



Joan Lavonne Gunderson was born on October 15, 1933, on the family farm near Lake Lillian, the daughter of Arthur and Carrie (Ferstrom) Walter. She grew up in the Lake Lillian community and graduated from Bird Island High School in 1951. In 1954, Joan was united in marriage to Ole Gunderson and were blessed with five children. They made their home in Lake Lillian and Buffalo Lake prior to moving to

Willmar in 1962. Joan was employed for over 45 years at Northwestern Bell Telephone Company as a switch board operator and then as a construction line coordinator. In 1992, Ole passed away. In 2004, Joan was married to Rodger Krogstad and they lived in Willmar. In 2014, Rodger passed away.

Joan's children remember the love she had for travel and exploration, the love of animals and having them as part of their lives, her interest in the natural world and the love of being in it. Joan had determination to do the right thing and stand up for the underdog. She was always curious about history and anthropology. Joan would surprise you with a detailed recounting of various societies and their culture. She could join any conversation and was never shy about starting up a conversation with a stranger. Joan loved a good chat!

She is survived by four children, Gail (and Bruce) Johns of Lake Lillian, Lynn (and Douglas) Buchanan of Willmar, Douglas (and Kristine) Gunderson of Lakeville and Jennifer (and Michael Swanson) Gunderson of St. Paul; twelve grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren. Also surviving is one brother, Ronald Walter of Lake Lillian and one sister, Karen (and Del) Ortloff of Hutchinson, besides other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; both husbands, Ole and Rodger; and one son, Gary.

Celebrating the Life of



Joan L. Gunderson

1933 - 2023



*God saw Joan was getting tired,
 a cure was not to be,
 so He put His arms around her
 and whispered,
 "Come with me."*

*With tearful eyes we watched her,
 and saw her pass away.*

*Although we loved Joan dearly,
 we could not make her stay.*

*A golden heart stopped beating,
 hard working hands at rest.*

*God broke our hearts to prove to us.
 He only takes the best.*

In Loving Memory Of

Joan L. Gunderson

October 15, 1933
 Lake Lillian, Minnesota

June 15, 2023
 Willmar, Minnesota

Celebration of Life Service

Thursday, June 22, 2023 - 2:00 p.m.
 Vinje Lutheran Church
 Willmar, Minnesota

Prelude	Lily Sargent
Thanksgiving for Baptism	
Hymn "Borning Cry"	ELW #732
Apostolic Greeting & Prayer	
Time of Thanksgiving	
Scripture Readings	
Message	Pastor Andres Albertsen
Hymn "Amazing Grace"	ELW #779
Apostle's Creed, Prayers & The Lord's Prayer	
Commendation	
Hymn "On Eagle's Wings"	ELW #787
Postlude	

Casketbearers

Grant Gunderson	Meara Gunderson	Lauren Gunderson
Michael Johns	David Johns	Lisa Johns
William Buchanan	Saralyn Andres	
Andrew Buchanan	Jacob Buchanan	

Interment

Fairview Cemetery
 Willmar, Minnesota