







Kendra Ann Van Essen, daughter of Heath and Amber (Kooistra) Van Essen, was born January 31, 2011 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. On the day Kendra was born, we knew that God had a very special and perfect plan for our beautiful little girl. Kendra spent her first 130 days in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) until joining her parents and sister, Chloe, at their home in Inwood, Iowa on June 11,

2011. Growing up in Inwood, Kendra virtually attended West Lyon Elementary School. Kendra enjoyed playing on her iPad and watching Praise Baby videos and Dora the Explorer. She also like taking van rides around town.

Kendra was such a blessing to all that knew her. Her blowing of kisses and a tight hug with a pat-pat-pat on the back will be missed. She had a huge personality and although she could be a little sassy at times her sweetness always shined through. All that met her quickly adored her. Kendra was a daddy's girl from the start and together they enjoyed watching football. Her sister, Chloe, was her best friend and the girls shared a special bond. Kendra also grew a close bond with her home health and hospital nurses who were a special part of her life, always providing great care. Kendra didn't have home health the last 8 months, and she was blessed with the great care only her mother could provide. Kendra died Saturday, November 27, 2021, at Sanford Canton-Inwood Hospital in Canton, South Dakota at the age of 10.

She is survived by her parents, Heath and Amber Van Essen of Inwood; sister, Chloe Van Essen; paternal grandparents, Arvin and Carol Van Essen of Rock Valley, Iowa; maternal grandparents, Mike and Ranae Kooistra of Doon, Iowa; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

# In Loving Memory Kendra Ann Van Essen

January 31, 2011 ~ November 27, 2021

## **FUNERAL SERVICE**

1:00 PM, Friday, December 3, 2021 Inwood First Reformed Church Inwood, Iowa

# **OFFICIATING**

Rev. Rob Horstman

# **ACCOMPANIST**

Donna Tilstra

#### SPECIAL MUSIC

"Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)" Regan Van Gammeren, soloist

#### **CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS**

"10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)"
"How Great Thou Art"

### RECESSIONAL

"What A Day That Will Be" Recorded by: Drew Parker

# **PALLBEARERS**

Ryan Van Essen ~ Scott Post Todd Post ~ Josh Van Zweden ~ Damon Bleeker

## **INTERMENT**

Richland Cemetery Inwood, Iowa

Kendra's family invites everyone for a time of food and fellowship in the church basement following the services.