

Dorothy M. Byer, age 74 of Perham passed away in her home on June 12, 2023 after a brief battle of pancreatic cancer, with her loving family by her side.

She was born on January 12, 1949 to Norman and Helen Arildsen in Sebeka, MN. Dorothy attended Sebeka Public School and Minnesota State Technical School, obtaining a cosmetology license.

As a single mother raising her five children in Sebeka, she was employed as a waitress at the Town & Country Restaurant. It brought her great joy serving others and putting smiles on customer's faces.

Her true passion, when raising her children, was cheering them on from the Trojan bleachers during sporting events. She braved many Minnesota blizzards as she traveled to support her children. Dorothy enjoyed crocheting while watching the Vikings and the Bison. She crocheted an afghan for her family members and special friends.

While attending Single's Dances, she found her polka partner. On October 2, 1993, Dorothy married the love of her life, Richard Byer of Perham, MN. Dorothy acquired seven additional children whom she loved greatly. As she worked at Lakes Cafe in Perham, one of Dorothy's favorite things was to save her tips. She would then surprise Richard with random gifts or propose a trip. When they traveled, Dorothy would crochet while Richard drove. After 30 minutes in the car, Richard would notice that Dorothy had laid her crocheting down and had fallen asleep. Her travels included China, Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Oregon, and Washington to visit their children. Dorothy had a special trip where she met her favorite football quarterback, Brad Johnson.

The combined family gave Dorothy and Richard twenty-seven grandchildren that were the apples of her eye, and they made every effort to attend their grandchildren's special events.

Dorothy's life was changed when she accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior at Gospel Fellowship in Minneapolis, MN. Dorothy was an active member of St. John's Lutheran Church of Corliss where she and Richard attended each Sunday.

Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

Dorothy is survived by her loving husband of 30 years, Richard; their eleven children: Thomas Wikman of Hibbing, MN, Karen Swanson (Greg) of Fargo, ND, Kerry Stewart (Charles) of Vancouver, WA, Bradley Wikman of Brainerd, MN, Sarah Wendt (Aaron) of Boise, ID, Mark Byer (Cindy) of Frazee, MN, Dean Byer (Carrie) of Pengilly, MN, Brian Byer of Fargo, ND, Gerald Byer of Nevis, MN, Kevin Byer (Christy) of Osage, MN, Lynn Zacher of Aberdeen, SD, 27 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

She is also survived by her siblings: Sharon Kragh of Naperville, IL, Carol Sieben (Dennis) of Oswego, MN, Lyle Arildsen of Woodstock, GA, Laura Kimball (Glenn) of Sebeka, MN; as well as a host of nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Norman and Helen Arildsen; son, Darwin Byer and brother-in-law, Richard Kragh.

Celebrating THE *Life* OF



Dorothy M. Byer

January 12, 1949 - June 12, 2023

The LORD is my *Shepherd;*
I shall not want.
He maketh me to
lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters,
He restoreth my
soul:
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for His name's sake. Yea though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death.
I will fear no evil:
for Thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies
Thou anointest my head with oil; My cup runneth over
Surely goodness & mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house
of the LORD *forever.*
- Psalm 23

Memorial Service
Saturday, June 17, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran Church
Corliss Township, Minnesota

Officiated By
Pastor Justin Whitmore

Urnbearer
Thomas Wikman

Musicians
Amy Sobieski
Mollie Crider
Melissa Koch

Musical Selections
"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"
"Alleluia! Jesus is Risen"
"Goodness of God"
"I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry"

Interment
St. John's Lutheran Cemetery
Corliss Township, Minnesota

Luncheon Meal Provided By
Lake's Café
Perham, Minnesota

*The Byers Family would like to thank everyone for their thoughtful gifts,
kind words, prayers, during this difficult time.*