home daycare and loved being able to provide that service. Once their children were in school, Karen and Howard took a job as joint custodians at the Big Stone School where they worked together for over 20 years. She loved working at the school although the work was not easy, she cherished being surrounded by children and being able to interact with them.

Karen was a voracious reader. She loved to go for walks and her favorite pastime was walking her dogs, later when she didn't have dogs in her home anymore, she would kidnap her grand puppies "because they needed to get a walk". Karen was also an avid crafter and baker. Her home was always full of delicious treats but she would always say "they probably aren't any good". This was never true, everything she made seemed like it was baked with love and tasted like a little bit of heaven.

Karen is survived by her children: Steven Dockter of Big Stone City, SD; and Barbara (Chuck) Carl of Ortonville, MN; her siblings: Judy Eaton of San Antonio, TX, James (Linda) Lanser of Somerset, WI; Dennis (Nancy) Lanser of Huron, SD; Roxanne (Ron) Smith of Brookings, SD; and Mark (Deb) Lanser of Volga, SD; brother and sisters -in-law: Evelyn (Terry) Gaikowski of Webster, SD; Herman Hein; Barbara Dockter of Borger, TX; along with many nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family.

She was preceded in death by her lifelong love, Howard; and her parents: Raymond and Geraldine Lanser.

# AMAZING GRACE!

*How sweet the sound*

*'Tis grace hath brought*

*me safe thus far,*

*And grace will*

*bring me home.*