

## 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.

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 noticed 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,  
it was then that I carried you."

## APPRECIATION

On behalf of the family we wish to express our sincerest thanks  
and gratitude for your support and presence today. After the committal  
service at the cemetery, the family invites you for food and fellowship in the  
fellowship hall at the church.



# Celebrating the Life of



*Lyla M. Rice*  
May 31, 1941 ~ January 11, 2025

Lyla Mae Rice was born on May 31, 1941, in Thief River Falls, Minnesota to parents Clarence and Leah (Magnell) Johnson. The first 18 years of Lyla's life was spent around the Oklee, Minnesota area. She and her family spent 6 winters in San Diego, California while her parents farmed. She graduated from high school in Oklee in 1959. She attended the University of North Dakota for two years before marrying Verdell Rice on June 11, 1961. Lyla started working after their marriage while Verdell received his degree in 1964. The young couple lived in Northern California while Verdell worked for the Bureau of Reclamation. They welcomed their first child, Debbie, in 1965 in Gustine, California. In 1967, the family moved to Huron where Verdell was transferred with the Bureau; that same year they welcomed their son, Brian.

Lyla returned to college at Huron University and graduated in 1976 with her BA in Sociology and Psychology. She worked as the activity director for two years at the Senior Center. She then took a job with the State of South Dakota in Adult Services working as a Social Worker for 20 years. She retired in 1999.

Lyla had many hobbies and interests including knitting, reading, exercising and water aerobics. Her favorite hobby and interest, however, was genealogy. She initially began her research from 1968 to 1974 while her children were at home, all this work was done on typewriter. After retirement, she fixed up a spare room and called it her "heritage room" with pictures, maps, charts, flags and numerous Norwegian and Swedish items. She enjoyed traveling to many states and places and two trips to Norway and Sweden. All family was at the center of her life. She also enjoyed photography and has numerous pictures and memories for her children and grandchildren to cherish forever.

A special thank you to Bethesda Home and Primrose Care Center for their wonderful care.

Grateful for having shared in her life are her children, Debbie (Jim) Panerio of Aberdeen and Brian (Deb) Rice of Brandon; 4 grandchildren, Alex Panerio (Austin) of Peoria, AZ, Colin Panerio of St. Paul, MN, Elaina Rice of Sioux Falls, Jack Rice of Brandon; her brother, Curtis (Carol) Johnson of Leesburg, FL, and her sister-in-law, JoAnn Youngquist of Crookston, MN; 2 nieces and 4 nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Verdell in 1985, and her parents, Clarence and Leah Johnson.

## *In Loving Memory*



# *Lyla Mae Rice*

*May 31, 1941 ~ January 11, 2025*

### **FUNERAL SERVICE**

2 p.m., Friday, January 17, 2025  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
Huron, South Dakota  
Pastor Joanne Nagele ~ Officiant

### **MUSIC**

Mary Weerts ~ Pianist  
*Congregational Hymns*  
*"Amazing Grace" ~ "Beautiful Savior"*  
*"What A Friend We Have In Jesus"*

### **CASKETBEARERS**

Alex Panerio ~ Colin Panerio ~ Elaina Rice  
Jack Rice ~ Curtis Johnson ~ Jim Panerio

### **INTERMENT**

Restlawn Memory Gardens Cemetery  
Huron, South Dakota