

Connie was born on March 26, 1950 in Gackle, ND, to Wallace and Beatrice (Holmstrom) Schmidt. She was a cheerleader through high school and graduated from Gackle High School in 1968. After graduation, she moved to Valley City where her parents had moved to run a hardware store. There, she attended Valley City State College where she obtained her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education in the fall of 1972. During her freshman year, in 1968, she met a sophomore named David Challey, and on July 28, 1973, the two were united in marriage at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Valley City.

For the first three years of their marriage, Connie taught kindergarten in Veblen, SD, driving back and forth from Hankinson. In 1975, she took a teaching job in Hankinson teaching second grade, a career that would last 37 years until her retirement in 2012. In 1978, she became a proud mom to son, Tom, and in 1980, welcomed daughter, Tarah. In 1983, the family built a home on Lake Elsie and have lived on the lake ever since.

Family was the most important thing to Connie. She decorated her home with plentiful photographs of her children and grandchildren. She loved visiting with her lake friends and having coffee with her retired teacher friends and others. She was a kind and soft hearted, generous woman who always made sure everyone was taken care of and fed. When the family would take hunting and fishing trips, she would miss them dearly, and was overjoyed at their return. Connie loved people and kids, and made friends everywhere she went. Her joyous spirit and bubbly personality was infectious to others.

Connie was an avid reader and kept busy by playing games on her iPad. She had hummingbird feeders and enjoyed watching them flutter about. She enjoyed pontoon and ranger rides in her floppy hat, making Scotch bars, and in retirement, staying up late and sleeping in the next morning. In the last eight years, Connie enjoyed snowbirding in Mesa, Arizona, where she and David would rent a condo in a gated community on the golf course. There, she would read and watch videos on her iPad while watching the golfers and made close friends in the community. She had a love for all animals, especially dogs, her own, and those of her family.

Left to cherish the memory of this amazing wife, mother, and educator is her husband of 50 years, David Challey; her children, Tom Challey (Sarah Sanders) and Tarah (David "Soup") Larson; beloved grandchildren, Lincoln Challey and Emma Sanders; mother, Beatrice Schmidt; sister, Cathryn Schmidt; brother, Craig Schmidt; and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding Connie in death was her father and her parents-in-law, Charles and Helen Challey.



In Loving

M E M O R Y



Connie M. Challey

1950 - 2023

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."

Vertin-Munson Funeral Home - Wahpeton, ND

Funeral Directors: Walter Reghi | Shanna Grumbles | Stephanie Kirchglesler www.vertinmunson.com

In Loving Memory of

Connie M. Challey



Born

March 26, 1950 | Gackle, North Dakota

Passed Away

October 22, 2023 | Fargo, North Dakota

Age

73 Years 6 Months 27 Days

Funeral Service

11:00 AM | Monday, October 30, 2023
Emmanuel United Church of Christ
Hankinson, North Dakota

Officiant

Pastor Ken Adams

Pianist

Bev Paulson

Special Music

"Jealous of the Angels" | "Over The Rainbow"

Congregational Hymns

"In The Garden" | "On Eagles Wings" | "Amazing Grace"