

Safely Home

*I am home in Heaven, dear ones;
Oh, so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
In this everlasting light.*

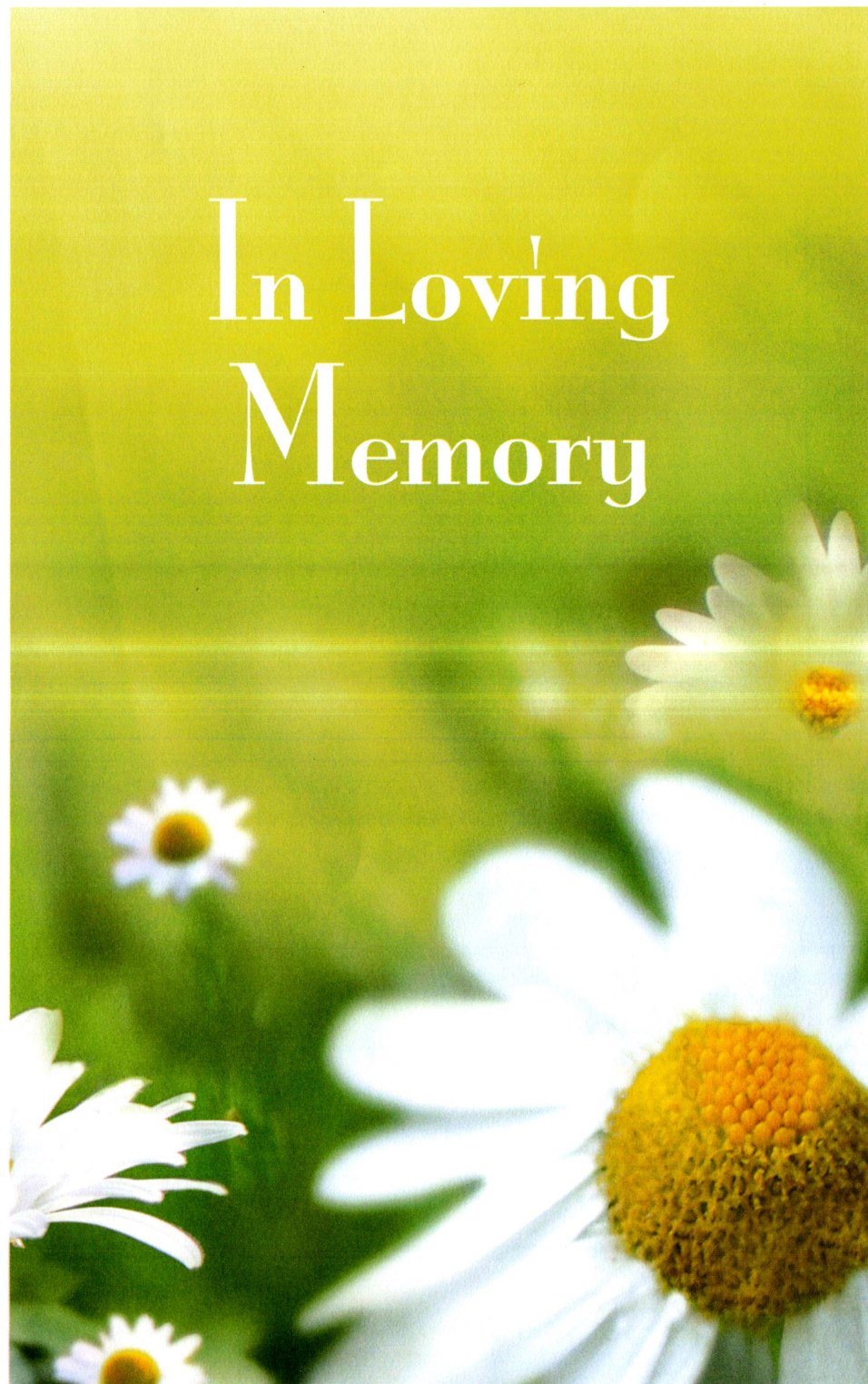
*All the pain and grief is over,
every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in Heaven at last.*



SERVICES IN CARE OF
Furness Funeral Home

Clark, South Dakota
www.furnessfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory



Barbara Ellen (Bjerke) Erickson was born April 18, 1947, in Webster, SD, to Richard and Esther (Luvaas) Bjerke of rural Crocker, SD. She was baptized at the Crocker Lutheran Church as well as attended Sunday School and later, confirmed there. Barb attended school in Spring Valley Township through eighth grade and then moved on to Bradley High School.

Upon graduation, she enrolled at Northern State University and obtained a four-year degree in math education. Barb then joined Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) for one year of duty. Following that, she accepted a math teaching position at the high school in Galesburg, Illinois. It was there that she met James “Leif” Erickson and they married on December 27, 1970. They lived in Abingdon, Illinois and then back in Galesburg until 1975, when they moved to Arvada, CO, a Denver suburb, where she taught math at Wheatridge High School for fifteen years. They then moved to Watertown, SD, and she helped form NOVA, the alternative high school in 1991 and taught there until 2003. At that time, she also began teaching career education at the Watertown Multi-District. In 2015, she retired but remained a faithful substitute instructor in any of the areas taught there. Leif passed away in August, 2020. Three years later, she moved into 200 Maple Place and enjoyed eight months there.

She was an active member of the Crocker Lutheran Church, currently being the treasurer of the WELCA, a past member of the church council and a valuable member of their quilting group. Barb also served as treasurer for Our Saviors Lutheran and the Calvary Lutheran Churches near Bradley. She was a member of the Beta Delta Sorority in Watertown doing community service and volunteer work. She also belonged to the Delta Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa, an altruistic organization for female educators, serving on the state and local executive boards.

Barb passed away January 12, 2024, at Prairie Lakes Hospital surrounded by her loving family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Richard and Esther Bjerke and her husband, James “Leif” Erickson.

Survivors include her brother, Mike (Marla) Bjerke, nephew, Ryan (Becky) Bjerke and children, Arabella and Atlas, nephew, Chad (Amanda) Bjerke and children, Luke and Lexi, niece, Jenna (Michael) Beverly and their son, Devery.



Celebrating the Life of Barbara (Bjerke) Erickson



Services

Furness Funeral Home

Clark, South Dakota

Saturday, January 20, 2024

Visitation: 4-6 PM

Prayer Service/Time of Sharing: 6-7 PM

Officiant

Minister Marion Grimes

Music

Amanda & Lexi Bjerke—Song Leaders

“The Old Rugged Cross”

“Precious Memories”

Scripture Readers

Luke Bjerke

Devery Flomo

Eulogy

Chad Bjerke

Celebration of Life/Interment at a Later Date

Calvary Lutheran Cemetery

Bradley, South Dakota



*The family of Barb Erickson thanks you for your presence here today,
for your thoughts, prayers, and other acts of kindness shown to them.*